



City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

November 14, 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, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Council Members Chris Taylor and Terri Heckmaster 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, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2023 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizen's Participation, Jana Schramm, 1521 S Grand, spoke highly of the potential new appointment of Jeff Hole to fill the Ward 4 vacancy and urged the Council to approve it. She also spoke about Halloween and how she would like to get the high attendance numbers spread out to other streets in the area. She also brought up the two sunshine requests that she filed with the City and the response she received.

Bill Putnam, 624 Belle Air Place, spoke to the Council and Mayor about the appointment process of filling a vacant Council Member position. He asked that the Mayor provide a resume of future appointments so the public has a better idea of who is being recommended. He also brought up the issues he referenced in the September 26 Council meeting and stated he intended to file a complaint with the Missouri State Auditor's office.

Mr. Snow reported the Budget Ways & Means Committee met November 13th and discussed a purchasing proposal with Carthage Hardware for general supplies across City departments. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to accept the bid for general supplies and to move forward with an MOU between the City and Carthage Hardware. Motion carried. The committee also discussed Resolution 2017 which is the grant with MoDOT for a new taxi. A budgeting software contract with Cleargov was discussed. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong to forward the budgeting software contract with Cleargov to Council. Motion carried. Ms. Cox also presented the sales tax numbers to the committee. The next meeting will be December 11th at 5:30.

Ms. Blair reported that the Committee on Insurance did not meet due to a lack of quorum. They will meet on November 28th at 5:30.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is November 20th at 5:30.

Ms. Ensor reported the Public Service Committee met on November 6th in a special meeting. It was a planning session for the Parks Master Plan to set new priorities and review what was in the plan. The next meeting is being moved to November 27th due to availability of the committee members.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee met November 7th and reviewed the comprehensive plan. The Public Works Committee has no recommended changes and it will be coming to Council in the future for approval. They also approved to surplus the last orange street department truck in the City, it appears in Resolution 2016.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for the Jasper County Commission, Ms. Ensor for the Library Board, and Ms. Blair for a joint meeting of some City officials and Humane Society board members to discuss the overpopulation of animals.

Mayor Rife reported that the CWEP salary study is underway and they have been gathering information for Lockton. The first meeting for the joint salary study committee is set to meet on December 6. He also reported that he spoke with Brian Schmidt about the joint Council and CWEP board meeting that was tentatively set for November 28th and they have decided that finding a day for everyone to meet is difficult and that they would like to postpone a joint meeting at this time.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Armstrong spoke on the Council Chamber renovations and mentioned that there were 54 people in attendance at tonight's meeting and the new chamber space should be able to fit almost double that number. Ms. Cossey asked about Mr. Dally working for the City as the Attorney and also working for the County as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Mr. Dally answered her questions regarding the employment with both. She also asked many questions about the forensic audit and the process for proceeding with charges. She also asked questions regarding the Peachtree CID. Mr. Snow cleared up some rumors that have been going around about the Oak Street bridge being torn down. He stated that there are no plans to take that bridge down, Mr. Dagnan clarified that if the bridge were to be taken down, it is not the City's decision because it is not owned by the City.

City Attorney Nate Dally reported that the road work with the gas company is kind of out of our hands. Spire has been responsive in making repairs when there have been issues reported. He spoke briefly on the forensic audit investigation, the CID, and the Oak Street Bridge.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins reported on promotions within his detective division. He also reported that he will have two cadets graduating in December. He also reported on Sergeant Butler's quick response to an explosion he heard while on patrol one night. There were a few semi's that had caught on fire, but due to his patrol and the fire departments response, many other semi-trailers were saved. He also spoke on the release of investigative records.

Fire Chief Ryan Huntley reported that the two personnel he reported on last meeting had started and are starting their 24 hour shifts now. He also reported he had 3 in the fire academy and they should be testing out in December.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the next class to be held at Memorial Hall is full with a waiting list. She is happy to see the classes are a hit. The ribbon cutting for the Kellogg Lake playground will be November 21st at 1 pm. This is the first playground to be out at Kellogg Lake and she hopes everyone can make it out. Also reported was, the Little League Charter has been reinstated for Carthage, Memorial Hall is currently being painted inside and getting lighting upgrades, and the new fence is up at Carl Lewton Stadium.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the sales tax numbers came in stronger for the month. The Use Tax is doing really well and is currently at 65% of what was budgeted for the year, since the inception of the Use Tax, around \$1.9 million has been collected.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan reported that the Mayor's Boards and Committees have been audited and they will be working on filling some vacancies in the near future. He also spoke on the Council Chamber renovations and the City Hall door access project, the Peachtree CID, the MOU with Carthage Hardware, the Cleargov contract, and putting positive things in his report that come from the other committees that may not be communicated with everyone.

There was no approval of the claims, due to the Insurance, Audit and Claims Committee not meeting earlier in the night due to lack of quorum.

Under Old 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-79.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 23-80.

Under New Business, C.B. 23-76 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc., an Indiana Non-profit Corporation, to provide and install newborn safety devices, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve the Mayor's recommendation of Jeff Hole to fill the Ward 4 vacancy. Motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk Miranda Deal administered the Oath of Office to Jeff Hole. Mr. Hole took his seat and joined the other Council Members.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve the Mayor's Standing Committee Appointments as presented:

Brandi Ensor as the new Public Services Committee Chair

Jeff Hole to the Public Services Committee

Vacancy on Budget Ways & Means at this time

Motion carried with 6 yeas and 1 abstaining. Ayes: Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Abstaining: Brandi Ensor.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to adopt Resolution 2016 -- A Resolution approving the declaration as surplus to the City's needs and authorizing the disposition of certain Public Works Department equipment. Resolution 2016 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to adopt Resolution 2017 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission for a 5339 Capital Assistance Grant. Resolution 2017 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

During Closing Comments, Ms. Cossey mentioned that she does not have a problem with the Police Department pursuing charges in other types of cases, she believes the financial theft case should have Council approval before going any further, she encouraged others to adopt pets from the Humane Society, she mentioned the election filing dates, and the Carthage Speech and Debate win. Ms. Ensor and Ms. Blair both welcomed Jeff Hole to the Council. Mr. Snow said he was glad he didn't have to go long without an empty chair, he mentioned the Sparkle in the Park event scheduled for November 27th, and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving. Mr. Elliff congratulated Trevor Hole for his promotion at the Police Department and thanked the Police Department for their security during Halloween, he also welcomed Jeff Hole and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Dan Rife, Mayor

Miranda Deal, City Clerk