

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

February 27, 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, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Council Members Trudy Blankenship and Alan Snow 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, IT Administrator Michael Keith, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2024, Council Meeting and Closed Session meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizen's Participation, Neil Adams – 1803 S. Main, asked the Council to consider installing a sidewalk between Catherine and Alison Street to allow residents of St. Lukes nursing home to be able to better access the Church of the Latter-Day Saints on Fairview Avenue.

Jana Schramm, 1521 Grand, addressed the Council about the letter that was received from the Attorney General's office about contracts and other information she requested the City provide. She encouraged everyone to continue filing complaints with the Attorney General's office. She also brought up Nate's schedule and benefits he receives as the City Attorney.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee is between meetings with the next meeting date to be determined.

Ms. Blair reported the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. The committee also discussed the City of Carthage wellness packet. There were only a few changes from the year prior including an incentive pay for those who average 7,000 steps a day, points for receiving age/gender screenings, and updating the City employee golf policy. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to approve the City of

Carthage wellness packet. Motion carried. The committee also heard staff reports from Ms. Deal regarding the business licenses. She stated there are about 100 outstanding licenses to be paid. Ms. Cox updated the committee on where the City is at with getting a refund from the prior budgeting and financial software company, Opengov. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, for the City Attorney to send one more letter to Opengov requesting a refund City of Carthage within 30 days or a lawsuit will be filed. Motion carried. Ms. Cox also reported on interest rates between MOSIP and Community National Bank and her plans to move money from MOSIP to Community National Bank for a better rate. The next meeting will be on March 12 at 5:30.

Mr. Elliff reported the Public Safety Committee met this evening and heard from Maria Sanchez about the 4th Annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration. She is requesting the same street closures as in the past from 11 am – 11 pm. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to close Lyon Street from 7th to Chestnut and 7th Street from Garrison to Lyon on September 28 from 11 am – 11 pm. Motion carried. They also had 5 police officers sworn in, discussed the LEST grant in Resolution 2028 and the Fire truck lease in Council Bill 24-17. They also heard from Chief Hawkins about a Highway Safety Program with MoDOT, this will have to come to council and will require a change in the personnel policy. Chief Hawkins and Huntley also presented their 5 year capital plans to the committee, these will be forwarded to the budget for further consideration. Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting is scheduled for March 25.

Ms. Ensor reported the Public Services Committee met on February 20 with several items to discuss. The owner of Tropix Sno Cones would like permission to operate in various parks during events between March and October. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to allow Tropix Sno Cones to operating in Central parks between March – October. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to amend her motion to say operating at the baseball, softball, and soccer fields, as well as Fair Acres during various sports events. Motion carried. The now amended motion of allowing Tropix Sno Cones to operate at the baseball, softball, and soccer fields, as well as Fair Acres between March – October during various sports events carried after a unanimous vote. The committee also heard from Maria Sanchez about the 4th Annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to allow the use of Central Park on September 28 from noon until 11 pm for the celebration. Motion carried. The Farmer's Market in Central Park was also discussed. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to allow the use of Central Park on Wednesdays and Saturdays from April 6-November 30 from 8 am until 1 pm for the Farmers Market. Motion carried. Ms. Reams with the Chamber was present to discuss the Earth Day celebration. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to also the use of Central Park on April 20 from 10 am until 2 pm for the Carthage Community Earth Day Celebration. Motion carried. The committee discussed various items that were on the council agenda including a donation for marble slabs for the parks, a monetary donation to Little League in honor of Jerad Housh, an MOU with the School for use of the baseball stadium, Phase 2 of the park restrooms, youth softball contract, and dog park sidewalks. The sponsorship policy was also revised by the committee. The committee also

heard bids for the Victorian trash can cages for the parks trash cans. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to approve the bid from Midland Enterprises for up to 20 trash can cages for the amount of \$1,609 each. Motion carried. The committee discussed a reallocation of recreation funds and a budget adjustment for civic enhancement funds to help repair the Kellogg Lake Fountain and do some work on the South Roundabout. These will all be forwarded to the budget committee for approval. They also hear 5 year capital plans from Ms. Almandinger. The next meeting will be a special meeting on February 29 at 4:30.

Mr. Armstrong reported the Public Works Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for March 5.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation, Ms. Blair for the Humane Society, and Ms. Heckmaster for Vision Carthage.

Mayor Rife reported on the continuing budget process.

