



City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

June 27, 2023 - 6:30 PM
CARTHAGE MEMORIAL HALL

MINUTES

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date at the Carthage Memorial Hall, 407 S Garrison, 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, and Tiffany Cossey. City Attorney Nate Dally was also present. City Administrator Greg Dagnan was absent.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Bill Hawkins, Fire Chief Ryan Huntley, Public Works Administrative Coordinator Julie Tilley, Parks & Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, City Clerk Miranda Deal, HR Coordinator Michael Miller, and IT Administrator Michael Keith.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rife addressed the Council and the audience prior to Public Comments. He made a few statements regarding Carthage Water and Electric, their board, and where the City is currently at with working with Carthage Water and Electric. He also stated that anyone wishing to speak could sign up on the sign-in sheet and they would be called in order.

During Citizen's Participation, the following list of people spoke about the removal of the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board and their hopes for the Council to reinstate them.

Jackie Boyer, 1184 S Main

Bill Putnam, 624 Belle Aire

Patrick Scott, 5305 County Road 175

Jeff Williams, 1623 Alexandria

Jack Crusa, 701 E Highland

Ceri Otero, 1149 S Main

Nathan Terry, 1224 S Maple

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee is between meetings. He mentioned that there were a few items on the agenda that came from the committee, Council Bill 23-42 for the rate increase for Carthage Water and Electric, Council Bill 23-43 to approve the City and Carthage Water and Electric's budget for next fiscal year, and Council Bill 23-45 to amend the budget of the current year. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10.

Ms. Blair reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this date and approved the claims. The committee heard from Eduin Caceres who purchased 831 E. 5th

Street. He asked the committee to waive the special tax lien interest on the property. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to waive the interest in the amount of \$2,629.64 for 831 E 5th Street. Motion carried.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee met on June 26. The committee approved the request for road closures for the Annual Belle Air Place block party. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close Belle Air Place from Grand to the end of the cul-de-sac and put barricades up at Clinton, Fulton, and Grand on July 2nd from 5:15 to 8:30 pm. Motion carried. There was also a request for road closures for the block party on the 1100 block of Euclid. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blankenship, to approve the closure of the 1100 block of Euclid (Pearl to Lilac) on July 3rd from 8 pm to 11 pm. Motion carried with Mr. Snow abstaining from the vote. The committee also heard complaints of speeding on Main Street between Fairview and Centennial, that is being referred to Public Works to see about getting additional signage. Under new business, the committee heard from Jen Kirby regarding the Red, White and Boom event at Municipal Park. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close the entrance and streets and allow food trucks within Municipal Park from 2 pm to 9:30 pm for the July 4th event. Motion carried. Jen Kirby also spoke to the committee about the Get Away to Downtown sidewalk sale event on July 29. She requested the closure of the East side of the square, Grant Street from 3rd to 4th, from 7 am to 2 pm, and to allow food trucks on 3rd Street. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the closure of Grant Street from 3rd to 4th and to allow food trucks to park on the south side of 3rd Street. Motion carried. Jen Kirby also spoke to the committee about the Paddle Battle event for August 26. She requested the closure of streets through Kellogg Lake Park and allowing 4 food trucks for the event. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close Esterly Drive with the existing swing barricades, and placing cones to block traffic from entering, as well as allowing food trucks and overnight camping for August 25 to August 26. Motion carried. Roxanne Willard spoke to the committee about the Jasper County Youth Fair that will be at Municipal Park from July 8-17. She requested that the areas around the barns be closed, food trucks from July 8-17, tents for kids games and meals, overnight camping and the curfew for the area waived for the duration of the youth fair. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blankenship, to close the park between the two barns, allow overnight camping and food trucks, the tents, and the waived curfew. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for July 17.

Mr. Hardesty reported that the Public Services Committee met on June 20. They heard from the Jasper County Youth Fair regarding the use of the area at Municipal Park for the fair from July 8-17. Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to approve the use of the Youth Fair Barn and the surrounding area from July 8-17. Motion carried. They also reviewed the sealed bids for the Memorial Hall paint project for the walls and the ceiling. This appears in Council Bill 23-47. They also reviewed the MOU with the Carthage R-9 School District regarding the communication board that is to be put in at Municipal Park, this appears as Council Bill 23-48. The next meeting is scheduled for July 18.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for July 6. He did mention that at the end of the meeting, they will be taking a bridge tour for anyone interested in attending.

There were no special committee or board liaison reports given.

Mayor Rife reported that there will be a special Council meeting on Thursday to get the DMO money accepted from the Missouri Division of Tourism. It has a deadline to be accepted by

and it was not prepared in time for tonight's meeting.

During reports from Council Members, Ms. Cossey thanked everyone who came out and she appreciated everyone voicing their opinions and concerns. Since the last special council meeting, she has had time to think about what was approved and she would like the Council to reconsider what was voted on. Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to reconsider the vote of removing the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board. The motion to reconsider needed a vote of 7 yeas according to Carthage City Ordinances. Motion failed after a vote of 6 yeas and 4 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, and Tiffany Cossey. Nays: Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Ed Hardesty, and Mark Elliff.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the Municipal Park Playground ribbon cutting was scheduled for Monday July 3 at 10 am and invited everyone to attend.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox gave a report from City Administrator Greg Dagnan. He wanted to thank all for their support and their prayers regarding his wife's heart surgery, which was successful earlier in the day.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$1,137,544.78 against the following funds: General Revenue: \$85,332.54, Public Health \$148,160.25, Lodging \$346.98, Parks/Stormwater \$646,903.35, Fire Protection \$2,419.27, Golf \$13,896.70, Use Tax \$201.20, Public Library \$10,000.00, and Payroll \$230,284.49. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

A Public Hearing for the approval of an increase in electric, water, and wastewater service rates provided by the Carthage Water and Electric Plant was held. No citizen's participated.

Under Old 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 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 23-46.

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 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 23-47.

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 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 23-48.

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 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 23-49.

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 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 23-50.

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 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 23-51.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-46 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Stronghold Data for Managed IT Services for one-year in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-47 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with ABE Paint Team in the amount of \$32,030.00 for the repainting of the Memorial Hall Auditorium, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-48 -- An Ordinance to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the Carthage R-9 School District, for the placement of a communication board at Carthage Municipal Park, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to approve the Mayor's Appointments as follows: the appointment of Tyler Markham to the Care Leave Committee until August 2024, the reappointment of Chad Dininger to the Police and Fire Pension Committee until July 2025, and the reappointment of Brian Schmidt, Justin Baucom, and Gary Cole to the Library Board until July 2026. Motion carried.

During Closing Comments, Ms. Cossey thanked the audience for coming and that she would like to see more citizen's participation. Mr. Armstrong reported that he recently visited Washington, D.C. and he wanted to thank Senator Hawley's office for their hospitality during his visit to the Senate. Ms. Blair stated that she is aware that people are disappointed with the vote that happened, and encouraged people to regularly participate in the Council meetings. Ms. Heckmaster stated that she had worked closely with Chuck Bryant for many years and greatly admires him and his work. Mr. Snow thanked everyone for coming, he was also upset with the vote and he hopes the City and Carthage Water and Electric can move forward from everything that has happened.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.