City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

January 24, 2023 - 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 Chief Ryan Huntley 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, 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 Chief Ryan Huntley, Public Works Director Zeb Carney, Parks & Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no citizens present during Citizens Participation.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for February 13.

Mrs. Harrison reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit & Claims met on this date and approved the claims. The auditor did not come to the meeting due to the inclement weather. She will be at the February 14 meeting to do her presentation in person. During staff reports, Ms. Deal reported that department heads had gone through Opengov training for this upcoming budget. Ms. Cox reported that interest revenue for last fiscal year was around $67,000 and with only being six months into this fiscal year, the interest revenue is around $290,000.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee met on January 23. Resolution 1994 is for an anonymous donation to the police department. The Committee also approved and forwarded Council Bill 23-06 that makes Hazel Avenue from George E Phelps Blvd to HH Highway a truck route. The next meeting will be February 27 due to the City holiday on the 19th.

Ms. Otero reported that the Public Services Committee met on January 17. It was the new Parks and Recreation Director's first meeting, a lengthy meeting discussing everything going on at the moment. The Committee approved and forwarded a new art policy that is cleaner and much simpler than before, it appears in Council Bill 23-05. They discussed golf merchandise for the Pro Shop, Tyler Markham who is currently running the Pro Shop, gave a list to the committee on items he believes would be beneficial to have in stock. The

Committee recommends up to $70,000 to be used to stock the Pro Shop, this will need to go to the next Budget Ways & Means meeting before anything is purchased. Also discussed was golf course incentives for City employees, details are still being worked out on this and will come back to the Committee for approval once finalized. There will be another meeting on January 31 and again on the regularly scheduled night of February 21.

Ms Otero made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor to approve up to $70,000, for the establishment of the golf Pro Shop inventory, pending Budget Committee approval. Motion carried.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for February 7. However, there was some business that needed to come before the Council. The new G3 Entertainment property in Myers Park will require more electricity than what is currently being provided to that property. To fix the issue, there will need to be pipe ran through the ditch that is currently there and have electricity ran through it from the larger feeder nearby. If the ditch is filled now, it will help relieve some issues out there and save money in the long run. Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to approve the purchase of 800 feet of 60 inch pipe for the amount of $87,293.60. Motion carried. He also reported that the City received the Governor's Cost Share for the other area of Hazel Avenue that needs widened which will help a lot with all the new development that will be happening in Myers Park.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for the Jasper County Commission, and the Police and Fire Pension Committee, Mr. Snow for the Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board, and Ms. Otero for the Carthage Humane Society.

City Attorney Nate Dally reported that he attended the Court of Appeals hearing for the railroad lawsuit on January 10. He said that there were a lot of hard questions for each side and it would take roughly 40 days to hear the result, if it is our favor then the case will go back to court and have another trial.

Public Works Director Zeb Carney reported on the Governor's Cost Share the City was awarded. It will help cover the cost of widening Hazel Avenue from George E. Phelps Blvd. North to Airport Drive and then East to the new Garrison Avenue intersection.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that she has been meeting with various agencies and discussing their contracts for the next fiscal year. She has met with the Play and Park representatives, and is working with our engineer on the park bathroom plans.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan reported that there will be a planning session on January 30 and there will be an agenda sent out by the end of the week. He also mentioned that he did get his report included in to the packet.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $683,239.20 against the following funds: General Revenue $104,558.23, Public Health $7,173.73, Lodging $56.98, Parks/Stormwater $74,961.56, Fire Protection $59,397.60, Golf $5,170.42, Parks and Recreation $6,139.15, Myers Park $49,193.83, Use Tax $7,756.23, Public Facilities $19,750.35, ARPA $23,943.58, and Payroll $325,137.54. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 23-01 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Play and Park for Playground Equipment at Municipal Park for $879,640.63, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-08.

C.B. 23-02 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Play and Park for Playground Equipment at Carter Park for $531,193.60, in the City of Carthage, Missouri as placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-09.

C.B. 23-03 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contractual agreement with Baker Tilly US, LLC, for grant writing services, in the City of Carthage, Missouri as placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-10.

Under new business, C.B. 23-05 -- An Ordinance Adopting a Public Art Policy of the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-06 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 23-172(d) of the Code of the City of Carthage to add Hazel Avenue from HH Highway to the North Side of the George Phelps intersection, as a truck Route in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve Resolution 1994- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of an anonymous donation of $10,000 by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 1994 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff.

During Closing Comments, Mr. Snow mentioned that he was glad that the money from the McCune Brooks Hospital Trust is being spent and is helping improve the community with new playgrounds in the parks.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to close the meeting according to Section 610.021 (2) the Agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration therefor followed by a roll call vote on the board of 9 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff. Motion carried at 7:03 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:19 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff. Motion carried.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.