



City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

March 28, 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: Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff. Council Member Robin Harrison 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 City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Otero, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rife presented a Proclamation he did for Donal Myers who turned 104 on March 27.

During Citizen's Participation, Jen Kirby, with Vision Carthage, presented to the Council what Vision Carthage has done during the first quarter of the year and what will be happening during the second quarter.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for April 10.

Ms. Blankenship reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this date and approved the claims. She informed the Council that the amended whistleblower policy appears in the packet. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee met on March 20. The Public Library is holding their Summer Reading Program in Central Park on June 6 from 10 am to noon. They requested the closure of 7th Street from Garrison to Maple from 10 am to noon. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the closure of 7th Street from Garrison to Maple from 10 am to noon on June 6. Motion carried. The committee also discussed the Hispanic Heritage Celebration set for September 30. They have requested the same road closures as Food Truck Friday for 7th Street and Lyon Street. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close Lyon from 7th Street to Chestnut and 7th Street from Garrison to Lyon from 11 am to 11 pm on September 30. Motion Carried. The Beer Garden for Food Truck Friday was also discussed. There are no select vendors at this time, but the committee wanted to get Katie the approval so she could start contacting potential vendors.

The Police Department will have employees being paid overtime to serve as security for the beer garden and vendors will need to work with Experience Carthage, City Hall and the Police Department to make sure they are compliant with all required paperwork and location within Central Park. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the beer garden at Food Truck Friday, which happens the second Friday of every month from April-October, from 5 pm to 9 pm. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for April 17.

Ms. Otero reported that the Public Service Committee met on March 21. Artwork for Griggs Park was discussed and the committee decided on an image for the handball wall, but funding for the mural needs to be obtained before it is brought to the Council for full approval. The two Resolutions on the Council agenda are for surplus items at the Parks and Civil War Museum, and for furniture being donated from Vision Carthage. The Kellogg Lake playground structure appears in Council Bill 23-20. The bathroom construction site bids were reviewed and will appear in a future Council Bill. The shelter pricing was reviewed and updated and there were also changes made to the golf membership pricing. The Lime Scooter contract was discussed and would be presented in a future Council Bill with the addition of electric bikes, and the City would also continue to receive 20 cents per ride. There will also need to be discussions on who will be responsible for the charging and placement of the scooters. The City could be this Logistics Partner, if this were to happen, that would be a separate contract and Council Bill. The pool contract with the YMCA was discussed and appears in Council Bill 23-19. They also reviewed bids that were received for the demolition of portions of the Rock Stadium, that appears in Council Bill 23-21. The committee will be having a special meeting on April 4 at 6:30 in Council Chambers.

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 Ms. Otero for the Humane Society Board.

Mayor Rife reported on his attendance to the CEDC meeting and the recent budget meetings with Department Heads.

During reports from Council Members, Mr. Armstrong stated he planned to make a motion to amend the YMCA contract to make entry to the pool free for all Carthage citizens and not just YMCA members, since it is Carthage residents paying for the contract. He has also started receiving calls from concerned citizens regarding the EPA and the Jasper County Superfund site. Mayor Rife reported that he and Greg had met with the EPA regarding the Superfund site and how they plan to inform the citizens of changes to the site and what that means for them. Mr. Snow brought up Council Bill 23-21 and the contract to tear down parts of the stadium. He stated that he is concerned that once this piece of history is torn down, it will never be replaced and he thinks maybe things are moving too quickly and that there may be citizens willing to donate money for the repairs.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins reported that he handed out the Police Department's year-end report to the Council.

Fire Chief Ryan Huntley reported that he has started interviewing applicants for the one position that is open and hopes to have it filled quickly. He also reported that the Fire Department worked with the Red Cross over the previous weekend and installed almost 100 smoke alarms in various houses that were in need.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the pool contract with the YMCA

does include free pool access for everyone during the 4th of July event. She also stated that the playground at Carter Park has broken ground, Municipal Park will be started in April. The Pro Shop repairs should be completed soon, Ms. Almandinger thanked Zeb and his crew for all of their work. She also mentioned that every possible option was explored when discussing the repairs to the stadium before they came to the conclusion that the wall and bleachers just needed to be torn down and rebuilt.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan reported on the demolition of Rock Stadium and stated that things weren't moving quickly but there are no other options to explore, so the demolition of the bleachers and wall is the next step that is needed. He has also been in contact with the City's attorney on the railroad lawsuit, she is preparing something that will detail the next steps. He mentioned the Forensic Audit RFP's are out and due by April 3. The City received the Downtown Revitalization Grant to redo the outer sidewalks of the square and beautify the area, Senator Carter contacted Mr. Dagnan and congratulated him on receiving the grant. Mr. Dagnan also reported that the EPA has scheduled a community forum for the end of April at Memorial Hall. The Superfund site is currently just on the west side of Jasper County but could very well change to include the entire county. He also reported that budget meetings are in full swing and the capital budget, contracts, and revenue estimates should be done soon.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$909,809.89 against the following funds: General Revenue \$85,689.63, Public Health \$7,400.00, Lodging \$432.29, Parks/Stormwater \$9,129.00, Golf \$7,567.17, Use Tax \$38,797.00, Public Facilities \$57,812.05, ARPA \$193,211.05, and Payroll \$509,771.70. Ms. Blankenship made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-23.

C.B. 23-18 As amended -- 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-24.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-19 – An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Fair Acres Family Y, Inc. for Management of the Aquatic Facilities for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025 in the amount of \$100,000.00 per year in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to amend the contract to eliminate general admission fees for Carthage citizens. Motion failed after a roll call vote of 4 yeas and 5 nays. Ayes: David Armstrong, Ceri Otero, Alan Snow, and Ed Hardesty. Nays: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, Robin Blair, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff.

Mr. Snow made a motion to amend the amendment to make the contract \$105,000.00 per

year with the \$0 admission fee for Carthage citizens. Motion died due to lack of second.

Mr. Elliff made motion seconded by Ms. Ensor to allow Mr. Dagnan to renegotiate the contract with the YMCA. Motion failed after a unanimous voice vote of 0 yeas and 9 nays.

C.B. 23-20 – An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Play and Park for Playground Equipment at Kellogg Lake Park for \$364,752.11, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-21 – An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Peck Schrader Excavation in the amount of \$65,000.00, for the demolition of portions of Rock Stadium, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve Resolution 1997 - A Resolution approving the declaration as surplus to the City's needs and authorizing the disposition of certain Parks Department and Civil War Museum items outlined in Exhibit A. Resolution 1997 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff.

Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve Resolution 1998 - A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 1998 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, and Mark Elliff.

During Closing Comments, Mr. Snow thanked everyone for the comments on everything regarding the Rock Stadium, he also wished luck to all the spring sports that are beginning. Mr. Elliff thanked the Police Department and the Fire Department for their quick response to the school incident.

Ms. Blankenship made a motion, seconded by Ms. Otero, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.