

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

June 25, 2024 - 6:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

To hear the full comments and discussions, please refer to the recorded Youtube video of this meeting.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36FLMHopFI>

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in Council Chambers at 06:30 PM with Mayor Dan Rife presiding. Deputy Fire Chief Jason Martin gave the invocation. Police Chief Bill Hawkins led the flag salute.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Dustin Edge, Alan Snow, Tom Barlow, Tiffany Cossey, and Jana Schramm. Interim City Administrator Traci Cox was also present.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Bill Hawkins, Deputy Fire Chief Jason Martin, Parks & Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve the amended minutes of January 23, 2024, the Special Council Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2024, the Council Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2024, and the Work Session Minutes of June 20, 2024. Motion carried.

During Citizen's Participation, Joel Terry, 2219 Alison St, spoke on the HH intersection light and the need for it. He doesn't believe that it is a necessity.

Tina Hallmark, 1708 Connor Drive, spoke to the council on what the Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation committee denied at their last meeting. She is part of a group who purchased vacant land near the high school and they had plans to build luxury townhomes in that area. There were concerns that apartments would be put in on that vacant land, but she reassured the council that they only had plans to build these luxury townhomes.

TJ Teed, 615 Airport Drive, thanked all those in uniform who have served all over the world. He also addressed a Facebook post that Ms. Cossey had made.

Jeff Hallmark, 1708 Connor Drive, also spoke about the townhomes that he and his wife had planned to build and stated that it was a \$20 million dollar project that they denied. He stated that someone had gone around that neighborhood and spread incorrect information on what was planning to go in on that land. Many people were told apartments, and not that they would be building and selling luxury townhomes.

Bill Putname, 624 Belle Air Place, paid tribute to the late Stephen Beimdiek. He also asked that the Mayor appoint Danny Lambeth or Pat Goff to the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board to finish serving the last year of Mr. Beimdiek's term. He stated that the board needed someone with knowledge about the utility on the board and that it takes too long for new

people to get settled in and taught about the utility board. He also asked council to vote no to anyone else the Mayor tries to appoint.

Patrick Scott, 5305 County Road 175, told the council that they have to serve the city to the best of their ability and he hopes that the city can work together and move on. He also spoke on the townhome project that was mentioned by the Hallmarks, he states that the city needs that type of project and needs more housing.

Ronnie Wells, 2026 S Maple St, spoke to the council about moving on and solving hard issues that exist in Carthage, like the railroad bridges that need fixed. He also encouraged the council members to attend the MML conference because it provides a lot of useful information for them to help in their roles.

Kathleen McCaffery, located in the professional building and not an official Carthage resident, talked to the council about everyone working together and getting along. She stated that she had recent conversations with Bill Putnam, and a few meetings with the Mayor.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met on June 24. The committee approved the budget that is in Council Bill 24-30, total budget was around 28 million, the general revenue fund where most items are budgeted out of was around 18 million. The committee had previously approved the rate increase requested by CW&EP, that appears in Council Bill 24-29. They also approved a budget adjustment for the golf and civic enhancement fund which appears in Resolution 2044. Ms. Cox reported to the committee that the sales tax numbers were down again, but the use tax is up.

Ms. Cossey reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. The next meeting is scheduled for July 9 at 5:30.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Public Safety Committee met on June 17. Nancy Corley was present to talk to the committee about spay and neuter prices, this was tabled until July to allow time to review the current ordinance. Roy Teed with the Jasper County Sheriff's Office was present to ask for road closures for the shop with a Deputy fundraiser. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close the south and east sides of the square, 4th Street from Main to Grant and Grant from 4th Street to 3rd Street, and allow food trucks on October 5 from 5:30-9:30 pm for the fundraiser. Motion carried. Julie Reams was present to ask for road closures in the park for the Red, White, and Boom event on July 4. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close Richard Webster Drive from Oak Street to the Skating Rink/Rock Stadium from 8 am to 10 pm on July 4 for the Red, White and Boom event. Motion carried. Roxanne Willard with the Jasper County Youth Fair was present to ask for closures in the park for the fair. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close the road between Barn #7 and Chitwood Barn #6 from gate to gate beginning Wednesday July 10 through July 13 to keep livestock contained within the fence, Closure of the road between the Kolpin concession stand and the small pavilion #8 from July 10-13, allowing food trucks in the park from July 8-July 13, and allowing campers from July 6 – July 14 for exhibitor families, and allowing the kids to tend to the animals in the park past 10 pm. Motion carried. Lana Griffith was present to ask the committee to close Belle Air for the annual block party. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to barricade Clinton, Fulton, and Grand and close Belle Air from Grand to the end of the cul-de-sac on June 30 from 5:45-8 pm. Motion carried. Jeff Meredith spoke to the committee about the excessive force policy that appears in Resolution 2043. The committee also reviewed bids for a brush bed/box for the new brush truck. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to accept the

best bid from THL Fire Equipment in the amount of \$22,648.00. Motion carried. The next meeting will be July 15 at 5:30.

