City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

April 11, 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, Ed Hardesty, Tiffany Cossey, and 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 Ms. Otero, to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rife presented a Proclamation for Earth Day and Arbor Day. He thanked Ms. Otero for presenting the Arbor Day Proclamation at the Fairview Elementary Arbor Day event earlier in the day. He also presented plaques to outgoing Council Members Robin Harrison and Ceri Otero.

Katie Fields, Tourism Director, gave the Council her first quarter update on things she has been working on and presented the plans for the first three Food Truck Friday events that start April 14. Jeff Meredith, Carthage Economic Development Director, spoke to the Council on the Redevelopment Corporation that will be formed with the passage of the 353 Tax Abatement Council Bill. Karen Wilkinson asked the Council questions regarding the Rock Stadium and asked if anyone reached out to Carthage Historic Preservation or the State Historical Preservation Society to help with repairs to the stadium. Jane Potter asked the Council questions regarding the Rock Stadium as well. She asked if the stadium had been inspected by a licensed inspector and if the City received quotes for the repairs. She would like to see public meetings for this kind of thing like the school had regarding the bond issue. Betty Goodman also voiced her concerns on the Rock Stadium and stated she wants to keep the history before it is erased.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee met on April 10. The committee reviewed bids for the forensic audit and approved the bid with Bergan KDV for the amount of $39,575 plus travel expenses. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve the bid with Bergan KDV for $39,575 plus travel costs. Motion carried. They also discussed and approved the contract with Westport Pools in Council Bill 23-23. It is listed as an emergency ordinance so they can get started on the repairs and open on time for the season. Agency contracts were reviewed and approved as well. This years process made it much easier on the committee since they were negotiated outside of budget meetings and they aren't being negotiated until the last minute. This will allow Administration to get the correct numbers into the budget much earlier than in previous years. Ms. Cox provided the committee with her revenue estimates for next year. Overall, she has budgeted a 2% increase over the previous years budget. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8.

Mrs. Harrison reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this date and approved the claims. Ms. Deal reported that Administration has been working with Opengov and they will be here in person the first week of May. Ms. Cox reported that the City is now working with Stronghold Data to get up to industry standards and that she had met with an insurance company to get new quotes for insurance rates. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for April 17.

Ms. Otero reported that the Public Service Committee met on April 4. They discussed the change order for the park bathrooms that have already been approved. The change order is for the heating system in the restrooms so that way they don't have to be winterized and have temporary porta-potties outside the restrooms for the winter. They also approved the contract for Westport Pools for the Municipal Park Pool repairs. These repairs will allow them to see how extensive the leaks are. The Central Park wading pool will have to be fixed after the season due to the lack of man power for that kind of project. The new Kellogg Lake playground was also discussed and appears in Council Bill 23-20. There were also discussions on maintenance at Memorial Hall and the new Civil War Museum video bids. The next meeting is scheduled for April 18.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee met on April 4. They approved the hay baling contract for the land at the recycling center, but after further discussion, it has been decided to not pursue this contract at this time and look at having one done next year. The sidewalk project at Route HH/Fir Road and Chapel Road was discussed. This will be the sixth phase of the TAP grant project and will be very beneficial to this community that is next to such a busy road. The vacating of the road from McGregor to High was approved. This was land that belonged to the City for future road development and no plans have ever been in place to actually put a road. This will return that portion of land to the owner. Mr. Carney updated the committee on asphalt paving that is set to begin. There will be work on Oak Street, River Street, and a portion of Grand Ave. He also reported that Spire will be replacing gas mains within the City and the project is expected to end the 2nd quarter of 2029.

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

Mayor Rife reported that there are still budget meetings happening and that he did an emergency purchase letter for the Stronghold Data support services contract.

During reports from Council Members, Mr. Armstrong thanked the Redevelopment Corporation for the 353 tax abatement project that was started nearly two years ago by Vision Carthage, he also thanked Planning and Zoning for taking it on and getting it to the Council. He also mentioned that he spoke with the gentleman that sent the council the information on the Rock Stadium. He stated that the discussions regarding the stadium started 3 years ago when the Parks Master Plan was just getting started, so these meetings have been happening for awhile. Ms. Otero reported that she attended the Arbor Day event with the third graders at Fairview Elementary earlier in the day. Mr. Snow, Ms. Blair, and Mr. Hardesty all thanked Robin Harrison and Ceri Otero for their time on Council.

City Attorney Nate Dally reported that the Ward 1 write-in candidates all received one vote, so there will be a drawing for those willing to serve on April 24. This is a process set in place by the State when determining the winner of an election. He also thanked Robin and Ceri for their time on Council and all of their hard work.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins thanked Robin and Ceri for their time on Council.

Fire Chief Ryan Huntley reported that they have completed interviews and selected a new employee and will be fully staffed soon.

