

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

February 13, 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. Public Works Director Zeb Carney was absent.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2024, Council Meeting and Closed Session meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizen's Participation, Julie Reams with the Chamber of Commerce gave her quarterly update on things that the Chamber has been doing. She touched on a variety of events that have been taking place or are set to take place. She mentioned that there is the Chamber Business Expo happening in March, the Chamber Banquet will be in June, and plans are starting for the 58th Annual Maple Leaf Parade. She also mentioned that she is working on hosting a Candidate Forum for the April election. She encouraged everyone to attend the variety of meetings and events that the Chamber has including young professionals, Chamber coffees, After Hours, and Ribbon Cuttings.

Joel Terry, 2219 Alison, spoke on the Mayor's comment from the previous meeting regarding topics that are repeatedly brought up. He also made comments regarding the document sent to the State Auditor that was 2000 pages.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee met on February 12. The committee heard 5 year capital plans from Administration and IT. There is a Resolution on the agenda to add funds to a few line items that the committee approved. He stated that the committee also heard from the Chair of the Humane Society Board, they are asking the City for an increase in the contract amount for next fiscal year. The next meeting date is to be determined, as there are scheduling conflicts with the regularly scheduled date.

Ms. Blair reported the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. She reported that the committee tabled the wellness packet discussion until HR Coordinator Michael Miller could be in attendance to discuss the changes for this year. They also heard staff reports from Ms. Cox regarding the Cleargov budget process, and a potential upgrade to the current financial system. Ms. Deal reported that business licenses were due and that she hopes to have an update at the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27.

Mr. Elliff reported the Public Safety Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for February 26 due to the City holiday on February 19.

Ms. Ensor reported the Public Services Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for February 20.

Mr. Armstrong reported the Public Works Committee met on February 6 and that there are several items on the agenda from this committee. There are Council Bills selecting Zanevan Engineering as the inspector on the 3rd street bridge and I-49 projects. There is also a contract with Sprouls for the West Chestnut box culvert replacement, which is also part of the budget adjustment, there was not enough money allocated for that project. He reported that the committee also heard the 5 year capital plan for Public Works, Public Health, and the Street Department. The next meeting is scheduled for March 5.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for Jasper County Commission and Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation, Mr. Snow for CW&EP salary study committee, and Ms. Ensor for the Library Board.

Mayor Rife reported that there was a group of 2nd graders who visited City Hall last week to learn about local government. He also reported on the closing of the land for the industrial park and the start of the budget process that will be over the next several months.

During Remarks from Council Members, Ms. Ensor thanked Julie Reams for all of her hard work and dedication at the Chamber. Mr. Taylor reminded everyone of the swap meet that is happening this weekend at Memorial Hall, he encouraged everyone to attend. Mr. Armstrong reported that he received a call from a citizen about the North Garrison bridges that are heavily deteriorating. He reminded everyone that the dangers of those bridges are real and they will be shut down by the State at some point. The weight limit has been lowered to 5 tons to try and help reduce the speed of deterioration, but it will still need repairs. He believes that the City needs to move past the minor conflicts that are currently dividing the City and work together to come up with a plan to fix the bridges. Mr. Elliff wanted to congratulate the staff for the clean audit report that was received by the auditors at the last Insurance, Audit, and Claims meeting. Ms. Cossey addressed Mr. Armstrong about his comments and asked how the conflicts going on are preventing the City from fixing the bridges.

City Attorney Nate Dally reported that he has been working with Zeb on getting the lot located next to the YMCA and new car wash, deeded over to the City from Jasper County. He also addressed the North Garrison bridges and stated that there may be more things that can be done to help keep heavy traffic off those bridges, but he will have to talk to Zeb. He reported that he reached back out to the State Auditor's Office to see if they have had a chance to review the documents that were sent, they stated they were still working on it. He also reported

