City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

March 26, 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, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. Council Member Terri Heckmaster was 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. Taylor, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2024, Council Meeting and Closed Session meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizen's Participation, Dustin Edge 1490 Piper Drive, mentioned he had spoken with residents and it brought up a few questions. He asked why all City meetings weren't live streamed, if the City had looked at software for improving communications with residents, asked other Council Members what they currently do to communicate with residents. He also mentioned he enjoyed the State of the City address that was done a few years ago and would like to see it done again with some improvements.

John Patrick 1002 Durward Hall Drive, spoke to the Council about the sidewalks along River Street. He came to Council two years ago to ask for sidewalks along River for the students who walked that street to get to the High School. He thanked Greg, Zeb, and Alan for getting the sidewalks built and making a positive difference.

Joel Terry 2219 Alison Street, mentioned he had done some research on the sunshine law and brought up one point specifically in which the custodian of records is to respond no later than 3 days to a records request, Bill Putnam requested minutes for the hiring of the City Administrator in July 2023 and as of March 2024, he still has not received them. He also brought up the censure resolution against Tiffany Cossey. He mentioned that a few meetings ago it was mentioned that to replace the bridges on North Garrison, the cost would be $10 million dollars, but the City just purchased completely undeveloped land for $10 million. He also said there are threats from Administration to other employees, which could cost the City a lot of money in lawsuits.

Holly Williams who lives next to the Ministerios El Jordan Church at 1705 S Baker, came to ask the Council what can be done about the loud noise that comes from the church and blares into her house. Chief Hawkins advised her that three citations have been issued to the church already and he encouraged her to keep complaining until they are following the noise ordinance.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for April 8. He mentioned that meetings with Mr. Dagnan, Ms. Cox, the Mayor, department heads and himself would begin next week to start looking at what has been budgeted and start making decisions on cuts if needed.

Ms. Blair reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. The committee approved the Council Bill to make the Assistant City Administrator an officer of the City, that appears in Council Bill 24-21. They also discussed an update to the code of ethics, it has been tabled until the April 23 to allow time for the committee to review the document and the new documents that were given out by Mr. Dally at the meeting. Ms. Cox reported that the City's insurance provider has raised the deductible from $1,000 to $25,000 per occurrence for wind and hail claims. She also reported on the budget process. Mr. Dagnan had reported that there are two new positions that may be added in the next budget, if the budget committee approves the positions, the job descriptions will go to Insurance, Audit and Claims for approval. The next meeting will be April 23.

Mr. Elliff reported that the Public Safety Committee met on March 25. The committee heard from Chief Hawkins about the noise complaints being received about the church on Baker Blvd. They also discussed Kid's Fishing Day on June 8. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to close the lake to fishing from midnight June 2 until noon June 8 and to close the roads on the south side of the lake on June 8 from 6 am to noon. Motion carried. They also discussed the CWEP Big Truck Event on April 24 at the library. Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to close the 7th Street from Garrison to Lyon and the intersection of Maple Street and 7th from 9-11 am on April 24. Motion carried. Chief Hawkins spoke on behalf of Jen Kirby for Food Truck Friday. The events will be held April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, and September 13, Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to close 7th Street from Garrison to Main and Lyon Street from 7th to Chestnut from 7 am to 10 pm for the dates of food truck Friday. Motion carried. The committee also discussed amending Chapter 4 of the Code which needs further amendment but will eventually come to Council. The next meeting is scheduled for April 15.

Ms. Ensor reported the Public Services Committee met on March 19. They also discussed the Kid's Fishing Day on June 8. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to allow the use of Kellogg Lake Park for Kid's Fishing Day on June8 from 8 am to noon and to close the lake to fishing from midnight June 2 until noon June 8. Motion carried. They discussed the Carthage R-9 Dual Language Celebration. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blankenship, to allow the school to use Central Park on May 3 from 4-8 pm for the Carthage Dual Language Academy. Motion carried. They discussed the three resolutions that are on the Council agenda. Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to amend Resolution 2035 to read "A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage by Carthage Youth Baseball pursuant to City Policy" she stated that it currently read "to the City of Carthage by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri. Motion carried. The park signs were discussed and will come to council in the future. There was also a grant opportunity presented to the committee. It is from the MLB Youth Development Foundation, the grant would be used to replace the lighting at Fair Acres Baseball Complex to LED lighting. Ms.

Ensor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blankenship to pursue the grant from MLB Youth Development Foundation to replace the lights at Fair Acres. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for April 16.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for April 2.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Snow for Carthage Water & Electric; and Ms. Blair for the Humane Society.

Mayor Rife reported that budget meetings will starting next week with the departments and that he had met with some other insurance providers just to see what else was out there.