Public Works Director Zeb Carney thanked Robin and Ceri and mentioned that Blevins Asphalt would start paving this week on Oak Street, River Street, and parts of Grand Avenue.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the playgrounds have started at Municipal Park and then the Carter park playgrounds would be done. She also reported that the Pro Shop renovations are almost complete. They will also begin work on the new Civil War Museum video soon. She thanked Ceri for all of her work with the Public Service Committee and thanked Robin for her work with Vision Carthage.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox reported that sales tax numbers were up 7.5% from this time last year and the Use tax is now over the budgeted amount. She mentioned that the Budget Committee reviewed the revenue projections for the next budget year. She also gave her appreciation to Robin and Ceri for everything they have done for her and the City.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan also thanked Robin and Ceri. He also told the Council that there are a few appointments on the agenda and he has been working with the Mayor on getting the vacant spots filled, as well as, getting a form ready for people to fill out if they are interested in serving on a board. He also reminded the Council that once the ward 1 seat gets filled, there will be a training/work session scheduled and that at the next Council meeting, the EPA would be there to present to the Council on what their future plans are for our City. The contract for the forensic auditor bid with Bergan KDV would be ready at a future date to bring to the Council. He also addressed a few of the questions that came before the Council during the citizens participation. He said that the inspection of the stadium was done by a professional inspector who is not a city employee, and there was no application for historic preservation grant money because the stadium is not on the National Historic Registry and it is not located in the historical district.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $2,290,639.22 against the following funds: General Revenue $79,938.18, Public Health $145,044.39, Lodging $1,064.67, Public Safety $13,980.00, Parks/Stormwater $59,230.04, Fire Protection $613.85, Golf $42,500.03, Parks and Recreation $69.73, Public Facilities $18,774.75, ARPA $4,601.00, Public Library $25,000.00, Payroll $399,822.58, and Carthage Water & Electric $1,500,000.00. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

A Public Hearing was held on the 11th day of April, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at City Hall in Carthage, Missouri, concerning the annexation of property commonly known as: 2213 Missouri Avenue. Kelly DeVries, with ESM Technologies, told the Council that the company was looking forward to joining the City. No further comments were made.

Under Old 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 2 nays. Ayes: Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Ed Hardesty, and Mark Elliff. Nays: David Armstrong and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-25.

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 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, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-26.

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 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, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-27.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the April 4, 2023 municipal election results as follows:

Ward 1: 15 way tie of write-in votes - winner to be determined at a later date by the Mayor
Ward 2: David Armstrong – 75 votes
Ward 3: Terri Heckmaster – 16 write-in votes
Ward 4: Alan Snow – 550 votes
Ward 5: Tiffany Cossey – 316 Votes
Question: Shall the City of Carthage, Missouri impose a sales tax of three percent (3%) on all retail sales of adult “non-medical” use marijuana sold in the City of Carthage, Missouri? – Yes: 1259 and No: 406

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Otero, to adjourn the old council. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

There was a short recess.

City Clerk Miranda Deal administered the Oath of Office to Council Members David Armstrong, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, and Tiffany Cossey.

Mayor Rife called the meeting to order at 8:12 pm. The following Council Members answered roll call: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Mayor Rife announced that his committees and board liaison appointments would not be ready for approval until the next meeting when they have filled the Ward 1 seat.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to elect Mark Elliff as Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. Elliff was elected Mayor Pro Tem with a voice vote of 8 yeas. Mr Elliff abstained from the vote.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-22 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Elements Construction Concepts of Joplin, Missouri for the site preparations for new restroom facilities in four City Parks for the amount of Three Hundred Forty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Seven and 00/100 ($341,827.00) was placed on first reading.

Mr.Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to advance Council Bill 23-22 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 23-22 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Elements Construction Concepts of Joplin, Missouri for the site preparations for new restroom facilities in four City Parks for the amount of Three Hundred Forty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Seven and 00/100 ($341,827.00) was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-28.

Mr. Snow reminded everyone that this money for the restrooms is coming from the McCune Brooks Hospital Trust.

C.B. 23-23 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Contract with Westport Pools for repairs to the Municipal Park Swimming Pool in the City of Carthage, Missouri, for the amount of Ninety-Two Thousand Seven Hundred and 00/100 ($92,700.00) was placed on first reading.

Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to advance Council Bill 23-23 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 23-23 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Contract with Westport Pools for repairs to the Municipal Park Swimming Pool in the City of Carthage, Missouri, for the amount of Ninety-Two Thousand Seven Hundred and 00/100 ($92,700.00) was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-29.

C.B. 23-24 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Contract with Neutron Holdings, Inc. d/b/a/ LIME for scooter rental in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-25 -- An Ordinance annexing certain adjacent territory commonly known as 2213 Missouri Avenue into the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri as requested by ESM Technologies, LLC dba Stratum Nutrition was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-26 -- An Ordinance to add Chapter 17 Article 5; Urban Development and Establish the Carthage Redevelopment Corporation in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-27 -- An Ordinance vacating that portion of North McGregor Street running North/South between 431 and 503 High Street in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-28 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Zanevan Engineering, LLC for Engineering for ADA compliant sidewalks along Route HH/Fir Road and Chapel Road, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the Mayor’s Appointment of Matt Smith and Robin Harrison to the Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation Commission until April 2027. Motion carried.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the Mayor’s Appointment of Sid Teel to the Zoning Board of Adjustment until April 2028. Motion carried.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve Resolution 1999 - A Resolution of the Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the approval of change order #1 to the CXT Contract, to include insulation and heaters in each restroom facility, not to exceed the amount of $97,500.00. Resolution 1999 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

During Closing Comments, Ms. Blair would like to see discussions at the training/work session for how we could do better in getting information out to the public. Mr. Snow thanked everyone for the discussions and is happy to be serving two more years. Mr. Elliff thanked everyone for the Mayor Pro Tem vote and he welcomed Terri Heckmaster to the Council. Ms. Cossey also welcomed Terri and thanked everyone for all of their input and thanked Ms. Almandinger for the hard decisions she has had to make. Ms. Ensor and Ms. Blankenship also welcomed Terri.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.