



City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

June 3, 2024 - 6:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

The Carthage City Council met in special session on the above date in the Council Chambers at 6:30 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

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

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster to approve the minutes of May 21, 2024 Special Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2024 Council Meeting. Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to amend the minutes to add that the discussion of the veto of council bill 24-27 was not on that night's agenda. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the amended minutes of May 28, 2024 carried unanimously.

Under new business, discussion of the appointment of an interim city administrator and a vote for such. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to appoint Traci Cox as the Interim City Administrator and giving her the authority of the City Administrator position until the position gets filled. Mr. Snow stated that Ms. Cox was the City Clerk prior to being the Assistant City Administrator and that she has shown in her work that she is very detail oriented and determined to do things correctly the first time so he believes she is an excellent choice for the position. Mayor Rife asked if they had spoken with Ms. Cox about taking the position, he suggested a meeting to talk about expectations. Ms. Cox also expressed that she would like to have a meeting to know what exactly is expected of her. Motion carried to approve Ms. Cox as the interim city administrator.

Discussion of Ordinance 24-27, a point of order, and a possible vote to override this attempted veto, considering the question, "shall the bill pass objections of the Mayor thereto notwithstanding?"

Ms. Cossey asked Mayor Rife to allow the Mayor Pro Tem conduct this since there is a self interest on Mayor Rife's part.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cossey to override the Mayor's veto. Motion carried by a vote of 7 yeas and 2 nays. Ayes: Peterson, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. Nays: Taylor and Leece.

Ms. Cossey renewed her point of order that Mayor Rife made at the time he made his veto. She believes that Mayor Rife does not have the authority to veto council bill 24-27 and that he violated the ordinances which prevent him from ruling on items of self interest. Also, Mayor Pro Tem Snow was chairing the meeting, so she does not believe Mayor Rife has the authority to veto that council bill.

Discussion of a possible vote to reschedule or indefinitely delay the impeachment hearing of June 5.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to amend the agenda to move the closed session up before item number 3 under new business. Motion carried with a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nay. Ayes: Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. Nays: Taylor

Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to go into closed session 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. Motion carried at 6:41 pm by a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nay. Ayes: Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. Nays: Taylor.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 6:50 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. Motion carried.

Council reconvened at 6:52 pm.

Ms. Leece made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to allow Mayor Rife's attorney, Chris Thornton into the closed session.

Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to not have a closed session and return to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

No further action was taken on the rescheduling or delayment of the impeachment hearing scheduled for June 5.

Discussion of hiring an independent law firm to act as interim legal counsel for the city. Ms. Cossey asked Mayor Rife what the status was on the firm that the hiring committee had chosen to reach out to. Mayor Rife stated that the attorney had declined the offer, they will readvertise the position and start over. Ms. Cossey stated that she contacted the firm as well and he would be willing to do council bills as needed and that the council will need to consider

getting separate attorneys for court and council stuff. Ms. Cossey said she believed that Ms. Heckmaster had names of others who would be interested in court. Ms. Heckmaster said she would give the names to the Mayor to reach out to.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor to adjourn the regular session of the council meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
June 3, 2024

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

Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to go into closed session 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. Motion carried at 6:41 pm by a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nay. Ayes: Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. Nays: Taylor.

There was a short recess to allow council to move to the upstairs conference room. Council reconvened at 6:45 pm.

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.

City Clerk Miranda Deal was also present. Mayor Rife's attorney Chris Thornton was present.

Mr. Snow brought up a concern with who was in closed session, the council did not invite Mr. Thornton to the closed session. There was discussion on what would need to happen to allow him into the closed session.

Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 6:50 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and no nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Deal
City Clerk