



City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

June 13, 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, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, Tiffany Cossey. 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 Mr. Snow, to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizen's Participation, Jeff Meredith, Carthage Economic Development Director, briefed the Council on where the industrial development grant was at. Steve Beimdiek, 1500 S Grand Ave, CWEP Board Member, addressed the Council regarding the CWEP budget and salaries. Kelli Nugent, 832 Euclid, CFO of CWEP, spoke on the CWEP budget and salaries. Dustin Johnson, 1344 S Main, spoke on the CWEP salaries and the salary study. Jason Peterson also spoke on the CWEP salaries. Jason Choate, Director of Water Services at CWEP, owner of Hurricane Carwash, spoke on being a CWEP customer with his business. Valerie Butler, 1222 Douglas Court, spoke on working for CWEP. Bruce Hale, 4142 County Lane 134, spoke on being a worker at CWEP and relying on the raises he receives. Levi Millford, 793 Highway D Webb City, spoke on working for CWEP. Bill Putnam, spoke on being a customer of CWEP. Harish Gopi, CWEP employee, also spoke on being a worker at CWEP.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee met on June 12. The committee approved to forward the rate increase for CWEP, this appears in Council Bill 23-42. The committee also forwarded the City and CWEP budget, this appears in Council Bill 23-43. The MOU with Joplin was discussed for the DMO money for tourism, this appears in Council Bill 23-44. The IT service bids were discussed, the bid from Stronghold Data was approved and will appear on the next Council agenda. There was also a budget adjustment that just starts the year end clean up process of the accounts, this appears as Council Bill 23-45. Sales tax numbers are up for the month of June. The next meeting will be July 10.

Ms. Blair reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this date and approved the claims. In staff reports, Ms. Deal reported that the new Deputy City Clerk had

started and Ms. Cox reported that the City will be staying with MPR for the next fiscal year. They have increased our property values but did not increase our cost. The next meeting is scheduled for June 27 at the new time of 5:30.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for June 26.

Mr. Hardesty reported that the Public Service Committee met on May 30. The committee discussed the NBC Sports Marketing agreement which appears in Council Bill 23-41. Also discussed was the MOU with the Chamber for the Red White and Boom 4th of July celebration in Municipal Park. Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to allow the use of Municipal Park from 8 am until 11 pm for the Red White and Boom Celebration on July 4th. Motion carried. Also on July 4th is the Red White and Boom 5k that happens every year. Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blankenship to allow the use of Municipal Park from 5 am - 9 am for the Red White and Boom 5 K. Motion carried. Jen Kirby spoke to the committee about the Paddle Battle event scheduled for August 26 at Kellogg Lake Park. Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to allow the use of Kellogg Lake Park from 7 pm Friday, August 25 until 3 pm Saturday, August 26 for the Paddle Battle event. Motion carried. The owner of Tropix food truck had previously asked the committee about setting up at various times throughout all of the parks. They provided a schedule to the committee on when and where they would be set up. Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to allow Tropix to be set up according to the schedule provided from June 1 through October 31. Motion carried. Barb Wright spoke to the committee about having food trucks set up for the swim meets on June 24, July 22 and July 23. The food trucks will donate 10% of their revenue to the swim teams as a fundraiser. Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to allow food trucks in Municipal park on June 24, July 22 and July 23 for the swim meets. Motion carried. Brady Beckham spoke to the committee about concerts in Central Park on June 24, July 22, and August 19. Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to allow the use of Central Park for concerts on June 24, July 22, and August 19. Motion carried. Bryan Shallenberger with the R-9 District spoke to the committee about a non-verbal communication board to help those who are non-verbal communicate with others. There is no cost to the City for this board and it would be installed at Municipal Park Playground. Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to approve the installation of the communication board at Municipal Park Playground. Motion carried. Jason Clark with Schreiber Foods asked the committee for permission to host a private event at the Youth Barn in Municipal Park. There would be food trucks and a wing competition. Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to allow food trucks and the use of the barn in Municipal Park on June 17 from 12 pm to 8 pm. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for June 20.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee met on June 6. The committee approved a lot split that will be used to build two homes in the Parson's subdivision, this appears in Resolution 2003. The bridge tour has been postponed until July 6. If the taxi is available, it will be used to travel to all the bridges. The bridge study that was done shows the condition of the bridges and it also shows that ownership of some bridges has been transferred from the City to the Railroad. The next meeting is July 6 due to the first Tuesday being a City holiday.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Ms. Blair for the Humane Society. Mr. Elliff reminded everyone that Planning and Zoning had to reschedule their June

meeting to June 15 at 5:30. Mr. Armstrong also mentioned that he has accepted a position on the Battle of Carthage Incorporated Board. This board will help coordinate the Civil War reenactments which will take place every other year.

