City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

November 8, 2022 - 6:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in the Council Chambers at 06:30 PM with Mayor Dan Rife presiding.

Fire Marshal Eli Maples gave the invocation.

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, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff. City Administrator Greg Dagnan and City Attorney Nate Dally were also present.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Bill Hawkins, Fire Marshal Eli Maples, Public Works Director Zeb Carney, and City Clerk Miranda Deal. Fire Chief Ryan Huntley and Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox were absent.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Otero, to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2022 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizens Participation, Darren Collier spoke to the Council on the changes being made in Resolution 1987 to the Police and Fire Pension Plan Investment Policy. Nate also mentioned that he changed the wording to match the gender-neutral plan that was recently approved. Abi Almandinger with Vision Carthage updated the Council on downtown Christmas decorations and all the events that are happening with Hometown Holidays and Sparkle in the Park.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for November 14.

Mrs. Harrison reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit & Claims met on this date and approved the claims. The Dress Code policy for the Personnel Policy Manual was also discussed and approved, it will appear in Council Bill 22-46. This policy includes a safety portion that was not part of the previous version. The next meeting will be on November 22.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings, with the next meeting scheduled for November 21.

Ms. Otero reported that the Public Services Committee is between meetings with the next meeting date set for November 15. This date may need to be changed due to scheduling conflicts and the recent resignation of the Parks and Recreation Director. She also stated that the Public Art Policy in Council Bill 22-43 may need to be tabled until the new version can be reviewed by the committee.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee met on November 1. They discussed the lot split that appears in Resolution 1988, he stated that this lot split will be permanent and cannot be undone in the future. The Community Revitalization Grant was discussed, it is a 50/50 grant for street scraping, stamping on sidewalks, and square beautification. Mr. Armstrong made a motion to empower Vision Carthage to proceed with the grant. Motion carried. The church that burned down a few weeks ago wants to rebuild with historical accuracy and they had insurance coverage. The old lumberyard building did not have insurance and the cost of the cleanup will become a lien on that property. Public Works and the Street Department have been trying to order new trucks with no luck at this time. The Street Department will be using Same Day CDL to help new hires obtain their CDL. This will be paid for by the City and if the person quits or is fired, the cost will be pro-rated and they will have to reimburse the city for the cost. The light tunnel on the square has been installed and there has been discussion about possibly extending the light tunnel all the way down the whole mall area. CWEP has been working on getting the lights installed in the park for Sparkle in the Park, the light tunnel lights, and the downtown building lights will be installed soon. There was a groundbreaking ceremony for G3 Entertainment out at Myers Park, and Zeb presented his 5 year human capital requests to the committee. The next meeting will be December 6.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for the Jasper County Commission and Ms. Otero for the Humane Society.

Mayor Rife reported on his attendance at the CEDC meeting and the State of the City address. He also thanked Julie Reams and the Chamber for putting the State of the City event together.

During reports from Council Members, Ms. Otero thanked Julie for the State of the City, she spoke on the Parks and Recreation Director resignation and wants to make sure that everyone is working from the same information. Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to amend the agenda to add an executive session pursuant to Section 610.021 (3), hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded. Motion carried with a vote of 8 yeas and 2 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, and Otero. Nay: Blankenship and Snow.

Mr. Snow thanked Julie for the State of the City, he thanked Michael Miller for his work on the 5 year personnel plan, he stated that he has helped fill in the gaps that the City had and will help determine priorities. He also stated that he would like to have a planning session in the future to discuss the personnel plan.
Mr. Elliff also thanked Julie for all of her work for the State of the City event.

City Attorney Nate Dally apologized for having the wrong art policy in the packet, he had recently received the correct version to review. He is also working on the 353 Abatement to make sure everything is correct. He recently spoke with a friend of his from Columbia and talked about the new G3 entertainment center coming to Carthage and Columbia has only had something like that for a few years, so it is nice to see that Carthage is trying to keep up with the bigger cities.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins gave an update on one of his officers that was involved in an altercation last week while attempting to perform a possible DWI stop. The officer is alright, but he was checked out and evaluated at the hospital after the incident.

