

Canton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes September 14, 2022

The Canton City Council held its regular meeting on September 14, 2022 at the Canton Town Hall. Members present: Mayor Cindy Shanks, Carl Ernst, Josh Nordsving and Kristy Ziegler. Randy Gossman was absent. City staff present: Jim Davis, Barb Kerns and Jon Nordsving. Visitors present: Jamie Knutson and Mark Prestby.

Mayor Shanks called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present.

Motion by Ernst, second by Josh Nordsving to approve amended agenda; motion carried.

Motion by Josh Nordsving, second by Ziegler to approve the consent agenda.

Public comments: None

Mayor's report: Mayor Shanks opened her report by expressing her thanks to former clerk Brock Bergey, apologizing for not acknowledging the work he had done for the city in cleaning up a big mess from his predecessor at the special meeting. Shanks noted Bergey's hard work and dedication. She closed that portion of her report by stating that Canton is in a better place than it was three years ago. Shanks also stated that ads are being run seeking a replacement.

Deputy Clerk: Deputy Clerk Kerns reported that city business is continuing with each day being a learning experience and that patience is appreciated as the office continues to adjust to the clerk vacancy. Disconnect notices will be resuming as delinquent accounts continue to be an issue for some residents.

Public works: Jon Nordsving gave an update on the ongoing electrical boring and resulting water main break which caused an extended water outage for a large portion of city residents on Thursday and Friday, September 8 & 9. Nordsving reported that the additional wage & repair cost will be submitted to A-1 for reimbursement. His report also included a waste water treatment plant status report, including the need for repair of a mixer at the plant, which is still under warranty. Replacement parts shipment is expected to be delayed due to being made in Sweden. Nordsving also explained the possible purchase of the utility locator and camera system and its potential benefits to the city.

Fire Department: None

Police: None

Planning Commission: Josh Nordsving stated he will be following up with Peterson's regarding their deck construction. Ernst inquired about the status of the Pena property garage construction on South Main. Kerns stated that Bergey had spoken to the resident prior to his departure and had stated that as long as the foundation of the garage was completed, the unforeseen delay in construction would not be a problem.

Budget: Mayor Shanks & councilor Ziegler presented the proposed General Fund budget and preliminary 2023 General Fund Levy. Proposed expenditures of \$256,431 represented an 8.0% decrease from 2022 due to the purchase of the backhoe, no longer included in the budget.

There was an increase of \$1,942 in employee wages, an anticipated 10% increase in worker's compensation insurance and liability insurance premium decrease due to a review of coverage. Other changes included a 7% increase in property insurance, \$1,000 added for awards and recognition, operating supplies increase of \$1,000 due to rising fuel and other costs, capital outlay added for Town Hall furnace replacement and utility locator and camera system purchase. Also included was the \$2 per capita increase to ambulance services and slight increases to electric and gas utilities.

Preliminary General Fund budget revenues totaled \$277,085 which reflected a 1.0% increase from 2022. Included in this total was an increase in LGA funds of \$655 and expected increase of electric for CCA and Legion. Ernst made a motion to set the levy at 6.0% to generate an additional \$9,874.06. The motion was seconded by Kristy; motion carried. The proposed levy will be submitted with final levy due in December, which can be adjusted down.

Employee handbook: In continued discussion, the update of the employee handbook and personnel policy revisions were approved. Ernst stated that he was not in favor of payouts for employees and would not vote to authorize this portion of the proposal. Ernst made a motion to adopt the package which makes PTO available to employees over 32 hours per week.

Eligibility accrual:

0-5 years – 100 hrs.

6-10 years – 140 hrs.

11-15 years – 180 hrs.

15+ years – 200 hrs.

Rollover of 80 hrs. at the end of the year but never exceed 280 hrs. total unused.

Discontinue existing vacation/sick leave policy.

Ziegler seconded the motion; motion passed. The approved changes will be added to the Employee Handbook for future council approval prior to implementation.

It was decided to the application for the Arlin Falck grant would be for upgrades to the City Park shelter and that the roof of the former bus shed be added to the grant as a part of the request.

Carl Ernst and Kristy Ziegler volunteered to attend the Mabel-Canton School

Board joint meeting with Mabel and Canton's city council representatives. At the time of the meeting, the date was yet to be determined.

A change to the existing water meter requirement wording was approved. A motion was made by Ziegler and second by Ernst to add clarification regarding multiple family properties. Josh Nordsving explained the proposed change is needed as the language needs to specifically address multi-family housing units with one service connection. The proposed changes will be submitted to the city attorney for review.

Motion by Josh Nordsving; second by Ernst to adjourn at 6:35pm.