City of Carthage, Missouri

**CITY COUNCIL**

October 24, 2023 - 6:30 PM
CW&EP community Room

## MINUTES

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in the CW&EP Community Room 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, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Council Members Trudy Blankenship and Ed Hardesty 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, Parks & Recreation Director Abi Almandinger and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Rife reported that he presented the Alpha Delta Kappa Proclamation this past week.

During Citizen's Participation, Leanna Canfield, Executive Director of Vision Carthage, gave an update on what Vision Carthage had done over the third-quarter. She also spoke on activities and events that are to come in the fourth-quarter. Julie Reams, Chamber of Commerce President, gave an update on this years Maple Leaf events that have taken place over the month which ended on Saturday with the parade. She thanked all the City departments that helped out with all the different events that took place this year. Bill Putnam, 624 Belle Air, wanted to give recognize Mark Peterson for an award he received from the Midwest section of the Professional Golfer's Association. It is one of the highest awards that can be bestowed by the PGA and there were only 4 given in the entire Midwest. Jana Schramm, 1521 Grand, thanked Julie for the Maple Leaf Festival and she thanked Council and staff for providing the live stream of the meetings. She also wanted to congratulate Walker Lasley on his Eagle Scout progress, she stated that all three of her boys were Eagle Scouts and they were proud of it. She also asked about the date for the joint meeting between CW&EP and the Council. She also wanted to inform everyone about a political action committee. Carthage Citizen's United has been formed and registered with the Missouri Ethics Commission as a continuing committee, which she and Bill Putnam are Treasurer and Vice-Treasurer of.

Mr. Snow reported the Budget Ways & Means Committee is between meetings. The next meeting will be November 13th at 5:30.

Ms. Blair reported that the Committee on Insurance met on this day and approved claims. It was also reported that Ms. Cox and Mr. Miller met with the insurance reps regarding health insurance renewal rates and they are going to continue to negotiate for a better rate even though the rate was under the 10% increase that was budgeted for. The next meeting is November 14th at 5:30.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee met October 16th. The committee discussed the safe haven baby boxes again. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to keep moving forward with the process of getting the baby box at the south fire station, pending the review of the contract by Mr. Dally. There will be a Council Bill later for the official approval. Motion carried. Also discussed were the street closures for the Christmas Parade that is put on by SkillsUSA. This was pending at the time of the meeting until the school could provide insurance information. Mr. Huntley let the Council know that the school had obtained the necessary insurance and that they were good to go. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to close Chestnut, 9th, 10th, and 11th from Lyon to Grant, the entire square, Main from 11th to 3rd, and Grant from Chestnut to 3rd on December 4 from 5-8 pm. Motion carried. The committee also discussed Council Bill 23-75 regarding loitering and camping, as well as, Resolution 2015 for the donation to the Fire Department. The Fire Department recently received bids for Res-Q jacks. There were three bids received and Chief Huntley requested that the middle bid be accepted, due to the training and delivery of product that is included with the price. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor to approve the bid from Hoffcomp for the Res Q jacks in the amount of $14,767.00. Motion carried. The next meeting is November 20th at 5:30.

Ms. Ensor reported the Public Service Committee met October 17th at 5:30. The committee discussed the bids that were received for outfield fencing at Carl Lewton Stadium. It would be a black 6 foot vinyl fence. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to approve the bid from MW Fence for the amount of $22,993.27. Motion carried. The committee discussed and approved Council Bill 23-74 regarding the MOU with MODOT for the Fairlawn Roundabout maintenance and placement of the Maple Leaf sculpture, as well as Resolution 2013 to approve the grant from Steadley for the dog park. They also heard from Nancy Sanchez who would like to have an inflatable bounce house at Central Park on October 28. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to allow the bounce house at Central Park on October 28. Motion carried. At the previous committee meeting, there were some bids that were discussed but they needed to be approved by Council. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff to accept the bid for the 4 true pitch mounds from Gametime Athletics in the amount of $13,923.20. Motion carried. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to approve the bid for golf chemicals from Advanced Turf Solutions in the amount of $52,666.08. Motion carried. She also reported on the various events that Memorial Hall will be hosting and the increase in golf rounds compared to this time last year. The next meeting is November 21st at 5:30.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is November 7th at 5:30.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for the McCune Brooks Hospital Board, Jasper County Commission, and the Police and Fire Pension Committee and also Ms. Blair for Carthage Humane Society.

Mayor Rife reported that he presented the Alpha Delta Kappa Proclamation to the teachers this past week and got a photo with them. He also thanked everyone involved with the Maple Leaf parade. He addressed Mr. Hardesty's resignation letter that was in the packet and asked for a motion to approve it. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to accept the resignation of Ward 4 Council Member Ed Hardesty. Motion carried with Mr. Armstrong casting a nay vote.