Public Works Director Zeb Carney reported that the closing for the G3 Entertainment property will be on November 17. He has also heard from MoDOT about the closing for the right-of-way acquisitions for the I-49 Roundabout. He also reported that leaf pickup has started, there are only two crews picking up, but they will be working in sections to clean up all the leaves.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan printed out his report for the council before the meeting. He thanked Julie for putting together the State of the City and reported that he had spent most of the time since the last Council meeting preparing for the event.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $870,636.58 against the following funds: General Revenue $83,958.54, Public Health $152,218.50, Lodging Tax $1,102.10, Parks/Stormwater $17,600.00, Fire Protection $2,606.00, Golf $1,452.85, Parks and Recreation $3.53, Myers Park $6,231.50, Public Library $213,000.00, and Payroll $392,463.56.

Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business,
Ms. Deal informed the Council that this Council Bill number has a typo. The Council Bill should be numbered Council Bill 22-43.
C.B. 22-43 -- An Ordinance to amend Chapter 6 Buildings and Building Regulations by adding Article X Public Art Policy was read for a second time.

Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty to table this Council Bill until the first Council Meeting in January to allow time to send the policy back to committee for further review. C.B. 22-43 was tabled after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff.

Mr. Armstrong suggested to bring this Council Bill back as an amendment rather than having it go through two readings again. Ms. Cossey asked if that was allowed or if everything that was changed would have to be pointed out during the meeting. Mr. Armstrong stated that if the amended version is put into the packet, it could be amended to the presented version.

C. B. 22-44 - An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Real Estate Contract for the sale of land in the Myers Park Subdivision between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Faik Bilalli and Lumnije Bilalli in Carthage, Missouri 64836 was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 22-44.

C.B. 22-45 -- An Ordinance to amend the City of Carthage, Missouri, Purchasing Manual that generally increases the limits of the policy and corrects other minor errors within the policy. Such amendment of the Purchasing Manual is as recommended by the Insurance, Audit and Claims Committee was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 22-45.

Under New Business, C.B. 22-46 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 600 - City Rules & Regulations of the Personnel Policy Manual of the City of Carthage by amending subsection 605 - Dress Code was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the reappointment of Alan Bull to the Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation Commission until November 2026. Motion carried after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the reappointment of Jason Martin, Jeff Pinnell, and Tymon Bay to the Police and Fire Pension Plan Committee until November 2024. Motion carried after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff.

Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve Resolution 1987 - A Resolution adopting a revised Police and Fire Pension Plan INvestment Policy, as recommended by the Police and Fire Pension Plan Committee. Resolution 1987 was adopted after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to approve Resolution 1988 - A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Carthage amending an administrative lot split for property located at 318 Orner Street and 519 Oak Street, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 1988 was adopted after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff.

During closing comments, Ms. Blair thanked Julie for the State of the City, Mr. Snow thanked everyone for allowing his absence the last couple meetings due to his son playing varsity soccer during his senior year, he also gave a shout-out to the Carthage High School Boys Soccer Team and the Football team for great seasons. Ms. Cossey thanked everyone for their hard work for all of the city events. Mrs. Harrison apologized for missing the State of the City, Ms. Ensor thanked the Police Department for their hard work in keeping the City safe and gave the council members a head count for how many trick-or-treaters she had on Halloween night. Mr. Armstrong thanked the Chamber for recording the State of the City so he could view it later, and Ms. Blankenship apologized for missing the last meeting.

Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor to close the meeting according to Section 610.021 (3), the agenda was amended to include the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss the hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded, followed by a roll call vote on the board of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff. Motion carried at 7:12 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to return to the regular session of the Council meeting at 8:46 pm followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, Mark Elliff. Motion carried.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.