City of Carthage, Missouri
CITY COUNCIL

March 12, 2024 - 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, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, 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, Parks & Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, IT Administrator Michael Keith, 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 February 27, 2024, Council Meeting and Closed Session meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During presentations, Leanna Canfield, Executive Direct of Vision Carthage, shared their mission and gave an update of the events and projects Vision Carthage has been working on. They had a feasibility study completed by Place and Main in order to determine if Vision Carthage could begin a property revitalization program in order to use different strategies in order to preserve historic buildings. As a result of the study, Vision Carthage has been approved to apply for funds in order to begin the revitalization program. They are also still working with the façade improvement project, which offers a 50/50 match for businesses in the downtown square district who are wishing to make façade improvements to their buildings. She reported the Griggs Park mural has been completed, and the work on the maple leaf roundabout sculpture has underway.

During Citizen's Participation, Tammy Hull, 7686 Hwy 96, discussed the dangers of water hemlock, snakeroot grass, and other noxious weeds.

Chuck Bryant, General Manager of Carthage Water & Electric, gave an update about the Dogwood Energy Station. He stated the energy from this station will become available this summer. They have worked with the electric commission and have had Resolutions passed to move forward. Carthage Water & Electric will be bringing a Resolution to the Council to allow putting this energy into the market.

Derek Peterson, 1141 Sheila Ann Drive, stated he had concerns with the sitting Councils fiscally responsibility, using Rock Stadium and the proposed new swimming pool as his basis.

Bill Putnam, 624 Belle Air, talked about his interest in Carthage history; also discussing the history of the Charter form of government and the current City Charter and its construction.

Joel Terry, 2219 Allison, discussed the City's response to the State's request for information and apologized for his misrepresentation of Mr. Dally's reply to him in a previous meeting.

Shay Gaddis, 2054 E 15th St, thanked Ms. Almandinger for her work with the Parks Department for the improvements to the golf course, parks, and for the creation of the dog park. She thanked Zeb Carney and Public Works for their efforts in maintaining the look of Carthage and for their work in keeping Carthage a beautiful place to live and work. She thanked the Council for their work and sacrifices in maintaining the town. Also thanking the Police and Fire departments for their work keeping Carthage safe.

Mr. Snow reported the Budget Ways and Means Committee met March 7 in a special meeting. They discussed an item that will be presented in closed session in tonight's meeting. Their next meeting will be April 8 at 5:30.

Ms. Blair reported the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. She reported the City invested $2,000,000 with Community National Bank. This investment has an APY of 5.25%; and shared information about a letter requesting the Assistant City Administrator position be changed from that of a city employee to that of a city officer. This change would be added to the City Code. She stated a Council Bill will be presented to the Committee for consideration. The next meeting will be on March 26 at 5:30

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting will be March 25 at 5:30.

Ms. Ensor reported the Public Services Committee met February 29 at 5:30. She reported the discussion of the Water's Edge Pool Concept. Findings of the online survey, which ran from January 17th to February 5th, were presented. Two concepts for a new aquatic center facility, each with different amenities with differing price ranges, were presented and the committee and it was decided to move forward with Waters Edge in designing a pool concept not exceeding a cost of $15.5 million. The next meeting will be March 19 at 5:30.

Mr. Armstrong reported the Public Works Committee met March 5 at 5:30. Ms. Ensor reported the discussion and acceptance of a bid from JKS Construction for Forest St. Culvert repair in the amount of $136,602.60; the Blevins Asphalt Contract renewal, and new price increase from $68.00 per ton to $75.05 per ton; the decision to surplus a 2008 Chevy Impala; and a proposed lot split at 2535 Grand Ave, Forest Park Church. All items were approved and forwarded to Council. Also discussed was the solid waste contract with Republic Services, which is coming up for renewal. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to allow the pursuit of an extension of a 5-year solid waste contract with Republic Services. Motion carried. The next meeting will be March 19 at 5:30.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for McCune-Brooks Hospital Trust and Jasper County Commission; by Mr. Snow for Carthage Water & Electric; and Ms. Ensor for the Library Board.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Taylor stated the Public Works meeting will be April 2. Mr. Snow stated he attended the Public Services Committee meeting and that he was impressed with the pool concept presented. He stated the concepts presented did not include a concept for a Regional water park, and that he is in support of a new pool facility, however he is not in favor of a Regional pool concept or a lazy river. Mr. Elliff discussed Resolution 2031.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported all bathrooms at Carter, Municipal, Griggs, and Kellogg Lake parks are open. She invited everyone to attend the ribbon cutting for Rock Stadium on March 27 at 4 p.m. She reported finishing touches are being done on the dog park, and that Little League registration is open until March 22 for ages 9 – 16.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox reported the marijuana tax came in at $9,426.00 for the month of February. She stated sales tax revenues are up compared to the same month last year, coming in at $261.727. YTD sales tax revenues are $2,313,919.00, approximately $10,000 under projected YTD revenues. YTD use tax is over the current fiscal year projection, coming in at $134,944.00. YTD use tax is $ 1,088,920.00. She also reported the City has started using the ClearGov software, and capital requests have been submitted through the software. The current capital requests stand at $16,700,00.00, some of which will be covered by grants.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $4,241,077.26 against the following funds: General Revenue $2,092,289.06, Public Health $606.04, Lodging $19,172.76, Public Safety $14,335.85, Parks/Stormwater $53,717.51, Fire Protection $136.43, Golf $12,249.87, Capital Improvements $11,514.50, Parks and Recreation $351.05, Myers Park $5,608.50, Use Tax $33,399.80, Public Facilities $1,501,471.00, Tax Distribution $31,819.00, Library $25,000.00, and Payroll $439,405.89. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 24-14 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Elements Construction Concepts of Joplin, Missouri for Restroom Facilities for City Parks -- Phase 2 for the amount of Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Three Hundred Forty Dollars and 00/100 ($230,340.00), in the City of Carthage,
Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-16.

