

Canton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes May 11, 2022

The Canton City Council held its regular monthly meeting on May 11, 2022, 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 and Jon Nordsving. Visitors present: Dennis Clausen, Jennifer Dowling, Donivee Johnson, Greg Skauge, Tammie Skauge and Melissa Vander Plas.

Mayor Prestby called the meeting to order at 6 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all.

Motion by Shanks, second by Gossman to approve the agenda; motion carried. Motion by Josh Nordsving, second by Shanks to approve the consent agenda (approval of April minutes; approval of May disbursements; approval of Resolution 2022-07 for fund distribution of Lolly Melander's restitution; approval of proclamation honoring Karl Urbaniak's retirement; approval of AcenTek cable television franchise agreement); motion carried.

Public comments: Resident Dennis Clausen inquired if planting clover in his yard, as an alternative to grass, would be acceptable to eliminate the need for lawn mowing. Mayor Prestby responded that as long as the height of the clover wasn't an ordinance violation, he didn't see a problem with it.

Mayor's report: Mayor Prestby read aloud the proclamation honoring Karl Urbaniak's 37 years of service to the Mabel-Canton School District. Mr. Urbaniak was unable to attend the meeting; Mayor Prestby will present the proclamation at a later date.

It was noted that former clerk Lolly Melander had provided the City with full payment of her court-ordered restitution in the amount of \$69,916.00.

Mayor Prestby thanked the council and staff for their participation with the initial conflict resolution interviews, conducted by Aimee Gourlay with the League of Minnesota Cities. Additional information will be shared at the June meeting.

A community volunteer clean-up day was proposed by Mayor Prestby. Information will be shared in the June newsletter and on the City's Facebook page to gauge potential interest for such an effort.

Clerk's report: In his clerk report, Bergey reminded the council the City would be following mail ballot procedures for May 24's special election. There will be no in-person voting in Canton. Those wishing to vote in-person can do so at the Fillmore County Courthouse on May 24.

The final items are being completed for the funding application to USDA Rural Development for the water and wastewater project.

Bergey noted that the Highway 43 reconstruction project will detour traffic through Canton later this summer.

The three month trial for expanded afternoon city hall hours, on the second Wednesday of the month, has ended. Bergey reported no one utilized the additional hours in March, April or May. The council approved the trial after a suggestion from a resident. The council agreed to

discontinue the practice and resume afternoon hours ending at 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Public Works report: Jon Nordsving presented two price estimates for repairs needed to the City's F-250 pickup.

Motion by Gossman, second by Ernst to approve the purchase of a \$1,550.00 transmission from Automotive Recyclers and a \$650.00 rear axel assembly from Automotive Recyclers; motion carried.

Fire Department: Motion by Gossman, second by Ernst to approve appointment of Isaac Crawford to the fire department; motion carried.

Police: The March and April reports were reviewed.

Planning Commission: Zoning Administrator Josh Nordsving reported the proposed changes to the zoning ordinance are still being reviewed by City Attorney Schieber.

Unfinished business: Discussion resumed on the ordinance violations at 200 East Canton Avenue. It was noted the City has been in communication with property owner Ted Lord for more than a year, with no voluntary compliance in addressing the violations. Several complaints have been received at city hall in regard to the appearance of the property, located across from the town hall. Lord was invited to the council meeting, but he did not attend. After reviewing photos and correspondence, motion by Josh Nordsving, second by Gossman to cite Lord for violating the City's public nuisance ordinances. Bergey will follow-up with law enforcement.

New business: Wednesday, June 15 was set as property inspection day. Mayor Prestby and Councilman Josh Nordsving volunteered to join a sheriff's deputy in the annual drive around town to document ordinance violations. A reminder about the June 15 inspection date will be included in the City's June newsletter.

Motion by Gossman, second by Ernst to approve a seven year contract renewal with Richard's Sanitation for solid waste collection and disposal (effective August 1, 2022 through July 31, 2029); motion carried.

The council discussed a joint summer rec program with the City of Mabel. Based on 2021 numbers, approximately 25% of Mabel summer rec participants were Canton area kids. Some community members have previously inquired why "Canton" was not included on the participants' shirts. The City of Canton has not financially contributed to the program for many years. 25% of the 2021 costs to operate Mabel's program was \$3,220. Mayor Prestby indicated the Canton American Legion would be willing to cover \$1,220 of those costs. The council was reminded of the money gifted to the City from the late Don Wilken, which was earmarked for recreational purposes. Motion by Gossman, second by Josh Nordsving to use \$2,000 of the Wilken dollars to come up with the remaining \$3,220 to offer a joint Mabel-Canton summer rec program in 2022; motion carried. It was noted the Canton softball field was offered for potential use for summer rec purposes.

Motion by Mayor Prestby, second by Shanks to accept a price estimate of \$1,400.00 from Lifetime Gutters & More for new gutter installation at the Mitson House; motion carried.

Motion by Ernst, second by Gossman to approve \$225.00 in cash prizes (\$100 for first place, \$75 for second place, \$50 for third place) for the Adopt-A-Planter contest; motion carried.

Motion by Gossman, second by Josh Nordsving to approve spending of up to \$200.00 for flowers to be planted at city hall; motion carried.

Motion by Ernst, second by Josh Nordsving to adjourn at 6:52 p.m.; motion carried.