During Remarks from Council Members, Ms. Ensor took a few minutes to explain to the audience how committees work. Ms. Heckmaster addressed a comment that came up in the previous budget meeting regarding the CW&EP financials not being received, she was told that they have been sent to the Mayor's email every month. Ms. Cossey addressed the Attorney General's letter and stated that there is a double negative within the letter and last year out of all the cases their office took, there was only one case that had a suit filed. She stated that citizens can't count on the State government to hold the City accountable. She also asked Mr. Dally if he knew what the choice of venue was in the Opengov contract.

City Attorney Nate Dally addressed the Attorney General's letter and stated that their office did not receive the redacted version, the redacted version was what was released for the public to view. He also explained that the CDBG grant for the blighted sidewalks is different than a property being declared blighted so there are a lot of things that didn't have to happen with the sidewalks being blighted. He also stated that he will look at the contract with Opengov to determine what the choice of venue is.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the renovations at the stadium are almost done and she thanked the street department for all of their help. The fields at Fair Acres are being laser leveled and prepared for little league. She also stated that the park bathrooms should be open by the end of the week.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan reported that the Peachtree CID is getting close to functioning properly again and that the City has received payments recently. He also encouraged everyone to follow the City's Facebook page to keep up with all of the good things that are happening in our town. He also reported that all the departments have presented their capital requests to their committees can now enter their items into Cleargov, departments will have

access to the operating budget soon.

Mayor Rife addressed the letter received from the Attorney General and stated that they required no further response from the City.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$936,999.98 against the following funds: General Revenue \$80,470.53, Public Health \$164,569.67, Lodging \$12,427.94, Public Safety \$239.20, Parks/Stormwater \$5,115.50, Fire Protection \$28,117.94, Golf \$9,361.97, Capital Improvements \$78,495.55, Myers Park \$8,124.50, Use Tax \$23,304.70, Public Facilities \$2,406.00, ARPA \$2,559.98, and Payroll \$521,806.50. Ms. Blair made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old 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 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, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-08.

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 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, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-09.

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 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, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-10.

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 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, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-11.

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 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, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-12.

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 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, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-13.

Under New Business, C.B. 24-13 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with the Carthage R-9 School System granting the School System the privilege to utilize the Carl Lewton Stadium from February 15, 2024 to May 31, 2024, for the Carthage R-9 baseball program and to be considered an emergency ordinance due to unforeseen circumstances which delay could hinder the effective delivery of municipal services was placed on first reading.

Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to advance CB 24-13 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 24-13 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with the Carthage R-9 School System granting the School System the privilege to utilize the Carl Lewton Stadium from February 15, 2024 to May 31, 2024, for the Carthage R-9 baseball program and to be considered an emergency ordinance due to unforeseen circumstances which delay could hinder the effective delivery of municipal services 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, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-14.

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 first reading with no action taken.

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 first reading with no action taken.

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 first reading with no action taken.

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 first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to approve Resolution 2026 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Parks & Recreation Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2026 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to approve Resolution 2027 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Parks & Recreation Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2027 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2028 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Police Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2028 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2029 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, confirming the Planning and Zoning declaration of the "Walk This Way" sidewalks as blighted, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2029 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

During closing comments, Ms. Cossey reminded everyone of the upcoming election and informed everyone they can vote early or vote absentee with an approved reason. Ms. Ensor stated that the temperature would be dropping 60 degrees that evening. Mr. Taylor thanked everyone who attended the swap meet at Memorial Hall, he encouraged everyone to attend the next one on March 23. Ms. Blair encouraged everyone to attend all of the great events that are coming up.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to close the meeting 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, and according to section 610.021 (12), the agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried at 7:26 p.m.

There was a short recess before the closed session started. Council went into closed session at 7:33 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:16 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
February 27, 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. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to close the meeting 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, AND according to section 610.021 (12), the agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss sealed proposals and related documents or any documents related to a negotiated contract until a contract is executed, or all proposals are rejected followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried at 7:26 p.m.

There was a short recess before the closed session started. Council went into closed session at 7:33 p.m.

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

City Administrator Greg Dagnan, City Attorney Nate Dally, IT Administrator Michael Keith, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, and City Clerk Miranda Deal were also present.

Mr. Dally again 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)

Jeff Meredith and Jeff Williams with the CEDC joined the meeting for the second portion of the closed session.

Mr. Meredith presented to the Council about a potential new project that could be coming to Carthage. If the project does get awarded to Carthage, other items will have to come back to City Council for their approval before moving forward.

****Redacted information according to RSMo 610.021 (12)

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:16 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Terri Heckmaster, Jeff Hole, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Deal
City Clerk