

Canton City Council Public Hearing & Regular Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2020

The Canton City Council held a public hearing on November 10, 2020, prior to the regular monthly meeting, at the Canton Town Hall. The purpose of the hearing was to gather input on proposed rate increases to utility fees. Members present: Mayor Donivee Johnson, Carl Ernst, Cindy Shanks and Charlie Warner. Members absent: Randy Gossman. City staff present: Brock Bergey, Jim Davis and Jon Nordsving. Visitors present: Jeff Dale with Minnesota Rural Water Association, Garry Dowling, Jennifer Dowling, Jennifer Hoeltzle, Barb Kerns and Kristy Ziegler. Mayor Johnson called the public hearing to order at 6 p.m. An informational packet was reviewed, which included financial statements, monthly consumer usage, utility rates in neighboring cities, suggested rate increase proposals, and actual dollar impacts on consumers. In addition, Jeff Dale answered several questions and provided additional information on statewide municipal water and sewer rates. Motion by Warner, second by Shanks to adjourn the public hearing; motion carried.

Mayor Johnson called the November 10, 2020 regular meeting to order at 7 p.m. Same attendance as noted above, with the addition of visitor, Fire Chief Ryan Lange. Motion by Ernst, second by Shanks to approve the October 2020 meeting minutes; motion carried. Motion by Shanks, second by Warner to approve the consent agenda (approval of monthly bills); motion carried. Motion by Ernst, second by Shanks to approve an additional \$174.00 payment to Kevin Scrabeck for extra labor involved with the ramp project at the Mitson House; motion carried.

Public comments: None

Reports: In his clerk report, Bergey noted the delinquent utility account report had not been prepared in time for the November meeting. Former city clerk/treasurer Lolly Melander has a pretrial conference hearing set for November 16, with her jury trial to take place March 24 to April 2, 2021. In nuisance property-related legal matters, Rick Nelson plead guilty on November 3 to a building maintenance ordinance violation. He was issued a \$150 fine and placed on unsupervised probation for one year. His property must be in compliance by June 1, 2021. Robroy Kelly has a pre-trial conference set for December 8. Steve Popplewell will return to court for a pre-trial conference on January 12, 2021. Joel Torgerson's court ordered compliance deadline is November 15. A letter was sent to Danny Whalen, reminding him of his unsupervised probation and reoccurring nuisance violations on his property. Bergey mentioned city hall would be closed November 11 (Veterans Day) and November 26-27 (Thanksgiving). According to preliminary data, 92% of registered voters cast ballots in the General Election on November 3. A special council meeting will be held on November 12 at 6 p.m. to canvass the election results for the City of Canton. Bergey indicated the City of Canton was awarded \$4,500 from the Arlin Falck Foundation for the LED streetlight conversion project on Main Street. Interviews are being planned for the part-time deputy city clerk position.

Public Works Director Jon Nordsving explained there was a water main leak on the south end of Main Street. The necessary repairs were made on November 6, with minimal service disruption. However, a telephone line was damaged and the City will be billed for those unexpected costs.

Fire Chief Ryan Lange presented two equipment purchases: a thermal imager for \$795.00 and a jump pack not to exceed \$500.00. Motion by Warner, second by Shanks to authorize the purchases; motion carried. Lange also noted he will be leaving the department at the end of the calendar year. The City will advertise for the firefighter vacancy, with the goal of having a

candidate referral for the December council meeting. The council thanked Chief Lange for his service to the City and wished him well.

The October police report showed 7 calls. There were no land use permits presented for discussion by the Planning Commission.

Unfinished business: Bergey provided a spending update on the CARES Act funds. As of the meeting date, \$23,812.50 has been spent, with \$2,481.50 remaining. The funds must be used by November 15, 2020. In October, the council authorized the remaining funds to go toward additional folding chairs for use at the town hall. Bergey reported 80 chairs will be purchased from Village Farm & Home prior to the November 15 deadline. Additional information is being requested from Marso Electric regarding the electrical projects at the Mitson House. After months of discussion, and with no additional questions, the council made three amendments to the City's fee schedule, effective January 1, 2021:

1. Motion by Ernst, second by Warner to increase the monthly residential water service charge to \$28.50 and the residential water usage charge to \$4.84 per 1,000 gallons; motion carried.
2. Motion by Warner, second by Shanks to increase the monthly residential sewer usage charge to \$2.44 per 1,000 gallons; motion carried.
3. Motion by Shanks, second by Ernst to increase the monthly garbage service charge for a 32-gallon tote to \$10.70, 64-gallon tote to \$12.22, and 96-gallon tote to \$13.71, along with a \$4.00 monthly service charge for recycling; motion carried.

New business: Nordsving requested a change to his City-issued cell phone. He is need of a replacement and would rather purchase his own phone and receive a monthly reimbursement from the City. Bergey noted Nordsving's current cell phone plan costs the City about \$50/month. He is the only employee with a City cell phone. Motion by Warner, second by Shanks to provide Nordsving with a monthly \$50 cell phone stipend, beginning in January 2021; motion carried. Motion by Ernst, second by Warner to approve a temporary traffic closure of Main Street (County 21) from Fillmore Avenue to Hudson Avenue on December 12 from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the Canton Community Association's lighted parade; motion carried.

Motion by Ernst, second by Shanks to adjourn at 7:32 p.m.; motion carried.

Canton City Council Special Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2020

The Canton City Council met in Special Session at 6 p.m. on November 12, 2020 at the Canton Town Hall. The purpose of the Special Session was the Certification of the 2020 General Election results. Members present: Mayor Donivee Johnson, Carl Ernst, Cindy Shanks and Charlie Warner. Members absent: Randy Gossman. Visitors present: Barb Kerns and Mayor-elect Nick Prestby.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 6 p.m. Those present were given copies of the election abstract provided by Fillmore County and copies of Resolution 2020-08, a Resolution to certify the results of the 2020 General Election. Motion by Ernst, second by Warner to certify the results of the 2020 General Election by adopting Resolution #2020-08; motion carried.

Motion by Ernst, second by Shanks to adjourn; motion carried.