

The Cannon Falls City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, in the City Council Chambers. Present were Mayor Matt Montgomery; Council Members Diane Johnson, Laura Kronenberger, Chris Nobach, and Lisa Zimmerman; Council Member Chad Johnson attended the meeting remotely; Council Member Ryan Jeppesen was absent. Also present were Jon Radermacher, City Administrator; Sara Peer, City Clerk; Jed Petersen, Public Works Director; and Jeffrey McCormick, Police Chief.

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| Call to Order | Mayor Montgomery called the City Council meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. |
| Roll Call | Roll call was conducted. Mayor Montgomery and Council Members D. Johnson, Kronenberger, Nobach, and Zimmerman were in attendance; Council Member C. Johnson attended the meeting remotely. |
| Pledge of Allegiance | Mayor Montgomery led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. |
| Approval of Agenda | A motion was made by Council Member Zimmerman, seconded by Council Member Nobach, to approve the Agenda as presented. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously. |
| Public Input | <p>Mayor Montgomery reviewed the public input procedure.</p> <p>Rosie Schluter, Stanton Township, discussed a rare, endangered wildflower species called the Dwarf Trout Lily. She stated that this area is the only place in the world where this plant grows, noting that it only blooms for a couple of weeks in the spring.</p> <p>Erin McMahon, Hoffman Street, Cannon Falls, referenced the zoning amendment that the City has been negotiating with the Cannon Valley Fair Board. She quoted from a recent Facebook post by the Fair Board stating that they have been working cooperatively with the City over the past year and that the go-kart track at the Fairgrounds was introduced to provide an economic boost to the broader Cannon Falls community. She stated that the post also stated "Although there was support for the go-kart track, there was a small group of residents who expressed opposition to the go-kart track racing. The Cannon Valley Fair Association worked closely with the City to address concerns and demonstrate its commitment to being a responsible and supportive community member." She stated that, when asked whether the Facebook post was endorsed by the entire Fair Board, this was affirmed. She characterized this post as gaslighting.</p> |

Ms. McMahon expressed skepticism that the Fair Board truly intends to dismantle the track and discontinue racing activities. She presented her assessment of the situation:

- 1) The track was constructed illegally without required input or permitting.
- 2) From spring through fall of last year the track operated unlawfully according to local ordinances and the following State agencies – the Minnesota Pollution Control Agenda, and Environmental Protection Agency, the Environmental Quality Board, and the Department of Labor and Industry.
- 3) The current Fair Board has been the complete opposite of a responsible community partner.
- 4) Each of Minnesota's 87 counties has an Ag Society Fair, but only a few counties, including Goodhue County, also have a Fair Association. None of these has a special zoning classification.

Ms. McMahon commented that nostalgia alone is not enough to keep a business solvent; and if a business is no longer viable, it is not the City's responsibility to ensure that it stays open.

Proclamation:
Proclamation for
National Police Week
2025

Mayor Montgomery read a proclamation honoring the service and sacrifice of all law enforcement officers, including the dedicated members of the Cannon Falls Police Department, and declaring May 11-17, 2025, as Police Week in Cannon Falls.

Public Hearing:
Resolution 2809,
Certifying Unpaid
Utility Charges to be
Collected with Taxes

Mayor Montgomery opened the Public Hearing at 6:40 p.m. No one spoke during the Public Hearing. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:41 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member D. Johnson, seconded by Council Member Zimmerman, to adopt Resolution 2809. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- A. Just and Correct Claims – Accounting Period Ending April 30, 2025
- B. Meeting Minutes for April 15, 2025, City Council Meeting.
- C. Resolution 2810, Accepting a Grant for \$561.32 from SELCO to the Library
- D. Resolution 2811, Accepting a donation of \$500 from the VFW to the Fire Department
- E. Approve Hiring of 2025 Pool Staff
- F. Approve Tree Replacement in Hannah's Bend Park
- G. Approve Ash Tree Removal in John Burch Park

- H. Approve Striping Proposal
- I. Approve Alley Paving Proposal
- J. Approve Purchase of Lawnmower
- K. Approve Purchase of Chevy 3500 with Service Body and Crane
- L. Approve 2025 Event Street Closures
- M. Approve Disposal of Illegal Dumping
- N. Resolution 2812, Accepting a Donation for \$5,000 from Valley View Recovery Center to the Police Department
- O. Approve User Agreement of John Burch Park with ISD 252

Council Member D. Johnson asked whether the Police Commission discussed items L, M, and N. Police Chief McCormick stated that those agenda items did not require discussion by the Police Commission.