C.B. 24-15 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Elements Construction Concepts of Joplin, Missouri for Dog Park Sidewalks at Municipal Park for the amount of Forty-Three Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Dollars and 00/100 ($43,460.00), in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-17.

C.B. 24-16 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with Carthage Youth Softball League for non-exclusive use of the softball fields at Fair Acres Sports Complex during the summer of 2024, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy

Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-18.

C.B. 24-17 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Lease Purchase Agreement with Bank of America for a Ferrara Heavy Duty Fire Engine, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-19

Under New Business, C.B. 24-18 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract extension with Blevins Asphalt Construction Co., Inc. for the Annual Asphalt Paving Contract for fiscal year 2024-2025 ($75.05 per ton of asphalt to include tack oil), in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-19 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with JKS Construction, Inc. of Girard, Kansas, for a box culvert replacement on Forest Street in the amount of $135,602.60, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-20 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract to sell real estate owned by the City of Carthage at Airport Drive and Missouri Avenue to Jaime Olvera for $35,000.00, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve Resolution 2030 -- A Resolution to pursue grant funding for construction of a new pool facility, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2030 was adopted after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve Resolution 2031 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Police Department to write and accept a grant from MODOT for the cost of additional traffic details, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2031 was adopted after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2032 -- A Resolution approving the declaration as surplus to the City's needs and authorizing the disposition of certain Public Works Department equipment. Resolution 2032 was adopted after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve Resolution 2033 -- A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Carthage approving a recommendation of the Public Works Committee granting an administrative lot split for property located at the NW corner of George E Phelps Blvd. and S Grand Ave, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2029 was adopted after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

During closing comments, Mr. Snow stated he hopes a plan for the new pool can be designed so it will be beneficial to all and hopes the McCune-Brooks Trust can help facilitate this one major project. Ms. Cossey stated she understands the McCune-Brooks trust was not meant to be a continuous trust, but she doesn't feel that just because the City has that money, means they have to go out and spend it. She remarked that she does not support what was in the original pool packet and hopes a plan can be constructed that will be beneficial to all. Ms. Ensor announced the Public Services Committee met with a representative from the YMCA about the number of lifeguards that would be needed for the proposed new facility, sending the designs back in order to lessen the number of lifeguards needed. Ms. Blankenship stated she has a niece who is a quadriplegic, and the proposed zero-entry pool will be 100% ADA accessible, so she is in complete support of the new pool. Mr. Armstrong says one of the things he is most proud of as a Council member is the City's partnership with the school, and that the school is taken care of so the kids can be competitive. He said that if the new pool design would be beneficial to the school, he feels it should be something to consider in the design. He stated that part of taking care of Carthage is taking care of the kids of Carthage. Ms. Heckmaster says she believes the city needs a new pool, but also feels the need to be financially responsible.

Mr. Hole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to close the meeting according to Section 610.021 (1) the Agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys, and according to Section 610.021 (2) the Agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration therefor followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried at 7:51 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Blankenship made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:55 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
March 12, 2024

The Carthage City Council met in closed session on the above date in City Hall Council Chambers at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor Dan Rife presiding.

Mr. Hole made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to close the meeting according to Section 610.021 (1) the Agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys, and according to Section 610.021 (2) the Agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration therefor followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried at 7:51 p.m.

There was a short recess before the closed session started. Council went into closed session at 8:00 p.m.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, City Attorney Nate Dally, IT Administrator Michael Keith, and Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor were also present.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, Tyler Marcum, and Alyssa Hess joined the meeting for the first portion of the closed session.

Ms. Almandinger discussed the desire for Council to allow the pursuit of a land purchase which is of significant value and has potential for community use.

Nate Dally updated the Council about pending legal actions.

Ms. Blankenship made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:55 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Taylor
Deputy City Clerk