City of Carthage, Missouri
CITY COUNCIL

September 14, 2023 - 5:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in the Council Chambers at 05:30 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, Trudy Blankenship. David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff. Not present were Chris Taylor and 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, City Clerk Miranda Deal and Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizen's Participation, Bill Putnam, 624 Belle Air, discussed the miscommunications between City Council and the CWEP Board. He also stated the mayor is in charge of enforcing city codes and the Charter, discussed the hiring of Greg Dagnan, and the creation of the Assistant-City Administrator position and its job description.

Amy Grimes, 729 E Highland, thanked the council for their service to the city, and thanked Abi Almandinger for her work in beautifying the city and the new equipment and work at the city parks. She also discussed the railroad bridges, CWEP revenue, the removal of the CWEP board, and the role of the City Administrator.

Jackie Boyer, 1184 S. Main, expressed her confusion about the issue between the City Council and the CWEP board and its dismissal, and doesn't understand what is happening within the city. She discussed the resignation of Tom Short and the dismissal of employees afterward, and mentioned the creation of budgets. She stated she appreciates the CWEP employees.

Jack Crusa, 701 E Highland, speaking on behalf of the advisory board of the Steadley Trust. Mr. Crusa stated Steadley Trust has put a hold on the $1,000,000 grant for the industrial park until a formal agreement for independent management can be made between the City and The CEDC.

Mr. Snow reported the Budget Ways & Means Committee met September 6th and discussed budget adjustments to finish the 2022 – 2023 budget and the work on the 2023 – 2024 budget, which is on the agenda as C.B. 23-63. Also reviewed and forwarded was a contract with Total Electronics for security equipment to secure City Hall doors, and is on the agenda as C.B. 23-64. Also forwarded to the Council is the MODoT grant for the city taxi, on the agenda as C.B.23-62. During staff reports is was discussed that retail sales tax was below budget, and use tax is over budget for last month. The next meeting is October 9th at 5:30 in Council Chambers.

Ms. Blair reported that the Committee on Insurance met on September 12th and approved claims. Reported the economic development presentation by Jeff Meredith was cancelled as most members had heard the presentation, and the one who hadn't will hear it at a different committee meeting. The next meeting is September 26th at 5:30 in Council Chambers.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is September 18th at 5:30 in Council Chambers.

Mr. Hardesty reported that the Public Service Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is September 19th at 5:30 in Council Chambers.

Mr. Armstrong reported the Public Works Committee met September 5th. Discussed was junk removal and mowing fees, which is on the agenda as C.B. 23-66 and C.B. 23-67. Also discussed was the TAP Grant in the amount of $318,296.23 for sidewalk improvements between River and Fairview, which is on the agenda as C.B. 23-65. The next meeting will be October 3rd at 5:30 in Council Chambers.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for the Planning and Zoning Historic Preservation, and the McCune Brooks Hospital Trust Board. Ms. Blankenship reported for the Kellogg Lake Board.

Mayor Rife reported that many Council members were at the MML conference this week, and expressed his appreciation for them being able to attend every year.

City Attorney Nate Dally reported meeting with Cassandra Ludwig, general counsel for CWEP, to work on amending ordinances pertaining to CWEP, one of which is on the agenda as C.B. 23-69. Explained that amending the City Charter requires a vote of the people, and what the City is and isn't allowed to do in accordance with City Charter

Public Works Director Zeb Carney reported the concrete slab has been poured in Central Park in order to allow the placement of the Civil War cannon.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported the Municipal Park and Carter Park playground improvements have been completed, including new shelters and new parking lots. Work continues at Kellogg Lake and Griggs Park. She also reported the golf course is thriving.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan introduced Jen Kirby as the new Tourism Director. He also announced this will be the first council meeting that is recorded and posted online, and that the City is close to being able to live-stream meetings. He discussed several points which were brought up earlier in the meeting. Mr. Dagnan stated it was told to the City that someone from

