



City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

March 14, 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 and Mark Elliff. Council Member Ed Hardesty 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 Abi Almandinger, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, and Deputy City Clerk Courtney Walker.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Harrison, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy City Clerk Courtney Walker gave the oath of office to Officer Kendra Tackett, Officer Raegan Nolan and SRO Officer Kevin Bolles.

During Citizen's Participation, Julie Reams with the Chamber of Commerce reported that a resident information guide was now available for the City of Carthage, which can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce and Carthage City Hall. She also reported that the Chamber of Commerce had received the award for Best Festival/Local Event from the KOAM TV Four States Finest for the Maple Leaf Festival. She thanked the City of Carthage for all their help in achieving this award.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee met March 13. He reported that the committee had forwarded the acceptance of the LEST Grant to council, which would appear as Resolution 1996. He also reported that the committee discussed paying off the remainder of the police vehicle lease. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to pay off the current lease. Motion carried. Mr. Snow also reported that educational material on the upcoming marijuana sales tax had been discussed. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Otero, to approve and release all educational material. Motion carried. Mr. Snow mentioned that Ms. Cox had reported that sales tax revenue for the general fund had increased and the use tax revenue had exceeded expectations. The next meeting is scheduled for April 10th.

Mrs. Harrison reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this date and approved the claims. The Committee approved the Golf Maintenance Supervisor position. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to accept the position as seen

in the packet. Motion carried. Mrs. Harrison reported that the whistleblower policy was amended to change the term finance director to acting finance director and the term will be written in lowercase lettering, as seen in Council Bil 23-18. The Committee also approved a \$10,000 payment to Dick Horton for consulting hours, but will not be paying the \$5,000 for the Public Arts Policy, as the work was substandard. The next meeting is scheduled for March 28th.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20th.

Ms. Otero reported that the Public Service Committee met March 7th. The Committee approved the use of Central Park for Hispanic Heritage Day. Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to allow the use of Central Park on September 30th from 12 p.m. to 11 p.m. for the 3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Day. Motion carried. The Committee discussed change orders for the sitework at Municipal Park and Carter Park. The sitework was to be done by a separate entity, but will now be done by Play and Park. Ms. Otero reported that the engineer recommended demolition of Rock Stadium and they will be receiving bids for the demolition, with the inclusion of saving the rock wall. They will also be receiving bids for the sitework for the prefabricated bathrooms at the parks at their next meeting. Ms. Otero reported that an emergency roof replacement was being done by Joplin Roofing on the Pro Shop and congratulated Tyler Marham on becoming the full-time Golf Operations Supervisor. The next meeting is scheduled for March 21st.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee did not meet on March 7. The next meeting is scheduled for April 4.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for the Jasper County Commission and Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation, Ms. Blankenship for the Kellogg Lake Board, Ms. Otero for the Humane Society Board, and Ms. Blair for the Tree Board.

Mayor Rife reported that an emergency purchase was being done for the Pro Shop Roof.

During reports from Council Members, Ms. Ensor reported that the Public Library had been closed for repairs, but was reopening the following day.

City Attorney Nate Dally reported that the Federal Court of Appeals upheld the lower courts ruling, that the railroad owns the bridge, but there was a breach of contract due to the statute of limitations. The City of Carthage is looking at other options to repair the bridges.

Fire Chief Ryan Huntley reported that the autopulse machine was used last week and it did an amazing job. The autopulse machine maintains perfect CPR and the man it was used on did survive. He also reported that they are interviewing for an opening at the Fire Department.

Public Works Director Zeb Carney reported that several commercial projects have started around town and everything is going great.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the leak investigators did find a leak at the pool, playground site prep work is beginning shortly and the roof replacement work at the Pro Shop has begun. They have hired a Golf Maintenance Supervisor and he starts next week.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox reported sales tax revenues were up 7.66% from the

same time last year, use tax had exceeded the forecasted revenues and the surtax came in at approximately \$365,000, which was up 2.5% from last year.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan reported that Baker Tilly had sent a report on all grants that were available for the City of Carthage. Administration will have a meeting with staff to make a priority list and begin work on 2-3 grants. Mr. Dagnan also reported that the planning session would take place after the April election.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$2,622,860.52 against the following funds: General Revenue \$93,231.81, Public Health \$617.68, Lodging \$1,156.11, Public Safety \$5,600, Parks/Stormwater \$78,396.20, Fire Protection \$191.54, Golf \$21,399.70, Parks and Recreation \$71.36, Myers Park \$87,293.60, Library \$45,000.00, Payroll \$289,902.52 and Carthage Water and Electric \$2,000,000.00. Ms. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 23-12 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 14-11 of the Carthage Code to comply with changes mandated by the Missouri Supreme Court and the Revised Missouri Statutes 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 23-18.

C.B. 23-13 -- An Ordinance to amend sections of Chapter 13 of the Carthage Code by adding a section for discharging of weapons inside the City Limits for 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 23-19.

C.B. 23-14 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, amending the Carthage City Code by adding Section 13-158 to include regulations for adult use marijuana 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 23-20.

C.B. 23-15 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with CXT for restroom facilities in four City Parks for the amount of Four Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Five and 00/100 (\$477,305.00) 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 23-21.

C.B. 23-16 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Pyrotechnics by Encore LLC, Inc. for firework displays for the July 4, 2023, July 4, 2024 and July 4, 2025 celebrations in the amount of \$19,950.00 per year, 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 23-22.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-17 -- An Ordinance authorizing a special use permit to allow for the construction of a shower house located at 125 E. Fairview in the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri was placed on first reading, with no action taken.

C.B. 23-18 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 600 - City Rules and Regulations of the Personnel Policy Manual of the City of Carthage by adding subsection 608 - Whistleblower Protection Policy was placed on first reading, with no action taken.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to approve Resolution 1996 - A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Police Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to city policy. Resolution 1996 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. Elliff congratulated Ms. Reams on the award and congratulated the new police officers on being sworn in. Mr. Armstrong thanked the students for attending.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Otero, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.