



City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

July 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.

Deputy Fire Chief Jason Martin gave the invocation.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins led the flag salute.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. City Attorney Nate Dally was also present. Council Member David Armstrong and City Administrator Greg Dagnan were absent.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Bill Hawkins, Deputy Fire Chief Jason Martin, Public Works Director Zeb Carney, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, City Clerk Miranda Deal, and Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor. Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger was absent.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the minutes of the June 27 and June 29, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizen's Participation, Julie Reams with the Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Council and everyone that was involved in the Red, White, and Boom celebration on July 4. She also reminded everyone of the Food Truck Friday event on July 14. This event is the Battle of the Badges theme and the news crew would be out there most of the day.

Jack Crusa, 701 E. Highland, thanked the Council for the compromise with the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board. He also told the Council that they should consider a change in the City's leadership at the City Administrator level.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee met June 10. They approved and forwarded Council Bill 23-51 for the Power Purchase and Council Bill 23-52 for the Interconnection Agreement for Carthage Water and Electric. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14.

Ms. Blair reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this date and approved the claims. They also heard from Ms. Cox that they are working on canceling the contract with Opengov and going back to Incode for the financial software. She received the utilization report from the insurance provider and the risk factor has gone down 13%, which is a good thing as this percentage affects renewal rates. Ms. Cox is also working on closing out the fiscal year which ended June 30. Ms. Blair also welcomed the Deputy City Clerk, Amy Taylor. The next meeting is scheduled for July 25.

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

Mr. Hardesty reported that the Public Services Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for July 18.

Ms. Ensor reported that the Public Works Committee did not meet on July 6 due to lack of business. The next meeting is scheduled for August 1. The bridge tour is being postponed until the weather cools down.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for the Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation Commission, Ms. Ensor for the Library Board, and Ms. Heckmaster for Vision Carthage.

Mayor Rife had a response to the comments on Mr. Dagnan's qualifications and the role he has played in the City. He stated that Mr. Dagnan has always done what is best for this City, he has improved communications between everyone, and blaming him for what happened with the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board is misplaced.

During Reports from Council Members, Mr. Elliff gave a statement that explained his vote regarding the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board.

Deputy Fire Chief Martin reported that the 3 positions that the Fire Department was approved to add, are almost filled. Two of them will start on the next payroll and they just completed interviews for the third position, and that person will start at the beginning of August. He thanked the Council for allowing them to add positions to be fully staffed at each station.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox reported that she has been working with Jeff Meredith regarding the Industrial Development Grant that the City had received. The America In-Bloom judges visited City Hall earlier in the day and received a tour of the building. She also reported that the sales tax had come in at \$265,634.00 which is down 2% from the same month last year. The Use Tax came in at \$106,000.00 which is up 84% from the same month last year.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$727,897.96 against the following funds: General Revenue \$146,794.42, Public Health \$343.71, Lodging \$3,431.41, Parks/Stormwater \$61,313.78, Fire Protection \$10,250.00, Golf \$4,763.56, ARPA \$7,750.00, Public Library \$25,000.00, and Payroll \$468,251.08. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blankenship, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-53.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, Robin Blair, Terri

Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-54.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-55.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-50 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission for Hazel Avenue and Airport Drive Roadway Improvements, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-51 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Power Sales Agreement with the Southwestern Power Administration, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-52 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Interconnection and Operating Agreement with the Southwestern Power Administration, and Southwest Power Pool, Inc. in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to reappoint the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board with their current appointment terms. Motion carried after a roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays, and 2 abstaining. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, and Tiffany Cossey. Ed Hardesty and Mark Elliff abstained.

During Closing Comments, Ms. Ensor thanked everyone for attending the meeting, she also thanked Julie for a great Red, White, and Boom event. Mr. Hardesty stated that if anyone wished to talk to him about anything, to just give him a call. Mr. Snow thanked Julie and everyone involved with the Red, White and Boom event, he also congratulated the CWEP Board on their reappointment. Ms. Cossey also thanked everyone for the Red, White, and Boom event and welcomed back the CWEP Board.

Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.