Council Member Nobach asked whether the old crane could be installed on the new vehicle. Public Works Director Petersen stated that the old crane has been repaired several times and is recommended to be replaced along with the truck. He stated that these are planned and budgeted purchases with State contract pricing quotes. City Administrator Radermacher stated that the old truck will be sold, to help defray the cost of the new vehicle. Maintenance costs were discussed.

A motion was made by Council Member D. Johnson, seconded by Council Member Zimmerman, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Council Business:
Authorize Out-of-
State Travel for ICMA
Conference

City Administrator Radermacher provided background information and rationale for the conference attendance. He stated that, per State statute, Council approval is required for out-of-state travel.

A motion was made by Council Member Zimmerman, seconded by Council Member Nobach, to approve ICMA Conference attendance by City Administrator Radermacher. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously.

Removal of Items
Stored on City
Property Discussion

City Administrator Radermacher provided background information. He commented that homeless individuals have been staying and storing items on City property. He stated that services have been offered and Police Department staff have been in contact with these individuals. He stated that discussions have taken place to try to

address the situation. He referenced encampment laws in other communities.

Council Member D. Johnson commented that other types of items are also being abandoned or stored on City property.

Administrator Radermacher and Police Chief McCormick provided additional information and referenced resident complaints.

The Mayor and Council Members expressed agreement with scheduling a work session to discuss drafting an enforceable ordinance to address the issues. Administrator Radermacher commented regarding proactive approaches and staffing impacts. Other work session agenda items were referenced. It was suggested to schedule a work session on May 20 starting at 5:00 p.m.

Reports:
Council Committees,
Commissions,
Nonprofit
Organizations

Council Member Zimmerman stated that she had nothing new to report from the Joint Powers Trail Board.

Council Member Nobach summarized topics of discussion during a recent Library Board meeting, including Federal and State funding of internet service, new book shelves, and the recent ILS migration.

Council Member D. Johnson summarized topics of discussion during a recent EDA meeting, including property taxes, potential advertising in *Feast* magazine, a Hardwood Estates update, and the CEDA Annual Report.

Staff

Public Works Director Petersen summarized topics of discussion during a recent Public Works and Park Board meeting, including the striping proposal, vehicle purchases, and grant funding toward tree removal and planting activities. Tree replacement in John Burch Park was discussed.

Public Works Director Petersen provided project updates.

Police Chief McCormick and Mayor Montgomery discussed walk to school day on May 7. It was noted that there may be minor traffic disruption.

City Administrator Radermacher discussed his attendance at a recent Minnesota City Managers Association Conference. He discussed upcoming Planning Commission and Finance Committee meetings.

Mayor and Council
Members

Council Member Nobach discussed a recent Tract open house. He suggested posting answers to frequently asked questions on the City website. He requested Kwik Trip and McDonald's updates.

Administrator Radermacher provided an update relating to the McDonald's fire. He discussed ongoing meetings relating to the Kwik Trip proposal.

Council Member Nobach asked about lawn watering policies. Public Works Director Petersen and City Clerk Peer provided information in this regard.

Council Member D. Johnson and Mayor Montgomery commented that the Dairy Inn is now open.

Council Member Zimmerman suggested adding discussion of the Senior Center to the work session agenda.

Mayor Montgomery discussed the recent National Night of Prayer, hosted this year by Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Kronenberger, seconded by Council Member Zimmerman, to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Cannon Falls on the 20th day of May, 2025.


Matt Montgomery, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jon Radermacher, City Administrator

