

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

June 23, 2026 – 6:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in Council Chambers at 6:30 PM with Mayor David B. Flanigan presiding. Fire Chief Jason Martin gave the invocation. Police Chief Chad Dininger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, Susan Reddy. City Attorney Jon Gold and City Administrator Traci Cox were also present.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Chad Dininger, Fire Chief Jason Martin, Public Works Director Josiah Bayless, and Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2026 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

During Citizen Participation, Mitsy Welch was present to speak to the Council. Toby Hulstine, the Operations Manager for the Fairbridge hotel in town, was present to invite any council members interested to come and take a tour to see what changes are being done to that location. Judy Thomas, with the Carthage Rodeo, was present to explain all the upgrades they have been doing at the fairgrounds and how they are trying to grow their events to get more people and Melissa Little, the Tourism Director, has done a wonderful job in helping them market their events and apply for grants for their upgrades. They couldn't do what they have done recently without her.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Wells reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. They reviewed the job description for the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director. They tabled the Administrative Assistant description for the parks office until the next meeting. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Position. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for July 14th at 6 pm.

Mr. Thorn reported that the Public Safety Committee met June 15th in Council Chambers. They discussed the closure of the roads in Municipal Park for the Jasper County Youth Fair in July. Mr. Thorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to close Fairway Drive from Tuesday – Saturday July 14th-18th, Clover Lane from Wednesday-

Saturday July 15th-18th and allow food trucks in the area Monday-Saturday, and allow camping in the park for the exhibitors taking care of livestock from July 11th-18th. Motion carried. The committee discussed the 6th annual Hispanic Heritage Days to be held in Central Park, this event has food trucks, live music, and a car show and they are requesting street closures for the event.. Mr. Thorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to close 7th Street between Garrison and Lyon, Lyon Street between 7th and Chestnut, and the west bound lane of Chestnut between Lyon and Garrison to be closed between 11 am – 11 pm on September 26th. Motion carried. They discussed changes to the burning regulations which is under new business for the evening. They also approved bids for 9 new mattresses and bed frames for the fire department. Mr. Thorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve the bid from Fire Station Furniture Company in the amount of \$8,459.82 for 9 twin mattresses and 9 bed frames. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20th at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Kang reported that the Public Services Committee met June 16th in Council Chambers. The committee discussed the use of Hudl cameras at the softball fields. The cameras would only run during games and they can be used to review game footage, scouting, and could be shared with other schools who ask for it. There would be no cost to the City and they would coordinate installation with the parks office. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reddy to approve the installation of Hudl cameras at the Fair Acres Sports Complex. Motion carried. The committee also heard from the Hispanic Connection about the Hispanic Heritage Days. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to allow the use of Central Park on September 26th from 11 am to 11 pm. Motion carried. The annual Sudstock event will be on June 27th at Municipal Park. This is put on by the Alliance of Southwest Missouri. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to allow the Sudstock event in Municipal Park on June 27th from 12 pm – 3 pm. Motion carried. Agape Farms asked for the use of Central Park for a community event where Golden Retrievers who have been adopted by the farm can reunite, citizens and their dogs are also welcome so long as they are on a leash. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells to allow the use of Central Park from 11 am – 2 pm on July 11th for the event. Motion carried. The committee also discussed an RFP for Tourism. The city is wanting to really expand the tourism and get measurable metrics that show what is being done is increasing tourism. The lodging tax revenue has been flat for several years, and they are wanting to increase it. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reddy to post the RFP to see what responses are received. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21st at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Topete reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for July 7th at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Perkins for the CWEP Board, Mr. West for the Kellogg Lake Board, Ms. Reddy for the Boots Visitors Center, and Ms. Kang for Vision Carthage.

