

## **Canton City Council Regular Meeting Minutes**

### **August 13, 2025**

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

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

Visitor(s) present: Sabine Hafner, Kevin Graves (WHKS), Victor Holland (WHKS)

Mayor Ziegler called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

#### **Consent Agenda**

- a) Approval of July 9, 2025 Public Hearing Minutes
- b) Approval of July 9, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c) Approval of August Disbursements
- d) Approval of sponsorship of Emergency Response Team section in FC Journal

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

**Public comments:** none

#### **Reports:**

**Mayor:** Mayor Ziegler reported: A big striped tent appeared in the middle of our town, while bright flags are waving all throughout the community. The work behind the scenes, to prepare the town for a celebration, can be unnoticed. The time spent can easily be underestimated. Thank-you for those that help plan, fundraise, donate, volunteer, and take time out of busy schedules to ensure Canton celebrates another successful Canton Day Off. It is the time of year when the city starts planning for the following year's budget. Projects or needs in the community are prioritized. Grants are great for funding these items. Each grant has different criteria that must be met. The city of Canton has been fortunate to take advantage of the Arlin Falk grant in past years. Before securing a grant, a project must be identified. An assessment is necessary to define goals, objectives, and outcomes. The project should meet community priorities and consider other project needs. Knowing the types of projects will help determine which grant should be applied for. Looking in the future, what are some ideas for projects, for updates, for change in our small community? Submit suggestions to the city office. Please do not make them anonymous; it makes it impossible for follow-up questions. We cannot guarantee that an idea will come to fruition, but it may lead to one that will. Hope to see you at the celebration this weekend!

**Deputy Clerk:** none

**Clerk:** Clerk Koliha reported:

\*Recognition of Legislators for our area – Senator Jerney Miller and Representative Greg Davids – see the enclosed letters in packet regarding this recognition.

\*Received email notification from Allison Whalen who works for CEDA and is working with Fillmore County EDA for a potential opportunity through First Children's Finance and the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families called the Rural Child Care Innovation Program. In order to apply for funds need to develop a core team of 10-20 people from Fillmore County to serve on this core team. If anyone is interested in being part of the core team I can pass along further information to them.

\*Inquiry about the potential to have unmetered water service to a parcel of land – would need to establish a rate for the unmetered water service – can gather information from other cities to see if offered and pricing.

\*Continued work on items pertaining to the streets project

\*Review and reporting on updates to the Fillmore County Hazard Mitigation Plan

\*Reporting as requested regarding potential storm damage from recent storms in the area for July 28/29 storm – city did not meet the \$4,000 threshold

\*Jon will be working with folks from WHKS regarding gathering further information from residents for the lead service line inventory

**Public Works:** Nordsving reported:

\*For unmetered water there is a hydrant that is not metered located on the old lumberyard property – Council directed Clerk Koliha to look into fees and bring back to September meeting for consideration

\*Had a water leak on the north end of town behind Davis property and discovered another water shut off – was able to get leak fixed in a timely manner and had to get repair supplies from neighboring community

\*Received concerns of a potential hazardous tree located on the boulevard area – neighbor has contacted owner of property and no luck to get removed – Nordsving asked council if should send a letter like what was done for hazardous trees last year. Motion by Hanson seconded by Hafner to have a letter sent to property owner of hazardous tree to request it be taken care of in timely manner by themselves or the city will have removed and assess costs to property; motion carried. Nordsving stated he will go around this fall when leaves start falling to survey rest of trees within the city and create a list of other hazardous trees to be taken care of.

**Fire Department:** Davis reported: Department is gearing up for the Canton Day Off celebration and that the fire truck is still for sale.

**Police:** none

**Planning Commission:** none

**Other:** none

### **WHKS report: Preliminary plans for streets project**

Kevin Graves and Victor Holland from WHKS gave a presentation to the council regarding preliminary plans for the streets project and handed out copies of a proposed timeline of actions and copies of preliminary plans for staff and council to review and make comments on over the next month. Kevin Graves reviewed the proposed project schedule and noted that would be looking to have some public information meeting coming up in October. Looking to break the overall big project into smaller phases such as: water tower painting, new well drilling and pumphouse, wastewater improvements, County roads, and City streets. Kevin Graves also mentioned talking to USDA-RD about the improvements needed at the wastewater treatment plant to meet the nitrogen limits – USDA-RD feels this work is still part of overall improvements and not need any additional amendments.

### **Old Business**

a) Discuss next steps for Mitson House

Clerk Koliha contacted a couple of contractors regarding estimates to tear down and clean up lot area – only received estimate from TLC Excavating. Clerk Koliha informed the council about the requests from the Canton Historical Society regarding saving windows for the old glass to potentially be reused in restoration of any windows at the train depot. Also the Canton Historical Society would like to keep the Mitson Museum sign from outside.

Council discussed the requested and reviewed the estimate for work. Council would like Clerk Koliha to look back to find out who paid for the Mitson Museum sign to figure out who it belongs to for sure. If sign is owned by City may look to repurpose the sign. Regarding the windows consensus of council was if Canton Historical Society wants to save the windows they can do so but at their expense and be given a deadline to get them before contractor shows up. Motion by Hafner, seconded by Magnuson to allow the Canton Historical Society to remove windows from the Mitson House for the old glass at their expense and to accept the estimate from TLC Excavating to have the house torn down and the lot area cleaned up; motion carried.

#### **New Business**

- a) Consider approval of Resolution #2025-12: Approving the Sale of Tax-Forfeited parcel  
Motion by Magnuson, seconded by Dowling to approve Resolution #2025-12: Approving the Sale of Tax-Forfeited parcel; motion carried.
- b) Consider investment of Ballfield/Park Fund dollars (\$10,000) into a CD  
Motion by Dowling, seconded by Hafner to invest \$10,000 of ballfield/park fund dollars into a CD at First Southeast Bank for 9 month term at 4.25%; motion carried.
- c) Consider investment of Water Fund dollars (\$100,000-150,000) into a CD  
Motion by Hafner, seconded by Magnuson to invest \$125,000 of water fund dollars into a CD at First Southeast Bank for 12 month term at 4.35%; motion carried.
- d) 2026 Preliminary Budget Review  
Clerk Koliha presented the first very rough draft of a budget for 2026 to the council and asked them for guidance for setting the preliminary tax levy and guidance for a goal to reach for a final tax levy with the budget.
- e) Project ideas for potential grants  
Mayor Ziegler asked the council to think about any potential projects that would benefit the community and could apply for grants.

Motion by Dowling, seconded by Hanson to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.; motion carried.