

## **Canton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes June 8, 2022**

The Canton City Council held its regular monthly meeting on June 8, 2022, at the Canton Town Hall. Members present: Mayor Nick Prestby, Carl Ernst, Josh Nordsving and Cindy Shanks. Randy Gossman was absent. City staff present: Brock Bergey, Jim Davis and Jon Nordsving. Visitors present: Karl Butenhoff, Jennifer Dowling, Donivee Johnson 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 Ernst, second by Josh Nordsving to approve the agenda; motion carried. Motion by Shanks, second by Josh Nordsving to approve the consent agenda (approval of May minutes, approval of June disbursements; approval of Resolution 2022-08 for distribution of surety bond payment for Lolly Melander; approval to waive town hall rental fee for American Red Cross Blood Drive on June 14); motion carried.

**Public comments:** None

**Mayor's report:** Mayor Prestby stated he had talked with a MiEnergy representative about the cooperative's upcoming project to bury the current overhead electric transmission lines throughout the City. He said work is expected to begin soon.

The Mayor expressed appreciation to all who contributed to the Canton American Legion's veterans memorial project and noted the Memorial Day dedication event was well attended. He added the Legion is now placing some-150 flags around town for the Avenue of Flags fundraiser program. In addition, he remarked on the community's use of the ball field, which is maintained by the Legion.

Mayor Prestby commented that no citizens expressed interest in receiving volunteer services to assist with property-related improvements. He reminded the council property inspections will occur on Wednesday, June 15, with he and Josh Nordsving conducting them this year.

The Mayor noted Aimee Gourlay, with the League of Minnesota Cities, will be attending the July 13 council meeting to discuss recommendations aimed at resolving previously identified conflicts.

**Clerk's report:** Brock Bergey informed the council the funding application for the proposed water and wastewater replacement project had been submitted to USDA Rural Development. He remarked it is now a "waiting game," with no definitive timeline on a response.

Bergey is applying for up to a \$10,000 grant through SMIF's Small Town Grant Program. If awarded, the money would be used to assist in expanding upon the City's new brand identity of being Southern Minnesota's first stop. Awards will be announced in August.

He stated the legal case involving Evan Richardson had been dismissed by the Fillmore County Attorney's Office. Concerns were raised about the abandon vehicle, for which Richardson was cited in late-February.

**Public Works report:** Jon Nordsving stated the tree in the park needs to come down, as it poses a potential safety risk. The council requested he provide removal options at the next week.

**Fire Department:** None

**Police:** None

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

**Unfinished business:** None

**New business:** Karl Butenhoff, owner of the apartments on East US 52, requested time on the agenda to discuss the City's current water and sewer billing practice for multi-unit buildings. Presently, multi-unit building property owners receive monthly water and sewer base rate charges based on rental units. Butenhoff, who purchased the property this past January, believes this an unfair billing practice and wants it changed to a meter-based fee schedule. Instead of eight monthly water base charges and eight monthly sewer base charges, as has been the City's billing practice for at least 20 years, Butenhoff favors one monthly water base charge and one monthly sewer base charge for each of his two buildings, with each building equipped with just one water meter. Mayor Prestby noted that such a change, to all of the City's multi-unit accounts, would result in a combined annual revenue loss of nearly \$11,500 to the Water and Sewer Funds. He said the rest of the City's accountholders would need to make up for that shortfall, which he does not support. The council agreed to keep the present billing practice in place, with additional consideration given to Butenhoff's proposal during the 2023 budget planning process.

A price quote to replace the carpet in the town hall entrance and coat room, along with the front of the stage, was received from Torgerson-Ostby Floor Coverings. The total for the two floor spaces was \$1,042, with the stage coming in at \$1,609. The council discussed other potential options, with no action being taken and the matter revisited in July.

Motion by Mayor Prestby, second by Ernst to approve the Canton Community Association's request from the temporary closure of North Main Street, from Prairie Avenue to the bank drive-up entrance, on August 20 for a Canton Day Off event; motion carried. Since Main Street is also a county road, Bergey will forward the council's recommendation to the Fillmore County Board for discussion.

Motion by Josh Nordsving, second by Ernst to approve the free use of the town hall for an October 29 dance sponsored by the Canton Community Association; motion carried.

Motion by Ernst, second by Josh Nordsving to adjourn at 7:10 p.m.; motion carried.