that the City received the closing letter from the Attorney General's office today that states they do not find that the City was in violation of the sunshine law.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the tree inventory grant on the agenda will be a wonderful thing to have completed, as it has not been done in many years. The Rock Stadium renovations are still going on in preparation for high school baseball season. The classes at Memorial Hall are going well, the sushi class for this weekend is sold out, but another class has been added for March. She also reminded everyone of the swap meet on Saturday at Memorial Hall from 8-2.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the sales tax for February 2024 was \$256,342.86, which is up 6% from February of 2023. The use tax has exceeded the budgeted amount and is just over one million dollars, it came in at 187,515.90 for February 2024. She reported that the specific departments will only receive the use tax funds for a few months in the new fiscal year before it starts going into the general fund. She also reported that we received an grant to help update the City's IT infrastructure. It was \$140,000.00 and it is an 80/20 grant. The marijuana tax for the month was \$15,518.00, she feels that it will hover around \$15,000 per month.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan reported that a lot of what he was going to report had already been covered. He did want to point out that the letter from the Attorney General was dated for January 16, but the City just received it earlier that day. The IT grant will help greatly with cybersecurity, and he explained the purpose of the budget adjustment resolution.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$5,643,411.51 against the following funds: General Revenue \$766,025.78, Public Health \$1,103.69, Lodging \$3,577.82, Parks/Stormwater \$48,560.68, Golf \$43,421.19, Capital Improvements \$12,641.07, Parks and Recreation \$1,229.76, Use Tax \$56,751.08, Library \$25,000.00, Payroll \$685,100.44, and Carthage Water and Electric \$4,000,000.00. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 24-01 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract between the City of Carthage and Radmacher Brothers Excavation for the interchange improvement at the intersection on I-49 and Dr. Russell Smith Way in the amount of \$2,659,341.10 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 24-03.

C.B. 24-02 – An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute a Contract between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Missouri Department of Transportation for sidewalk improvements, Airport Drive and Fairview Avenue/Route E – 571 to River Street/River Street to Pearl Street, pursuant to TAP 1601(706) 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 24-04.

C.B. 24-03 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to grant an Easement of Property owned by the City of Carthage in Municipal Park, to Spire Missouri, Inc. to construct, operate and maintain a gas distribution system consisting of mains, piping, valves, service connections, appurtenances and above ground structures 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 24-05.

C.B. 24-04 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a participation agreement with Sysco Inc, to provide food services, for 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 24-06.

C.B. 24-05 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Missouri Department of Conservation for a Community Forestry Cost Share Grant, for updates to tree inventory, 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 24-07

Under New Business, C.B. 24-06 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Sprouls Construction, Inc. of Lamar, Missouri, for a box culvert replacement on West Chestnut in the amount of \$231,476.70, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-07 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Zanevan Engineering, LLC for construction inspection services on the I-49 Interchange Project, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-08 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Zanevan Engineering, LLC for construction inspection services on the 3rd Street Bridge Project, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-09 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 for specified funds (General Fund, Fire Protection Tax Fund, Use Tax Fund and Public Safety Fund) was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-10 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with 360 Fire Protection in the amount of \$10,687.25 for updating the fire system at City Hall, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-11 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract between the City of Carthage and MODOT for installation and maintenance of lighting on HH Highway in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve Resolution 2025 – A Resolution authorizing a supplemental budget adjustment to the Golf Fund and Use Tax Fund for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Resolution 2025 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 said he was hopeful for an early spring after the groundhog saw his shadow. Ms. Cossey wanted to also thank Julie Reams for her presentation and all of her work since the Chamber is only a 2-person office. She also reminded everyone of the election coming up in April and that she hopes that everyone who is able to vote, will get out and do so. Ms. Ensor welcomed Ms. Deal back from her maternity leave and hoped all was well with the new baby.

Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, 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 7:28 p.m.

There was a short recess before the closed session started. Council went into closed session at 7:39 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:23 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.

Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
February 13, 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.

Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, 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 7:28 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.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan, City Attorney Nate Dally, Police Chief Bill Hawkins, Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, IT Administrator Michael Keith, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, and City Clerk Miranda Deal were also present.

Mr. Dally informed the Council about a lawsuit that is pending against the City regarding police department evidence.

Mr. Dally requested permission from the Council to file a suit regarding a contract that was not legally entered into.

*****Redacted information according to RSMo 610.021 (1)

Mr. Dally spoke to the Council about a piece of property that Carthage Water and Electric would like to purchase.

****Redacted information according to RSMo 610.021 (2)

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:23 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,

Miranda Deal
City Clerk