During Remarks from Council Members, Ms. Ensor congratulated CWEP for their award of Water System of the year by the Missouri Rural Water Association. Mr. Armstrong responded the questions that were brought up during citizen's participation. He would love to have all the City meetings and meetings relating to City business livestreamed, he believes that since most meetings are after hours the trouble comes from finding staffing to control the livestreams, but we will get there one day. He also mentioned that the North Garrison bridges would be closer to $30 million to repair, there are 3 bridges and each one would be around $10 million. They are more expensive since they go over rail and water. He also said that the undeveloped land that was purchased only cost the City $1 million dollars, along with $1.5 million from Carthage Water and Electric and $1 million from the Steadley Trust, the other part came from the grant that was received. Ms. Blair also congratulated CWEP for their award, she would love to see all the meetings live streamed and she mentioned that she communicates with residents via email from the website and by phone calls, she will go door to door during campaigning season. Mr. Snow thanked Mr. Patrick for speaking about the sidewalks, he mentioned there are a few blocks left in that area to be done and will be in the works soon. Ms. Cossey congratulated CWEP, she also addressed some concerns she had received from a couple employees, current and former. They feel they are being targeted by the City Administration and Departments, she encouraged anyone who also feels targeted to speak up about it so it can be stopped.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that when the use tax was passed, 40% of the revenue was allocated to parks projects. There has been $150,000 allocated to the Rock Stadium renovation and as of today roughly $90,000 has been spent. She invited everyone out to attend the ribbon cutting on Wednesday March 27 at 4 right before the first home baseball game.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan thanked John Patrick for his comments on the sidewalks, he also told the council that he and Zeb met with the gentleman from the Church of the Ladder Day Saints about the sidewalks around St. Lukes and that is in the budget for next year to be the next set of sidewalks completed with the TAP grant. He was happy with that and is willing to wait for them to get done through the TAP grant process. He also mentioned the department head budget meetings.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $739,003.35 against the following funds: General Revenue $119,111.64, Public Health $153,801.57, Lodging $365.01, Civic Enhancement $548.29, Public Safety $9,165.54, Parks/Stormwater $3,878.00, Fire Protection $21,527.98, Golf $19,508.30, Capital Improvements $10,228.00, Myers Park $4,223.00, Use Tax $50,527.13, Public Facilities $3,617.50, ARPA $789.47, and Payroll $341,711.92. Ms.

Blair made a motion, seconded by ~~Ms. Heckmaster~~ Mr. Snow, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-20.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-21.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-22.

Under New Business, C.B. 24-21 -- An Ordinance to amend Chapter 2, Article III, Officers and Employees by adding Division 10 -- Assistant City Administrator, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-22 -- An Ordinance authorizing the City of Carthage, Missouri to enter into an amended and restated unit power purchase agreement with Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission D/B/A Missouri Electric Commission was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Chuck Bryant gave a presentation on the Dogwood Energy Center.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to approve Resolution 2035 as amended – A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage by Carthage Youth Baseball pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2035 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to approve Resolution 2036 -- A Resolution approving the declaration as surplus to the City's needs and authorizing the disposition of certain Parks Department equipment outlined in Exhibit A. Resolution 2036 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

Ms. Ensor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2037 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with MW Fence for removal and relocation of gate and fencing at Carl Lewton Stadium in the amount of $8,881.23, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2037 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff, and Tiffany Cossey.

During closing comments, Mr. Elliff thanked department heads for answers to questions he has. He also mentioned he went to Florida recently and played a round of golf for three times the price of Carthage and the course did not compare to Carthage and he was thankful for the great job our golf course does. Ms. Cossey mentioned that she is concerned about the attendance at the next meeting since new council members will be sworn in. Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blair, to move the April 9 meeting to the CWEP Community Room. Motion carried with a 7-2 vote with Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Elliff casting the nay vote. She also encouraged everyone to get out and vote on April 2. Ms. Ensor thanked Ms. Blair for explaining the communication process with the residents that are currently in place and thanked Mr. Armstrong for the explanation of the Garrison bridges repairs. Ms. Blair also encouraged everyone to vote on April 2. Mr. Snow mentioned the colder weather and that spring sports are in full swing at the high school.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, 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 followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried at 7:43 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:35 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
March 26, 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. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, 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 followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried at 7:43 p.m.

There was a short recess before the closed session started. Council went into closed session at 7:50 p.m.

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

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

Jim Benton, Executive Director of the Crisis Center was also present.

Mr. Benton spoke with the Council about a piece of property that would greatly benefit them.

No actions were taken.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:35 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Brandi Ensor, Chris Taylor, Trudy Blankenship, David Armstrong, Robin Blair, Jeff Hole, Alan Snow, Mark Elliff and Tiffany Cossey. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Deal
City Clerk