MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
August 23, 2022

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in the Council Chambers at 6:30 P.M. with Mayor Dan Rife presiding. Fire Chief Ryan Huntley gave the invocation and Police Chief Bill Hawkins led the flag salute.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff. Council Member Alan Snow was absent. City Administrator Greg Dagnan and City Attorney Nate Dally were also present.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Bill Hawkins, Fire Chief Ryan Huntley, Public Works Director Zeb Carney, Parks & Recreation Director Mark Peterson, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2022 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no citizen's present during Citizen's Participation.

Ms. Otero reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for September 12.

Mrs. Harrison reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this date and approved the claims. The committee also discussed amending Section 300, subsection 308 of the Personnel Policy Manual. That was approved and forwarded to Council as Council Bill 22-39. Resolution 1980 was also discussed and forwarded to Council, it is an agreement with Penmac Staffing Services to help fill the empty positions mainly within the Parks and Public Works Departments. Also discussed was the City's life insurance and long-term disability provider, Mutual of Omaha wanted to increase the rates by 64% so other options were looked at. Anthem Life Insurance is a slight increase from what the City was paying, but it is not as high as the Mutual of Omaha renewal rate. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty to change the City provided life insurance and long-term disability provider to Anthem Life Insurance. The next meeting will be rescheduled due to the MML conference.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee met on August 15. Cody Douglas spoke to the committee about 2022 Rallye 66 on September 16. It is the same as years past and they have requested road closures of the 800 block of Main Street between Chestnut & 9th and the block of 9th Street between Main and Lyon from 7 am to 9 am. They also requested the permission to back vehicles into parking space on Chestnut in the closed areas. In the case of inclement weather, they are requesting the closure of 9th street between Main and Lyon, and Chestnut between Lyon and Grant from 11:30 am to 3 pm. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the road closures as presented. Motion carried. The YMCA spoke to the committee about the

Maple Leaf 5K on October 14th, they have requested to close George E Phelps Blvd from Grand to Fulton from 5:30-7:30 pm, they also requested barricades on S Fulton & George E Phelps as well as Grand and George E Phelps. They have also requested the Police Department to assist with traffic control. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the road closures as presented and assist with traffic control. Motion carried. Chanti Beckham with Here4Carthage spoke to the committee about the Maple Tree 1-2-3 run, she requested that Centennial from Garrison to Grand be closed from 8-10 am Saturday October 29. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison to approve the road closure for the Maple Tree 1-2-3 run. Motion carried. The fire department mattress bids were also discussed, three bids were received for 9 twin size mattresses. The lowest bid came in from MattressFirm with a price of $2,834.28. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison to accept the low bid for twin mattress in the amount of $2,834.28. Motion carried. Mr. Elliff also spoke briefly on C. B. 22-40, it changes the requirement for firefighters to live within 15 miles of the City limits, but requires employees assigned a City vehicle to live within the Carthage Fire District. The next meeting is scheduled for September 19.

Ms. Otero reported that the Public Services Committee met on August 16 and discussed a few donations to the Parks Department. There is a donation by Jason Shelfer and some other citizens for artwork to be painted on the stone wall at Griggs Park, this appears in Resolution 1979. There is also a donation of a Civil War Era Cannon from Dr. Deffenbaugh that will go into Central Park, the City is responsible for pouring a concrete slab for the cannon and any signage that the Council may want to display with it. The cannon donation appears in Resolution 1978. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, Ms. Otero and Mr. Peterson will both be unavailable that day so the meeting will be rescheduled for September 22 at 6 pm.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for September 6.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for the Jasper County Commission, and the Police and Fire Pension Committee. Ms. Otero for the Carthage Humane Society, Ms. Blankenship for the Kellogg Lake Board, and Mr. Armstrong voiced the support from the Civil War Museum Board for the cannon in Resolution 1978.

Mayor Rife reported on Economic Development Committee meetings. He also mentioned that the next Budget, Insurance Audit & Claims, and City Council meetings would need to be rescheduled due to the MML conference the second week of September. Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison to move the Council Meeting to Thursday, September 15 at 5:30 pm. The Insurance Audit & Claims meeting will begin at 4:30 that same day. The new date for the Budget meeting will be determined later.

