

## **Canton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes October 13, 2021**

The Canton City Council held its regular monthly meeting on October 13, 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, Barb Kerns and Jon Nordsving. Visitors present: Jennifer Dowling, Holly Knutson, Jamie Knutson, Melissa Vander Plas and Kristy Ziegler.

Mayor Prestby called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. Motion by Ernst, second by Josh Nordsving to approve the agenda, with three additional items added (consideration of land use permit application submitted by Joseph Vetter; consideration of \$2,000 donation from Canton Fire Relief Association; consideration of \$2,000 payment to PERA on behalf of Canton Fire Department); motion carried. Motion by Ernst, second by Shanks to approve the September minutes; motion carried. Motion by Shanks second by Josh Nordsving to approve the consent agenda (approval of monthly bills; approval of purchase of two playground rules signs totaling \$70; acceptance of \$1,700 quote from Four Season Asphalt for pavement repairs in front of town hall; waiver of town hall rental fee for Canton American Legion Pancake Breakfast on November 7, 2021); motion carried.

**Public comments:** Kristy Ziegler noted she had recently been appointed to the Fillmore County Extension Committee, serving as the representative for District 5. Jamie Knutson explained he had a conversation with Bergey regarding the parking/storage of a food trailer, he does not own, on his residential property. He was told ordinances prevent such parking/storage. Knutson requested the council allow the trailer to be parked on his residential property or come up with an alternative location for the food trailer, owned by his new business tenant operating the Pub. He stated the tenant was awaiting additional equipment and wanted the City's cooperation in allowing a temporary food trailer parking arrangement to facilitate interim business operations. Although not an agenda item and not in accordance with the Code of Ordinances, motion by Mayor Prestby, second by Ernst to allow the food trailer to be parked on the green space behind the Pub for up to 60 days; motion carried.

**Reports:** In his clerk report, Bergey noted there were 17 delinquent utility accounts, with no service disconnections occurring in October. 90 pet licenses and 21 UTV/golf cart permits have been issued to-date in 2021. Bergey received notification from the Fillmore County Auditor of tax court refund required to Northern Natural Gas for taxes payable from 2018 and 2019. This will result in a \$213 reduction in the City's next settlement. Bergey noted the Steve Popplewell and Jeremy and Crystal Scrobeck properties have been forfeited to the State, for failure to pay delinquent taxes; Fillmore County is now responsible for the two properties. Bergey reported he would be taking some PTO in the coming weeks. He asked the council if he would like the office to be closed during his absence or if the deputy clerk should extend her weekly work hours to keep the office open. The council gave permission for the deputy clerk to work the additional hours if desired. In his public works report, Jon Nordsving asked for the council's approval to go ahead with the sewer main televising project associated with the preliminary engineering report being prepared by WHKS. He explained it could cost up to \$15,000, with final costs dependent on necessary cleaning required to the mains. Motion by Shanks, second by Mayor Prestby to proceed with the sewer main televising; motion carried. Jon Nordsving presented a \$10,942 price quote for the replacement of two mixers at the wastewater treatment facility. He noted repairs are not an option since the necessary parts are reportedly obsolete. Motion by Shanks, second by Josh Nordsving to approve the mixer purchase; motion carried. Motion by Gossman, second by Josh Nordsving to approve the purchase of a \$369.99 chainsaw; motion carried.

Mayor Prestby acknowledged the fire department's receipt of two grants. One in the amount of \$15,000 from the Carl and Verna Schmidt Foundation to be put toward the replacement costs associated with new turnout gear, with the second grant coming from MiEnergy in the amount of \$900 to replace outdated pagers. Thanks was given to Chief Bill Richardson for his work on the grant applications. No police report was provided. Zoning Administrator Ernst presented two land use permit applications for council approval, noting they both met zoning requirements. Jamie and Holly Knutson seek to build a new residence on their South Main Street property. Joseph Vetter desires to build a house on his North Second Street property. Motion by Gossman, second by Josh Nordsving to approve both land use permits; motion carried. After reviewing the Quarter 1 – Quarter 3 financial reports, the Utilities Committee (Josh Nordsving and Shanks) proposed an adjustment to the current water rates for 2022. It was noted that the unexpected well repairs completely drained the reserves for the Water Fund. Prior to the October meeting, and the approval of the two sewer projects, the committee reported that the Sewer Fund was in better financial shape; however, that will now need to be reassessed. It was pointed out that the City is still making up for a joint Water/Sewer Fund net loss of nearly \$26,000 from 2016. The committee will do some additional number crunching ahead of the November meeting, with an expected vote to occur on necessary adjustments to monthly water and sewer rates for 2022.

**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 November, with Bergey following up with Attorney Schieber about the legalities of eliminating designation of an animal control officer. Motion by Shanks, second by Gossman to approve a five year agreement with LTD Broadband for lease of water tower space to house the company's equipment; motion carried.

**New business:** In a written letter, the Canton Historical Society (CHS) requested an additional five years to payoff its \$5,000 loan, granted by the city council in 2016, to assist with the restoration of the train depot. The loaned money was from the Bike Trail Fund that the City inherited and not General Fund dollars. Based on the notarized promissory note, the five year loan was to be repaid in full by October 14, 2021, without interest. No payments have been made. CHS reports the renovation project is well underway and additional work is dependent on approval of a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society. Motion by Ernst, second by Mayor Prestby to approve CHS's loan extension request; motion carried. A new promissory note will be drafted. Motion by Gossman, second by Josh Nordsving to notify residents of delinquent debts, set to be certified on 2022 property taxes, of their opportunity to contest such action at the November council meeting; motion carried. Motion by Shanks, second by Gossman to approve Resolution #2021-11 to utilize Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (totaling \$36,401.06 over two years) for planning associated with water and wastewater infrastructure improvements; motion carried. Motion by Mayor Prestby, second by Josh Nordsving to reinstate liquor license application fees for 2022 (they were waived in 2021 due to the pandemic); motion carried, with Gossman opposed. Motion by Ernst, second by Shanks to accept a \$2,500 proposal from Schott's Hardwood Floors to buff and recoat the wood floors at the town hall; motion carried, with Gossman opposed. Mayor Prestby and Ernst will represent the Canton City Council at the annual joint meeting with the Mabel-Canton School Board and Mabel City Council. A meeting date will be determined. Motion by Gossman, second by Ernst to accept a \$2,000 donation from the Canton Fire Relief Association; motion carried. Motion by Ernst, second by Gossman to contribute \$2,000 to PERA on behalf of the Canton Fire Department; motion carried.

Motion by Gossman, second by Josh Nordsving to adjourn at 8 p.m.; motion carried.