



City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

August 8, 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, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Ed Hardesty and Alan Snow were 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, City Clerk Miranda Deal and Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

During Citizen's Participation, Jackie Boyer, 1184 S Main, shared her concerns about the citizens being left in the dark about council decisions, asked the council members to please speak into their microphones as the audience has difficulties hearing them, and expressed concerns over the removal of the CWEP board.

Patrick Scott, 5305 County Road 175, spoke for Jack Cruza about his concerns over the CWEP board removal.

Patrick Scott, 5305 County Road 175, spoke about the amendment to the June 15, 2023 Closed Session Meeting minutes and announced his intention to file another Sunshine Law violation with the Attorney General.

Mr. Elliff reported the Budget Ways & Means Committee met on August 2nd. Mr. Elliff reported the discussion of C.B. 23-53, and that the tax levy did not change. Also reported was the amendments of budgets for fiscal years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11th, but will most likely be moved to a different date due to the scheduled MML conference that week.

Ms. Blair reported that the Committee on Insurance met on this date and approved claims. Ms. Blair reported that the Committee decided to table C.B. 23-56 to make some minor changes to the wording and clarify some items. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cossey, to amend to agenda to remove C.B. 23-56. Motion carried. She reported that Ms. Cox is working on closing out the fiscal year, and that the auditors will be here next month. The next meeting is scheduled for August 22nd.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for August 21st.

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

Mr. Armstrong reported the Public Works Committee met August 1st. Mr. Armstrong reported that there was a request received to put a hold on the lot split. Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to amend the agenda to remove Resolution 2005, Gammon Park Addition lot split, which has been placed on hold. Motion carried.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for Planning and Zoning. Their next meeting is September 9th.

Mayor Rife thanked all city departments and employees for the hard work during Marian Days. He reported the six-member committee formed to review CWEP ordinances didn't meet to allow more time to review the proposed ordinance changes that were sent prior to the meeting.

During reports from council, Ms. Heckmaster thanked Mayor Rife for her selection as a member of the six-member committee. Ms. Cossey asked if there was an update on the progress of the technology which will allow the council meetings to be live streamed. Michael Keith, Director of IT, gave an update about this. Ms. Cossey also asked for an update on the forensic audit. Mr. Dagnan said he would give an update during his report. Ms. Cossey also suggested an open discussion between City Council and CWEP.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins thanked all departments of the City for their help during Marian Days.

Fire Chief Ryan Huntley reported the last new-hire will begin work on August 10th. He said they are now fully-staffed.

Public Works Director Zeb Carney reported Public Works is still in need of a Code 1 Inspector.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported the public pool will close August 12th. She reported there were over 6,100 rides given during Marian Days, a portion of the proceeds do go to the city. She said Carter Park upgrades will be finished within the next few weeks, and upgrades to Kellogg lake Park will begin next week. She reported work being done on the parking lot and bathrooms at Municipal Park.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan reported Ms. Cox is nearing completion of closing out the 2023 fiscal year. He stated the auditors will be coming next month, but the City is currently

uploading documents to the auditors secure server to aid in a quicker process. He stated Planning and Zoning has been working to update the goals of the Comprehensive Plan, which was originally drafted in 2009. He also reported the forensic audit is still ongoing.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$4,558,041.21 against the following funds: General Revenue \$317,619.65, Public Health \$144,951.82, Lodging \$2,631.35, Parks/Stormwater \$55,505.83, Golf \$28,257.46, Capital Improvements \$18,699.71, Parks and Recreation \$57.81, Use Tax \$33,213.50, Public Facilities \$300.00, Library \$35,000.00, Payroll \$421,804.08, and Carthage Water and Electric \$3,500,000.00. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cossey, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

The City of Carthage held a Public Hearing at 6:30 PM, Tuesday, August 8, 2023, in the City Hall, Council Chambers, 326 Grant Street Carthage, Missouri for Citizens to be heard on the property tax rates proposed to be set by the City of Carthage. There was no participation from Citizens.

There was no old business.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-53 -- An ordinance levying general taxes upon real property located within the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri for the year 2023, for general purposes and other purposes, and fixing the rates thereof was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B 23-54 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for fiscal years 2022 – 2023 and 2023 - 2024 for specified funds (General Fund, Fire Protection tax Fund, Parks/Storm Water Sales Tax Fund, Civic Enhancement Fund, Capital Improvements Tax Fund, Public Facilities Fund, Use Tax Fund, ARPA Fund, Public Health Fund and Public Safety Fund) was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-55 -- An Ordinance rezoning certain property on 815 West Central Ave in the City of Carthage from “D” Local Business and “B Second Dwelling” to “E” General Business as requested by Jason Choate was placed on first reading with no action taken.

During Closing Comments, Ms. Blair thanked the audience for their attendance, and thanked the city employees for their help with Marian Days. Ms. Heckmaster thanked the city employees for their help with Marian Days, and said that Mr. Elliff stood in for Mayor Rife during a Marian Days event and did a good job. Mr. Elliff thanked the department heads for their help during Marian Days. Ms. Cossey said she hopes the formation of the six-member board will help resolve the issues between CWEP and the city, and hopes for a resolution from the discussions. She encouraged citizens to ask questions if they have them, to come to council meetings, and to reach out to council members when they have questions. Ms. Ensor thanked the departments for their work during Marian Days, Mr. Taylor asked that everyone keep Ms. Cox in their thoughts and prayers since she has been ill.

Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Dan Rife, Mayor

Miranda Deal, City Clerk