During Reports from Council Members, Mr. Armstrong acknowledged all of the City employees who were in attendance at the meeting and he expressed to them that he will do what is best for the City and the employees. Mr. Snow mentioned that when Council Bill 23-43 is read, he intends to make a motion to strike the salary freeze. Ms. Ensor showed her support for Mr. Snow's statement and also explained to those in attendance what the process will be moving forward with that council bill. Mr. Elliff asked for a moment of silence for Missouri Representative Ron Richards who had recently passed. Ms. Blair thanked those for coming and expressed that she believes the best decisions are made when lots of voices are heard.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the Municipal Park playground is nearing completion and Carter Park will start next week. The Central Park Pool has had some issues getting open, she hopes to have it open by the end of the week. Municipal Park Pool is leaking less than it was last year. She mentioned the other playground structures and restrooms that were on the agenda and thanked the McCune Brooks Hospital Trust for the donation that makes all of it possible. She also let everyone know that the Civil War Museum video would start being filmed soon.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the final sales tax numbers for the fiscal year had come in. The sales tax had now come in \$337,000 over the budgeted amount, and the use tax has come in \$269,960 over budget. She also reminded everyone that next year's revenues were projected differently in the past so there is not as much of a cushion as there previously has been.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan reported that he attended a risk assessment meeting for the MoARPA DED grant the City had received. He also mentioned that representatives from the State will be here on June 27 at 10 am to do a grant kickoff event. The City received the Downtown Revitalization Grant to redo the exterior sidewalks of the square and also add in some other features.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$4,201,700.95 against the following funds: General Revenue \$566,902.79, Public Health \$18,879.05, Lodging \$5,057.08, Parks/Stormwater \$72,036.51, Fire Protection \$11,980.84, Golf \$23,155.10, Capital Improvement \$560,155.98, Parks and Recreation \$28.71, Use Tax \$816.95, ARPA \$6,853.54, Public Library \$25,000.00, Payroll \$410,834.40, and Carthage Water and Electric \$2,500,000.00. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cossey, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

A Public Hearing on the Annual Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2023 was held. No citizen's participated.

Under Old Business, C.B. 23-36 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Play and Park for Playground Equipment at Griggs Parks in the amount of Four-Hundred Fourteen Thousand One-Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$414,138.20), in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, 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 23-42.

C.B. 23-37 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Play and Park for Playground Equipment in Central Park in the amount of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Nine-Hundred Twenty-Six Dollars and Ninety-One Cents (\$120,926.91), in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, 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 23-43.

C.B. 23-38 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Play and Park for Playground Equipment Site Development at Kellogg Lake Park for Seventy-Four Thousand Two-Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$74,270.00), in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, 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 23-44.

C.B. 23-39 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with CXT for four restroom facilities to be located in Griggs, Carter, Municipal, and Kellogg Lake Park in the amount of Five-Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$588,165.00), in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, 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 23-45.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-40 -- An Ordinance to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the Carthage Chamber of Commerce for the July 4th Red White and Boom Celebration, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-41 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with NBC Sports Marketing for advertising tee times, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-42 -- An Ordinance authorizing utility rate changes for electric, water, and wastewater services as requested by the Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Prior to the reading of Council Bill 23-43, there was a short recess. When Council reconvened, there were discussions on the CWEP budget and salaries and the numbers that were given to the Council.

C.B. 23-43 -- An Ordinance adopting the budget of the City of Carthage, Missouri for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty, to recommend to approve the CWEP Fiscal Year 24 budget, approve the rate increase, but delay the salary increases until a salary study is completed.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty to divide the question. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to include the rate increase in the CWEP budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to approve all incoming expenses as presented in the CWEP budget. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hardesty made a motion to freeze the CWEP salaries at the current Fiscal Year 23 amounts. Motion died due to lack of second.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blankenship to conduct a salary study at CWEP. Motion carried unanimously.

C.B. 23-44 -- An Ordinance to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the City of Joplin, for Participation in the Missouri Division of Tourism ("MDT") Marketing Matching Grant ("MMG") program, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-45 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for specified funds (General Fund, Golf Course Fund, Public Health Fund, Capital Improvements Tax Fund, and Use Tax Fund) was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to approve Resolution 2003 -- A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Carthage approving a recommendation of the Public Works Committee granting an Administrative Lot Split for property located in Parson's Subdivision, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2003 was adopted after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

During Closing Comments, Ms. Cossey thanked all those in the audience for attending. Ms. Ensor let everyone know that all the money for the playgrounds is coming from the McCune Brooks Hospital Trust. Mr. Hardesty thanked everyone for coming and voicing their thoughts and concerns. Mr. Snow hopes that the City and CWEP can continue to have a strong bond and work together in the future, he also appreciates all the hard work that has been done by all.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.