Mayor Flanigan reported on attending the Housing committee meeting, CWEP, CEDC, and the legislative wrap up meetings. He also reported on meeting with Brian Schmidt

and Lee Salyer on the Library Board, he attended the flag box dedication at fire station 1. He also had a meeting with the member of the fire district board and discussed services and funding for the fire district. The bridge committee also continues to work to hopefully get some funding questions answered soon on what funding can be provided for them.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. West would like some information to go out about the pool and the repair costs. Mr. Thorn appreciated the landfill being opened early and the citywide limb pick up by the street department. Ms. Snow thanked Melissa Little for helping with the Civil War Reenactment. Mrs. Reddy also appreciated the city limb pickup.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that he also attended the meeting with the fire district board. He thanked Truman Fisher for choosing the flag box as his Eagle Scout project and that there have already been numerous flags dropped off in it. During the last big storm, there was one siren that failed to sound, there was a loose wire that did not get the signal to sound. It was located in the middle of town in an area that is overlapped by the other sirens. As soon as it was safe to, they were out checking the siren and fixed the issue so it is working now. He is coordinating with Joplin and JASCO to see if there was enough significant damage to qualify for disaster funding.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless updated everyone on the storm cleanup from the June 13th storm. There were 14 trees in the roads, the crews worked from midnight to 6 am clearing them. There have been 163 dump truck loads picked up or about 27 a day, and 1,014 citizen loads taken to the recycling center. The street department has one new hire and still one open position. He will be sending out his code enforcement update on Friday. He also reported that the free limb drop off would go through Friday June 26th.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine reported that there were three different tournaments going on last week, baseball, softball, and golf. There are plenty more coming. He also said he would work on sending out a list of events that are scheduled for the Red, White and Boom event on July 4th.

City Administrator Traci Cox introduced Laura Taylor who was at the meeting. She is interning with the City and she will be making her rounds to the different departments to see what each one does for the city and citizens. She thanked the crews for their storm cleanup. She also talked about attending the historic tax credit seminar that was held at City Hall. That meeting was recorded so if anyone is interested in watching, it is on the City youtube page. She reported that her and Mr. Bonine met with Landmark Aquatics and they are fairly confident that they found the major leak source at the pool. They are also supposed to give information on what it would take to get the existing building and pools up to code rather than building a new one.

The City of Carthage held a public hearing for the approval of the City of Carthage Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Mr. Wells stated that he was disappointed in the

citizens for not showing up. He doesn't want to see any complaints about the budget since no one bothered coming to discuss their issues on the budget with the Council.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$1,491,076.73 against the following funds: General Revenue \$83,774.25, Public Health \$57,203.44, Lodging \$12.36, Public Safety \$3,813.81, Parks/Stormwater \$2,363.50, Fire Protection \$1,363.79, Golf \$13,426.88, Capital Improvements \$6,906.00, Judicial Education \$351.00, Use Tax \$18,137.00, Public Facilities Bond \$7,360.00, Payroll \$396,364.70, and Carthage Water & Electric \$900,000.00. Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 26-39 -- An Ordinance authorizing utility rate changes for electric, water, and wastewater services as requested by the Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-39.

C.B. 26-40 -- An Ordinance adopting the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 1 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Susan Reddy. Nays: Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-40.

C.B. 26-41 -- An Ordinance accepting the First Re-plat of Creekside Subdivision Lots 42, 43 and 44, as submitted by Schuber Mitchell Homes, LLC., generally located at Chapel Road and Marble Avenue, in the City of Carthage, Missouri, was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-41.

C.B. 26-42 — An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating Budget and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 for specified funds (General Fund, Public Safety Fund, Golf Fund, and Capital Improvement Tax Fund) was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-42.

Under New Business, C.B. 26-43 -- An Ordinance amending Section 10-2 – Open Burning, of the Carthage City Code was placed on first reading with no action taken.

During Mayor's Appointments, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve the Mayor's Appointment of Jason Martin and Ken Lown from the Fire

Department and Jeff Pinnell and Ethan Snow from the Police Department to the Police and Fire Pension Committee until July 2028. Motion carried.

During closing comments, the Mayor encouraged all to attend the fourth of July events that are going on in the City. He also asked that everyone try to support the downtown local businesses during the summer. Mr. Thorn wished everyone a happy fourth of July. Mr. Perkins thanked Mr. Bonine and his crews, the storm happened on a Saturday night and there were people out golfing at 7 am on Sunday. The golf crews did a great job clearing off the greens to keep play going. Mr. Snow wished everyone a happy fourth of July. Mrs. Kang thanked Mr. Snow and Ms. Cox for their help with the budget process and explaining everything. She also was thankful for the storm communications and the cleanup. Mr. Wells talked about the amount of people who attended the Civil War Reenactment earlier in the month. Mr. Topete thanked the crews for the storm cleanup.

Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.