

Canton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes February 12, 2025

Members present: Kristy Ziegler, Jen Dowling, Jason Magnuson, George Hafner

City staff present: Anne Koliha, Barb Kerns, Jon Nordsving, Jim Davis

Visitor(s) present: Sabine Hafner, Lori Hudson, Jeremy Hanson, Tina Kerns, Charlie Warner, Karla Warner, Megan Warner, Terri Morin, Kyle Ryan, Carl Ernst, Amanda Jansen, Mason Huerkamp, Ben Bisbach (FC Journal)

Mayor Ziegler called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Dowling to approve the agenda, motion carried.

Consent Agenda

- a) Approval of January 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b) Approval of February Disbursements
- c) Approval of liquor license transfer for ZZ Tap (Vernon to Peyton)

Motion by Dowling, seconded by Hafner to approve the consent agenda, motion carried.

Council Board

- a) Review of letters of interest for vacant council seat
Council had reviewed the two letters of interest received from Terri Morin and Jeremy Hanson – Clerk Koliha handed out paper ballots with the two names listed for each council member to place their vote for appointment and were then collected by Clerk Koliha and counted. Clerk Koliha announced the person selected for the appointment was Jeremy Hanson.
- b) Consider appointment to fill vacant council seat (Resolution 2025-07)
Motion by Dowling, seconded by Magnuson to approve Resolution 2025-07: Appointment of Jeremy Hanson to fill vacant Council Member Seat; motion carried.
- c) Possible Oath of Office for new Council Member
Clerk Koliha invited Jeremy Hanson to come forward to receive the oath of office and take a seat on the council.
- d) Consider approval to amend Resolution 2025-05: Annual City Appointments for 2025 for council appointments to committees
Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Dowling to approve the amendment to Resolution 2025-05: Annual City Appointments for 2025 for council appointments to committees to include the council member Hanson onto committees; motion carried.

Public comments: Mayor Ziegler opened up the public comment portion of the meeting and reminder the public to keep comments to two minutes.

Lori Hudson spoke with concerns of wishing citizens of Canton to get along to keep the quaint small town feel of Canton. She also expressed concerns of the animal control officer and asked how he was paid, where do animals go and if the council has called an organization like camp companion. Clerk

Koliha informed Ms. Hudson that council will not answer questions or take an action during public comment portion of the meeting, this is time for them to listen to the public.

Chris Buckley stated that he believes the council needs to review the animal ordinance and to figure out what to enforce and to be equal on enforcement.

Megan Warner made comments in regards to MN State Statue regarding that seized animals be held for five days.

Carl Ernst inquired about over the past seven years how many have cats have been reported as being held by citizens that have captured them. He also stated his involvement in the past with trapping and working with DNR and that there is no law on feral cat protection.

Reports:

Mayor: Mayor Ziegler read a prepared statement:

The ordinance, regarding stray cats, is there to protect the people and animals that live in our community. TNR (known as trap and release) is the best practice performed in several communities and is recommended by humane groups and natural resource specialists. Efforts to implement a successful TNR are cost prohibited, when free feeding occurs in the area.

Free feeding hinders the ability to successfully and safely trap the whole colony. The preparation of a TNR requires a consistent schedule. It requires food to be accessible at precise times and locations. Access to food is limited to a specific duration of time. A period of no food is then introduced, to ensure the colony is hungry before traps are armed. TNR also requires limited interaction with humans.

Free feeding allows wild animals to become dependent on humans. Once the food source dries up, these animals await worse starvation and lack skills to survive. This is considered animal neglect in the state of Minnesota. Free feeding attracts skunk, raccoon, possum and coyote. Skunk and coyote breeding season is here; and they will be actively looking for homes, near free sources of food. When we limit the food available, these animals will seek homes elsewhere.

Back to the topic of safety: Handling any stray or wild animal is dangerous. We never know how the animal will react. We do not know what kind of illness or disease that may be transmitted thru a scratch or a bite. If this occurs, the animal may need to be destroyed. The safest way, to handle an animal, is with a contactless cage.

I ask that residents register their pets with the city. I ask that if any resident does feed their pet outdoors, to remove any excess food after their pet's meal.

Respectively, Mayor Ziegler

Deputy Clerk: Deputy Clerk Kerns stated that we have had a good response to the last insert in the utility bills regarding pet licenses and utv/golf cart permits has been received well with numerous people in already.

Clerk: Clerk Koliha stated the year end reports have all been completed and working on completion of the financial audit for 2024 with the auditors.

Public Works: Nordsving reported that he ordered a new pH probe for the sewer plant but will be needing to look into the replacement of the pH meter itself in the future. Nordsving commented on

freezing issues been dealing with at the WWTF with the cold temperatures. Also completion of the DNR water report for 2024.

Fire Department: Fire Chief Kyle Ryan addressed the council in regards to the department's grass rig vehicle that needs to be replaced and they are looking into their options available. Council gave consent for Fire Department to move forward with looking at options for replacement and to come back to them for final approval.

Police: none

Planning Commission: Review of application from Kerns for zoning classification change

Other:

Old Business

- a) Consider approval of Resolution 2025-08: Authorizing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of \$1,374,000 Temporary General Obligation Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2025A
Motion by Dowling, seconded by Hafner to approve Resolution 2025-08: Authorizing the Issuance, Sale and Delivery of \$1,374,000 Temporary General Obligation Utility Revenue Bonds, Series 2025A; motion carried.

New Business

- a) Consider approval of request to change zoning classification for Devry & Tina Kerns and Resolution 2025-09: Authorize an Amendment to the Zoning Map
Motion by Dowling, seconded by Magnuson to approve the request to change zoning classification from residential to commercial for property located at 401 W Hwy 52 for Devry & Tina Kerns and approve Resolution 2025-09: Authorize an Amendment to the Zoning Map; motion carried.
- b) Consider contribution towards the summer rec program with Mabel (\$3,220)
Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Hanson to approve contribution towards the summer rec program with Mabel in the amount of \$3,220; motion carried.
- c) Review and consider options for copy machine at city hall
Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Hanson to replace the current copy machine with a newer refurbished machine and switch maintenance agreement to quarterly instead of monthly; motion carried.
- d) Canton Softball League request for work on ballfield (potential grant application)
Amanda Jansen presented a plan for work at the ballfield to be considered, have a possibility of application for DNR grant funds with minimum project cost of \$50,000 to apply for grant funds. She proposed new electrical and lights for ball field, new fencing around entire field and redoing the infield with proper fill to get rid of and cover up the current rough surface. Council will consider the plan and advised the park/rec committee to meet and review the items and come back to council with recommendations.

Motion by Dowling, seconded by Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m.; motion carried.