During Remarks from Council Members, Ms. Ensor welcomed Leanna with Vision Carthage.Mr. Armstrong wanted to correct the number he quoted at the last meeting for those who were in attendance, he reported those in attendance at the last meeting was in the 90's, but it was only the 70's. He also reported that he was told there were 42 in attendance at this meeting. He apologized for anyone he may have offended about his Eagle Scout comments. He also mentioned that there was money budgeted for some renovations at City Hall, he believes the money could be better used to make Council Chambers bigger to accommodate more citizens. He would also like to see a policy where all committee meetings are live streamed and recorded for people to watch anytime. Since the attendance numbers were well below what could have fit at City Hall, Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to return the Council meetings to Council Chambers. Ms. Cossey addressed issues that could potentially cause the large crowds again. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to amend the original motion to move the Council meetings back to Council Chambers starting on the first December Council meeting. Motion carried with Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Elliff casting a nay vote. The original motion to move Council meetings back to City Hall was now amended to be moved back starting on the first December meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Snow wanted to recognize Chuck Bryant for an award he received from the MPUA. Mr. Elliff stated he would like to see more in the future relating to Council Bill 23-75 and the mental health issues that are involved with some of the homelessness. He also thanked Mr. Hardesty for his service to the City. Ms. Cossey thanked CW&EP for hosting the Council meetings. Thanks were extended by all to the Chamber and to the various City departments that were involved with the Maple Leaf parade.

City Attorney Nate Dally reported that not only is there a homelessness issue with people, but also with animals. The Humane Society is seeing record numbers of animals being taken out by animal control or surrendered by owners. He reported on the letter he sent to the old country club property owners regarding their proposed truckers lounge business. He stated he has reviewed the safe haven baby box contract and Ms. Cox was going to check with the City insurance regarding the box. He reported on the camping and loitering ordinance that was on the agenda, the Fair Acres property at the YMCA that the County will be deeding over to the City soon, and the dog park grant from Steadley. He also reminded everyone that the City was hosting a blood drive on October 25.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins reported that the Maple Leaf parade was a success. There was one incident that involved a few kids getting hurt by one of the floats, there was a 4 year old girl who got off the float to get a piece of candy and she was run over by the float and another kid who was 13 jumped down to save her before she got hit again, which resulted in getting himself ran over. There is going to be a special recognition for the 13 year old at his school October 25. He also reported that he has two cadets in the police academy and when they graduate, his department will be fully staffed.

Fire Chief Ryan Huntley reported that the pancake feed was a success and he thanked all of those involved with the parade.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the stadium needed some repairs for it to be a fully functional baseball field, these repairs include the new fence and lighting. She also reported on the MODOT agreement for the roundabout, the new Memorial Hall programs, and increased golf rounds. She also invited everyone to the cannon unveiling on Friday at Central Park at 1 pm. She welcomed Leanna to Vision Carthage and looks forward to working with her. She also expressed her gratitude for Mr. Hardesty's support as the chair of the Public Services Committee.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $1,813,305.88 against the following funds: General Revenue $1,225,226.68, Public Health $143,268.51, Lodging $612.14, Parks/Stormwater $71,234.74, Fire Protection $32,353.33, Golf $5,530.28, Capital Improvements $18,103.42, Parks and Recreation $3.78, Use Tax $17,239.10, Public Facilities $22,267.50, ARPA $789.47, Library $30,000, and Payroll $246,676.93. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 23-71 -- An Ordinance to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the Carthage Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), for the purchase and development of an industrial park, 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, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-76.

C.B. 23-72 -- 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 providing replacement of Bridge on 3rd Street over a tributary of Spring River #0720003 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, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-77.

C.B. 23-73 -- An Ordinance adjusting the Solid Waste Collection Rates in the City of Carthage pursuant to the Contract Agreement entered into the 1st day of October 2019, by and between the City of Carthage, Missouri, a Municipal Corporation, and Republic Services of Galena, Kansas was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-78.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-74 -- An Ordinance to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, for a Growing Together Agreement for the Roundabout on Route 571 and Fairlawn/Garrison/Elk in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 23-75 -- An Ordinance to amend sections of Chapter 13 of the Carthage Code by adding a section for Loitering in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to adopt Resolution 2013 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from the Steadley Trust in the amount of $10,000.00. Resolution 2013 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to adopt Resolution 2014 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with MW Fence for construction of outfield fencing for Carl Lewton Stadium in the amount of

$22,993.27, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2014 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to adopt Resolution 2015 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Fire Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2015 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

During Closing Comments, Mr. Snow congratulated the two high school girls who competed in the State high school golf tournament, he also wished the soccer and football teams good luck in their district games. Ms. Ensor stated Maple Leaf was fantastic and she is excited for Halloween next week. Mr. Armstrong told everyone that Central Park used to be a military burial ground during the Civil War and that the bodies were moved to a Springfield cemetery, however, it is believed that there may be a few left and that the cannon is being placed over where they are supposedly still buried. Ms. Blair welcomed Leanna and thanked Julie and the others for Maple Leaf. Ms. Heckmaster also thanked Julie and the other City staff for Maple Leaf.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Dan Rife, Mayor

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Miranda Deal, City Clerk