During reports from Council Members, Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to table Resolution 1979 until the September 27 Council Meeting. This will give the Public Services Committee time to develop a policy to present on accepting public artwork. Motion carried after a roll call vote of 5 ayes and 4 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair Cossey, Elliff, and Ensor. Nays: Blankenship, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero. Ms. Ensor mentioned that the cannon that is being donated is made by the same company as the cannon that is in Branson at Top of the Rock.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins reported that the Animal Control Officer has been training with other City's and the local veterinary offices. His goal is to have the best trained ACO and to help develop a better relationship with the Carthage Humane Society.

Fire Chief Ryan Huntley reported that there was one employee let go a few weeks ago and they have filled that spot already, so the fire department is fully staffed at this time.

Parks & Recreation Director Mark Peterson reported on the cannon, he thanked the Deffenbaugh's for their generous donation. He also touched on the need for a policy for non-physical donations like artwork, they will discuss a policy in the next Public Services Committee and bring one back to the Council.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox reported on closing out the budget for Fiscal Year 2022. Budget reports for the departments had been sent out, and she reported on the fund balance at the beginning and end of Fiscal year 2022.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan sent out his report to the Council prior to the meeting on items he has been working on. He reported that there will be a meeting between the Economic Development Committee and the CEDC to discuss the potential of a future Economic Development Director. There was a meeting with Vision Carthage to determine what projects the City would like to see funded by grants if possible. Vision Carthage has a contract with grant writers for a year, they will be looking for grants that align with what the City leaders discussed. He also alerted the Council that there will be a closed session at the next meeting to discuss the railroad lawsuit and Myers Park. He also touched on DMO with the CVB in Resolution 1977, if the Resolution passes, the Council can choose to spend or not spend the money, if it fails, the City won't be able to apply for the funds until July 2023.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $2,830,092.82 against the following funds: General Revenue $135,925.35, Public Health $159,646.17, Lodging Tax $381.00, Parks/Stormwater $6,403.87, Golf $9,820.05, Parks & Recreation $62.99, Myers Park $221,749.66, Use Tax $1,612.04, Public Facilities $34,041.63, Payroll $260,450.06, and Carthage Water & Electric $2,000,000.00. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under old business, C. B. 22-38 – An Ordinance levying general taxes upon real property located within the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri for the year 2022, for General Revenue purposes and other purposes, and fixing the rates thereof was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, and Otero. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 22-39.

Under new business, C. B. 22-39 – An Ordinance to amend Section 300 – Compensation/ Classification of the Personnel Policy Manual of the City of Carthage by amending subsection 308 – Compensatory Time was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C. B. 22-40 – An Ordinance to amend Section 10-26 of the Carthage Code to amend the requirement for firefighters was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty to table Resolution 1977 until the September 27 Council Meeting due to some unresolved technicalities. The motion to table Resolution 1977 failed by a roll call vote of 4 ayes and 5 nays. Ayes: Blair, Hardesty, Otero, and Cossey. Nays: Armstrong, Blankenship, Elliff, Ensor, and Harrison.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to approve Resolution 1977 – A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the CVB to pay them up to $90,000.00 for the City portion of the Missouri Division of Tourism Advertising Grant Funds. Resolution 1977 failed by a roll call vote of 4 yeas and 5 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Elliff, Ensor, and Harrison. Nays: Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Hardesty, and Otero. Resolution 1977 was not adopted.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve Resolution 1978 – A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation from Dr. Deffenbaugh of a replica Civil War Era cannon to the City of Carthage Parks Department, by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri, pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 1978 was adopted by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, and Otero.

Resolution 1979 was tabled until September 27 by an earlier motion made by Mr. Elliff, and seconded by Mr.Armstrong. Resolution 1979 – A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation from Jason Shelfer and other citizens, to the City of Carthage Parks Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri, pursuant to City Policy. Motion to table Resolution 1979 passed by an earlier roll call vote of 5 yeas and 4 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair Cossey, Elliff, and Ensor. Nays: Blankenship, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to approve Resolution 1980 – A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Penmac Staffing Services, Inc. in Carthage, Missouri for staffing solutions. Resolution 1980 was adopted by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, and Otero.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Otero, to approve Resolution 1981 – A Resolution declaring the intent of the City of Carthage, Missouri to deliver Certificates of Participation to finance the costs of projects for the electric system. Resolution 1981 was adopted by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, and Otero.

Chuck Bryant was present to explain to the Council what this Resolution was for and why Carthage Water & Electric needed the City's approval.

During closing comments, Ms. Blair thanked the rest of the Council for helping explain to her anything she doesn't understand and answering her questions.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Otero, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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Dan Rife, Mayor

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Miranda Deal, City Clerk