Mr. Edge reported the Public Services Committee met on June 18 and approved Resolution 2044. The next meeting is scheduled for July 16 at 5:30.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Public Works Committee had a special meeting on June 17. They approved the items that appear in Council Bill 24-31 and 24-32.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Edge for Vision Carthage, Ms. Heckmaster for Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation, and Ms. Leece for the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board.

Mayor Rife reported on a recent meeting with the Humane Society and some council members, the sunshine law training, and budget perfections.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Peterson reported on the sunshine law training, Ms. Leece reported on the Humane Society meeting. Ms. Heckmaster, Mr. Snow, Ms. Cossey and Ms. Schramm all thanked Ms. Cox for all of her hard work with the budget and picking up the extra tasks as the interim City Administrator. Ms. Cossey and Ms. Schramm expressed their condolences for the late Stephen Beimdiek.

Deputy Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that the Safe Haven baby box has been installed and it is still in the testing phase. They haven't heard back on the grant they applied for to be reimbursed up to 50% for debris cleanup after the May storms. He also explained the bids that were received for the brush truck. One of the companies required us to transport the truck to their facility in Indiana, the other would come to us, so they went with the higher bid for the company that did not require travel.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that Little League is winding down they had a great turnout for the year. There is a tree fund program happening through Vision Carthage if people are interested in donating. Her staff has been preparing for the upcoming 4th of July event at Municipal park.

Interim City Administrator Traci Cox reported that Jon Gold had a conflict and was unable to attend tonight's meeting but he will be at the next one. She also reported that the City of Carthage Wellness Committee is hosting a blood drive with the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks on June 27 from 11-4 at Memorial Hall. She thanked all staff for their work on the budget, there are a few items that need to be fixed within the Cleargov software, but they are working on it. She also reported that staff will undergo training for the new online budget book through Cleargov, it will be more detailed than previous years and it will be on our website once it is ready.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$689,881.52 against the following funds: General Revenue \$120,189.07, Public Health \$155,503.99, Lodging \$1,405.35, Parks/Stormwater \$9,687.00, Golf \$17,198.42, Capital Improvements \$21,962.61, Parks and Recreation \$26.86, Myers Park \$8,996.00, Use Tax \$4,999.17, Public Facilities \$52,525.06, ARPA \$49,686.00, and Payroll \$247,701.99. Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

The City of Carthage held a public hearing for the approval of the City of Carthage budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year on Tuesday June 25, 2024 at 6:30 during the City Council Meeting. No citizens participated.

There was no old business.

Under New Business, C.B. 24-28 -- An Emergency Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless, for a temporary COW/COLT cell tower for Marian Days 2024 held in Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to forward CB 24-28 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 24-28 -- An Emergency Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Cellco Partnership DBA Verizon Wireless, for a temporary COW/COLT cell tower for Marian Days 2024 held in Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-30.

C.B. 24-29 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing utility rate changes for electric, water, and wastewater services as requested by the Carthage, Water and Electric Plant Board was placed on first reading.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to forward CB 24-29 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 24-29 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing utility rate changes for electric, water, and wastewater services as requested by the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-31.

C.B. 24-30 -- An Emergency Ordinance adopting the budget of the City of Carthage, Missouri for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to forward CB 24-30 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 24-30 -- An Emergency Ordinance adopting the budget of the City of Carthage, Missouri for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-32.

C.B. 24-31 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Sprouls Construction Inc. for the HH and Garrison Avenue Intersection and Signal Improvements in the amounts of \$254,499.43, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-32 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute a Supplemental Agreement 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), in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mayor Rife called for a 5 minute recess at 7:48 pm. Council reconvened at 7:53.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Sandy Swingle, Nancy Dymott, and Donna Thomason to the Library Board until July 2027

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2043 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, establishing regulations regarding the use of excessive force during non-violent civil rights demonstrations, including physically barring access to a facility or location which is the subject of such demonstration, and providing penalties for violations thereof, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2043 was adopted by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2044 -- A Resolution authorizing a supplemental budget adjustment to the golf fund and civic enhancement fund for fiscal year 2023-2024. Resolution 2044 was adopted by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm.

Ms. Cox told the Council that this was a requirement for the downtown sidewalk grant, the state did not accept what we already had and sent to them.

During Closing Comments, Mr. Snow stated he looked forward to the Red, White and Boom event on July 4. He said there will be rain during the youth fair next month, and he encouraged everyone to celebrate the Fourth of July and remember those who fought for us.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.