the CEDC would be completing the independent management contract between them and the City for the industrial park grant, and that he will make contact and be sure that is accurate. He also addressed the rumor about missing funds from former management, and stated there were no missing or misplaced funds. He discussed his hiring by, and his position with, the City of Carthage. He informed members of the audience that minutes of council meetings are available. Mr. Dagnan addressed the issue of the railroad bridges, and stated the City had hired Spencer Fane Law Firm to represent the City in the lawsuit. Mr. Dagnan also addressed how the city budget is made and completed. He addressed the dissolving of the CWEP Board, and stated that it is against City Charter and cannot be done, and that the City does not want to, and legally cannot, dissolve the CWEP Board. He stated the Council and Mayor do have the authority to say who is, and how many can be on, the Board. He stated there has to be a Board in charge of CWEP, and that if there wasn't, the control of CWEP would fall to the Council and the Mayor, and no one else. He also addressed the fact that selling or giving away CWEP is not legally possible without a vote of the people. He continued to explain that CWEP is a city-owned utility, therefore the legislative body of CWEP is City Council and the Mayor. He further explained that the authority the CWEP Board has been issued in order to do their job, the CWEP budget, and their policies are issued by ordinances from the City Council. Mr. Dagnan stated there has been no discussion of changing the organization, structure, or raising of the reserves of CWEP. He said members of CWEP and City administration met to discuss resolving issues, and that a letter was issued to CWEP employees today letting them know the salary study will not impact their employment, pay, or benefits in any way.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $2,975,436.73 against the following funds: General Revenue $117,232.22, Public Health $9,953.93, Lodging $1,372.74, Civic Enhancement $2,724.50, Parks/Stormwater $53,383.46, Golf $22,180.89, Capital Improvements $29,001.62, Parks & Recreation $189.06, Use Tax $8,398.50, Public Facilities $4,425.00, Library $50,000, Payroll $676,574.81, and Carthage Water and Electric $2,000,000.00. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blankenship, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 23-57 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Fairway IQ Inc. to provide an annual subscription for GPS sensors for Golf Carts, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-63.

C.B. 23-58 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Fair Acres Family YMCA, Inc. for a use agreement of a Golf Simulator, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-64.

C.B. 23-59 -- An Ordinance repealing and replacing the cost recovery fees for the Parks Department, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong,

Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-65.

C.B. 23-60 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute amendments to the Police and Fire Pension Plan to change the trust service provider was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-66.

C.B. 23-61 -- An Ordinance authorizing a special use permit for a one licensed operator beauty shop by Brittany Parish in her residence at 1330 Glenwood Place in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-67.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-62 -- An Emergency Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to apply for federal financial assistance on behalf of the City of Carthage and to execute any contract(s) resulting from such application for any grants between the City of Carthage and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission providing for capital, operating, and/or marketing assistance, comprised of federal funds to be expended for Commission-approved transit projects was placed on first reading.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to forward the council bill to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 23-62 -- An Emergency Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to apply for federal financial assistance on behalf of the City of Carthage and to execute any contract(s) resulting from such application for any grants between the City of Carthage and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission providing for capital, operating, and/or marketing assistance, comprised of federal funds to be expended for Commission-approved transit projects was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, and Mark Elliff. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-68.

C.B. 23-63 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 for the General Fund was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-64 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Total Electronics Contracting, Inc. for installing door access controls for security at City Hall was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-65 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Contract between the City of Carthage, Missouri and G&G Construction Co. Inc. for sidewalk improvements along River St. between Fairview and Airport Drive, pursuant to TAP 1601(704), in the amount of $318, 269.23 in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-66 -- An Ordinance establishing a nuisance and abatement violation cost recovery fee, in the City of Carthage Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-67 -- An Ordinance to amend Chapter 13 of the Code of the City of Carthage to add Article IX: Aesthetic Regulations, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-68 -- An Ordinance authorizing a special use permit for operation of a Carnival at Fair Acres Sports Complex, in the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-69 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 2-317 and Section 2-121 of the Carthage Code to include the Members of the CWEP Board under the removal procedure the same as officers of the City and to change the removal to be for cause for all officers of the City, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

During Mayor's Appointments, Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Chris Taylor as the Kellogg Lake Board Liaison, replacing Trudy Blankenship, until April 2024.

Resolution 2007 - A Resolution approving the recommendation of the McCune-Brooks Regional Hospital Trust for the distribution of funds ($60,000.00 for 5 years) from the Restricted Trust Fund to Global Transformation International. Resolution 2007 failed due to lack of motion.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty, to adopt Resolution 2008 - A Resolution approving the recommendation of the McCune-Brooks Regional Hospital Trust for the distribution of funds ($6,000.00) from the Restricted Trust Fund to Vision Carthage. Resolution 2008 was adopted after a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 1 nay. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Ed Hardesty, Alan Snow, and Mark Elliff. Nays: David Armstrong.

During Closing Comments, Mr. Hardesty welcomed Jen Kirby as the new Tourism Director. Ms. Ensor congratulated Abi Almandinger for the work done on the city parks, and expressed her excitement about the golf simulator. Ms. Blankenship complimented the work done at Carter Park.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Dan Rife, Mayor

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Miranda Deal, City Clerk