

Canton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes September 8, 2021

The Canton City Council held its regular monthly meeting on September 8, 2021, at the Canton Town Hall. Members present: Mayor Nick Prestby, Carl Ernst, Randy Gossman, Josh Nordsving and Cindy Shanks. City staff present: Brock Bergey, Jim Davis, Barb Kerns and Jon Nordsving. Visitors present: Jennifer Dowling, Brenda Janvrin, Donivee Johnson, Jamie Knutson, Melissa Vander Plas and Kristy Ziegler.

Mayor Prestby called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Motion by Ernst, second by Gossman to approve the agenda; motion carried. Motion by Gossman, second by Josh Nordsving to approve the August minutes; motion carried. Motion by Ernst, second by Josh Nordsving to approve the consent agenda (approval of monthly bills; waiver of town hall rental fee for American Red Cross Blood Drive on October 6; approval of \$5,882 payment to Canton Fire Department for annual fire protection services; approval of \$490 payment to League of Minnesota Cities for 2021-22 membership); motion carried.

Public comments: None

Reports: In his clerk report, Bergey noted there were 12 delinquent utility accounts, with no service disconnections occurring in September. 82 pet licenses and 21 UTV/golf cart permits have been issued to-date in 2021. Bergey reported Canton's population experienced a 10.4% decrease, according to the 2020 Census. In 2010, the population was 346, with a 310 population in 2020. He indicated the decline will have negative effects on future intergovernmental revenues based on per capita formulas. Bergey and Public Works Director Jon Nordsving are working on an informational request from WHKS for the preliminary engineering report on the City's water and wastewater systems. The documentation is to be submitted by September 15. Bergey requested a meeting of the utilities committee to review the rate structure prior to the October council meeting. Josh Nordsving and Shanks agreed to meet with Bergey on September 14. Jon Nordsving reported work on Well #1 is scheduled to begin the week of September 20. He also noted some equipment breakdowns at the sewer plant and will explore repair/replacement options. No police report was provided.

Unfinished business: No updates on the vacant animal control officer position or the planned repairs to the former school bus shed. Both topics will be revisited in October. Motion by Gossman, second by Josh Nordsving to have Bergey prepare and submit a grant application to the Arlin Falck Foundation for replacement doors (price quote of \$9,438.98) at the town hall; motion carried. The application deadline is October 2.

New business: Bergey presented the preliminary 2022 General Fund budget and tax levy. The proposed \$271,020 budget represents a 5.1% increase from the present-year budget. Known and expectant increases include: A 4% increase to policing services contract with Fillmore County (\$24,000 to \$24,960); a \$3,000 operating supplies increase to account for rising fuel costs and other goods; a \$1,500 professional services increase to account for unplanned legal fee; and a \$55,000 capital outlay increase to account for backhoe replacement (current one purchased in 1997) and lawnmower replacement (current one purchased in 2020; transition to two-year replacement plan to achieve higher trade-in value). The preliminary 2022 budget does not include an increase to employee wages. On the revenue side, to account for the proposed expenditures, an additional \$8,754 would be needed from the tax levy. That represents a 5.5% increase to the 2021 certified final levy of \$159,157. The council was reminded the certified proposed levy, for taxes payable in 2022, must be submitted to the Fillmore County

Auditor/Treasurer by September 30. The proposed levy can be lowered, but it cannot be raised, come December, when the council will approve the final 2022 General Fund budget. Motion by Shanks, second by Gossman to approve the preliminary budget and tax levy as presented; motion carried. Motion by Josh Nordsving, second by Shanks to approve the renewal of the 15 year franchise agreement with Mediacom, effective through September 2036; motion carried. Motion by Ernst, second by Shanks to seek a written agreement from LTD Broadband for free Wi-Fi services at City facilities in exchange for placement of the company's equipment on the water tower; motion carried. Bergey will present the agreement for council consideration in October.

Motion by Gossman, second by Josh Nordsving to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.; motion carried.