

Canton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2022

The Canton City Council held its regular meeting on October 12, 2022 at the Canton Town Hall. Members present: Mayor Cindy Shanks, Carl Ernst, Randy Gossman and Kristy Ziegler. Absent: Josh Nordsving. City staff present: Jim Davis, Barb Kerns and Jon Nordsving. Visitors present: Jen Dowling, Kathy Haynes, Donivee Johnson, Jamie Knutson and Holly Knutson.

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

Motion by Ernst, second by Gossman to approve agenda as presented.

Motion by Ernst, second by Gossman to approve consent agenda items of September 14, 2022 minutes, October disbursements and Resolution 22-13; CCA Raffle/Lawful Gambling Exempt permit for March 9, 2023.

Public comments: None

Mayor's Report: None

Deputy Clerk: Kerns reported that the maturity date of the Wilken CD is October 19, 2022; a motion to auto renew was made by Ernst and seconded by Gossman. Wright Way Computers will be changing to monthly rather than annual billing and the Bank of Zumbrota, which services the water loan, will be changing to Frandsen Bank and Trust. No city action will be required other than online access changes. Past due utility account totals are now reduced and shutoff notice warnings have been reinstated, according to the deputy clerk.

Public Works: Jon Nordsving reported that reimbursement for \$886.60 for additional city maintenance wage expense and parts incurred from the broken water main hit of 9/8/2022 has been requested from A-1 Power. A safety cage for the backhoe, to be constructed by JD's Company in Canton at a cost of approximately \$500, was requested by Jon Nordsving. A motion to proceed with the purchase was made by Gossman and seconded by Ziegler; motion carried.

Fire Department: Motion to approve Cody Lueck to fill the vacancy on the Canton Fire Department was made by Gossman, seconded by Ziegler; motion carried.

Police: No report

Planning Commission: Garage – Devry and Tina Kerns, motion by Gossman, second by Ernst; motion carried. Garage – Jamie and Holly Knutson, motion by Gossman, second by Ernst; motion carried. Deck – Roman and Teriana Yoder, motion by Gossman, second by Ernst; motion carried. Reported construction by Robroy Kelly of deck on his house without permit – \$400 penalty fee for violating planning and zoning ordinance and land use permit is still needed with applicable fee was determined. Motion by Ernst, second by Ziegler to have city attorney draft a

letter explaining violation and subsequent fee payment required as well as the required application to determine if construction meets ordinance requirements.

Unfinished business: Ziegler and Ernst spoke regarding the joint MC School Board, Mabel and Canton City Council meeting, held on September 22. Redefining Ready, a national campaign to determine college, career and life student readiness was discussed. Community service within the area was touched upon, with the possibility of helping elderly residents in their homes mentioned as an idea. A tour of the building for attendees, with its upgrades and improvements, was a part of the meeting.

The Mitson House repairs update: The estimate of \$894.34 was moved to be approved; made by Gossman, seconded by Ziegler; motion carried. Repairs will be paid with Mitson funds.

Nuisance Property Update: Status updates regarding the fines of \$50 for each settled infraction and legal fees of a total of \$230.50 to date for nuisance violators was given by Kerns. Legal costs were based upon the amount of time the attorney's office needed to handle each case. It was reported that there are two unsettled cases, with unknown costs. Both Wayne Hall and Mark Stutzman had scheduled hearings Tuesday, Oct 11th; Hall has until Monday, Oct 17 to comply with the ordinance. It was stated by the County Attorney's office that if all the violations were corrected, the case would be closed and Hall would be required to pay the \$50 fine to the city; Stutzman did not appear and would be cited.

Arlin Falck Foundation grant application update: The Arlin Falck grant submission in the amount of \$20,721.18 for updates to the park shelter and roof replacement of city storage shed was submitted before the October 1, 2022 deadline, per Kerns. Grant approvals are expected by November 1, 2022.

City Clerk vacancy discussion: It was reported that there had been no applications submitted for the clerk position. Ernst suggested that the same offer of 24 hours plus benefits be made to new applicants as the previous clerk. Kerns stated that the September meeting approval of the personnel manual regarding benefits stated that 32 hours per week are required to entitle an employee to benefits. After some discussion regarding requirements for qualifications, hours and whether the city needs 48 hours of city staff time, Gossman made a motion to change the job description to 32 hours with benefits. Ziegler seconded; motion carried. It was decided to expand the posting sites to include social media and to post the job opening information around town, plus advertising in the local paper for two weeks.

New business: CCA request for temporary liquor license application for Halloween Dance, Oct 29, motion to approve - Gossman, second, Ziegler; motion carried.

Request for closure of East Canton Ave for 10/22/22 by Scott Fairchild for fund raiser to benefit Winn Co Fairgrounds and Eagles Child Funds – motion Gossman, second Ziegler; motion carried.

Discussion on council member tour of city buildings by Shanks. Suggested that different members tour individual buildings to determine possible improvements needed. Council agreed that this would be helpful for prioritizing projects for potential future grant applications. Shanks will coordinate this project.

Discussion on mayor and council member annual pay raise. Motion by Ziegler, second by Gossman to increase each \$200 annually to \$1100 for mayor, council members \$800 total; motion carried. Process to implement and effective date will be determined.

Discussion on date for November special meeting to canvass election results; date of Monday, November 14, 2022 was decided upon to meet time requirements - motion by Gossman, second by Ziegler; motion carried.

Trunk or Treat CCA event 10/31 West Canton Ave request - motion by Ziegler, second by Gossman; motion carried.

CCA request for Main Street and Veteran's Drive closure for Santa Day event – motion by Gossman, second by Ziegler; motion carried. Deputy Clerk is to contact Fillmore County to request Main Street closure approval from 5-7pm December 10th.

Mayor Shanks reported that city staff had contacted all of the candidates running for mayor and council to submit a statement for posting on the city Facebook page to provide information about themselves.

Ernst recognized city maintenance staff for their work on the Canton storage building (former bus shed) improvements.

Ziegler raised a question regarding the Land Use permit process, wondering if there was any requirement for all tax payments to be current before approval for new construction would be granted. Ziegler's concern was that adding to the potential value and the resulting increased tax burden was a good idea if the property owner was already in arrears. Ernst stated that he didn't feel that the county would reassess the value until the construction was done. There was no action taken.

Motion to adjourn at 6:56 pm by Gossman, second by Ernst, motion carried.