



City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

July 25, 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: Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Brandi Ensor 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, City Clerk Miranda Deal and Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizen's Participation, Jen Kirby with Vision Carthage reported they held their inaugural Earth Day celebration in April. She also reported there have been several compliments on the flowers throughout town, which were grown by local youths. She reported that "Dumpster Days" was held in May, where trash was removed from local roadways. She hopes to see the continuation of this program. Also reported was the upcoming Downtown Carthage sale scheduled for late July 29, 2023.

Dorothy Weber, Administrative Assistant to City Administrators, spoke to the council about the issues that have arisen with the CWEP board. She stated the council and CWEP work for the taxpayers, and they need to get back to the jobs and business the taxpayers pay for.

Michael Miller, Human Resources Director, spoke to the council stating that before the issues with CWEP arose, that morale was at an all-time high, and that all departments were working together. He stated the current situation regarding CWEP is felt by all employees and has put a strain on every department.

Michael Keith, 1502 S. Garrison, spoke to the council stating this is the first job he's had where he feels like he works with a team, from the top to the bottom. He said everyone helps others, regardless of their department. He urges council and CWEP to get back on track and get back to business.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee is between meetings. The next

meeting is scheduled for August 14th.

Ms. Blair reported that the Committee on Insurance met on this date and approved claims. She also reported on the hiring of a new tourism director, the cancellation with OpenGov, and that the audit will be starting soon. The next meeting is scheduled for August 8th.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee met July 17th. He reported on the treats on the square, tabled a citizen's request about parking. The committee discussed the Bright Futures Back-to-School bash for August 8th. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close 4th Street from Maple to Garrison from 4 PM – 7:30 PM on August 8th. Motion carried. The committee also reviewed the resolution that is on the agenda. The next meeting is scheduled for August 21st.

Mr. Hardesty reported that the Public Service Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is August 15th.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for August 1st.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Snow for the CWEP board, and Ms. Blair for the Humane Society board. Mr. Elliff reported for the Jasper County Commission and the Police and Fire Pension.

Mayor Rife reported that a six-member board has been formed to look over the CWEP ordinances.

City Attorney Nate Dally reported that on his recent travels across the United States, he grew to appreciate the beauty of Carthage and appreciates the work that goes into maintaining it. He reported the state has implemented a new ticketing system that is causing some issues with ticketing, but they are being worked through. He also gave a timeline pertaining to the CWEP issue.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins reported the second Dodge Durango has been received. He also reported the Parking Committee has been disbanded.

Fire Chief Ryan Huntley reported that two of the three recent hires will start Thursday, and the third will start August 10th, pending passing all requirements. He states the fire department will then be fully staffed. Also reported is the receipt of sealed bids for the brush truck.

Public Works Director Zeb Carney reported that Public Works is currently hiring a Code 1 Officer. He also thanked Street Commissioner Josiah Bayless, who was in attendance at the meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that Carter Park is now open, Carter Park is not open yet, as work continues on the new playground, and that the work on Kellogg Lake Park will begin in two weeks. She also reported the hiring of an administrative assistant.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan thanked everyone for their support during his wife's recent medical treatments, and thanked the city employees and Traci Cox for the extra help at City Hall during his absence. He reported that MoDOT has determined that the railroad bridges are owned and will be maintained by the railroad. He also reported they are nearing selection of a new tourism director and have two remaining candidates. A selection should be made soon.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$597,291.89 against the following funds: General Revenue \$241,722.69, Public Health \$23,094.89, Lodging \$4,455.20, Parks/Stormwater \$21,006.85, Fire Protection \$32,902.86, Golf \$36,053.80, Parks and Recreation \$23.28, and Payroll \$238,032.32. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cossey, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: 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 23-56.

C.B. 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: 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 23-57.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: 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 23-58.

There was no new business.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve Resolution 2004 -- A resolution authorizing city support and permissions for several programs as part of the 44th annual Marian Days celebration in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2004 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

During Closing Comments, Mr. Taylor stated he is hoping to get more residents to vote in Ward 1. Ms. Blair thanks Jen Kirby for her work, and thanked the city employees for attending the meeting to show support, and the remaining audience for their attendance. She thanked the speakers for voicing their opinions and concerns. Ms. Heckmaster thanked Zeb Carney for the cleanup of a tree that had fallen in front of her house, and thanked CWEP for keeping the power on during the recent storms when others were losing power. Mr. Snow offered a reminder that streets will be closing soon due to Marian Days, and asks that residents be mindful of the closures and plan accordingly. Ms. Cossey thanked the audience for their attendance, pointing out the large turnouts for the last few meetings.

Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Dan Rife, Mayor

Miranda Deal, City Clerk