

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

July 9, 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=APrG8g3wYB8>

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, Tom Barlow, and Tiffany Cossey. Council Members Alan Snow and Jana Schramm were absent. Interim City Administrator Traci Cox and City Attorney Jon Gold were 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.

Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Edge, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2024 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

During Citizen's Participation, Jeff Meredith with the CEDC gave a presentation over a potential Chapter 100 project that could be coming before the council at a later date.

Debbie Smallwood, 805 S Country Club Road, addressed her concerns over being targeted because of new council members she was in support of, she also talked about a Facebook page that has been making comments. She expressed her support for Ms. Cossey.

Karen Trotter, 615 Euclid Blvd, thanked all for the Red White and Boom event. She also talked about the divide within the city and brought up things that have been said in the past.

Merchant of hate, Carthage Missouri. ~~Kirk Friesen~~, brought up the Facebook comments that Debbie had made. He also gave the registered voter counts for the wards and said that he and others went door to door getting signatures for the recall of Tiffany Cossey. He encouraged council to go out to their wards and go to an area they have never been in and ask them questions about what can be done to make Carthage better. ~~He also asked why the employees who are displeased are not allowed to voice their displeasures.~~ **He also identified himself as the anonymous poster and the one who is responsible for the Facebook page what's happening in Carthage City Council.**

****Amended at the July 23, 2024 meeting to add the highlighted portion and remove the strikethrough portions.**

Joel Terry, 2219 Alison Street, talked about the HH stoplight and the need for it. He would like to see the money used to fill the holes in the road that are being left from the gas company. He also talked about the Facebook page.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met on July 8. She reported that Jeff Meredith was present to discuss expenses for the economic development park. He asked the committee for funds to purchase a large sign for the advertisement of available land, funds to have a water delineation study done, and funds to purchase the right of way from the Swearingen Trust to put the entrance of the road in for the economic development park. The committee approved having a budget adjustment come before them for the amount of \$20,000 to purchase an advertisement sign which is estimated to be around \$12,000 and then to have the water delineation study done which is estimated to be around \$7,000. The budget amendment in Council Bill 24-34 was approved, these are end of year adjustments as well as the adjustments that have been approved by emergency purchase procedures and budget adjustments. Vision Carthage did not want to change their current contract with the City, so no further action was taken by the committee. The Chamber of Commerce contract was changed to include: the City having a Champion membership, which allows the City to have an ex-officio member on the board. The City gets 3 four person teams at the Chambers annual golf tournament and the tourism rent was removed. Under the scope of services, there was a section added for what the City would provide. The City will provide use of the golf course for the annual golf tournament, use of Memorial Hall for four days for the Chamber Banquet, and the use of Memorial Hall for three days for the business expo. There is no council bill on the agenda for this amended contract. It will be sent to Mr. Gold for approval and will come before council at the next meeting. Ms. Cox reported that the sales tax was up and the use tax was down compared to the same month last year. It was also reported that the online budget book is moving forward and so is the upgrade for the financial software. The next meeting is scheduled for August 12 at 5:30.

Ms. Cossey reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. The committee also approved Council Bill 24-33 which is for McGrath Human Resources to do an update on the salary study the City had done in 2020. There was also a motion to request a closed session at the next council meeting to discuss the status of the refund with Opengov. The next meeting is scheduled for July 23 at 5:30.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for July 15.

Mr. Edge reported the Public Services Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for July 16.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Public Works Committee did not meet on July 2 due to lack of business. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Barlow for the Library Board.

Mayor Rife thanked all departments involved for the Red White and Boom event on July 4. He also introduced the new City Attorney Jon Gold.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Heckmaster, and Mr. Edge thanked all involved for the Red White and Boom event. Ms. Heckmaster also welcomed Mr. Gold. Ms. Cossey spoke on the recall against her and the things she has tried to accomplish as a council member. She stated that if she does get recalled at the November election, she has no regrets on the things she has done and she will not stop doing what she thinks is right. She is proud to put her name with her actions.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that they are in the middle of the All Star games for Little League and that they were asked to host this year. She also thanked all of the departments that helped with the Red White and Boom event and reported that it went well.

Interim City Administrator Traci Cox reported that work with Cleargov continues for the online budget book, and the process has started for upgrading the financial software. She also made a comment on the road work with Spire and says that many are displeased included the City and we are making every effort to communicate any issues with the company to get them fixed. She also reported that she has started work on closing out the end of fiscal year 2023.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$3,034,009.67 against the following funds: General Revenue \$173,872.02, Public Health \$1,935.89, Lodging \$3,171.36, Parks/Stormwater \$57,490.79, Golf \$9,006.92, Capital Improvements \$221,387.65, Myers Park \$7,556.00, Use Tax \$67,243.89, Public Facilities \$11,030.82, Library \$25,000.00, Payroll \$456,314.33, and Carthage Water & Electric \$2,000,000.00. Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Barlow, and Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-33.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Edge, Barlow, and Cossey. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-34.

Under New Business, C.B. 24-33 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and McGrath Human Resources Group Inc. to complete a Compensation System Market Update was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-34 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for specified funds (General Fund, Golf Fund, Civic

Enhancement Fund, Public Safety Fund, Capital Improvements Fund, Public Health Fund, and ARPA Fund) was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Review Recall Petition for the Removal of Tiffany Cossey- Mr. Gold reviewed the recall process and explained that there is no motion required to pass this Order that he has prepared since the language in the Charter requires that the question be ordered. The Order will be signed by the Mayor and the Clerk and then an election is to be held as soon as practicable which would most likely be the November ballot.

Ms. Leece made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Kristi Montague to the Police and Fire Pension Committee until July 2026. Motion carried

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Mark Gier to the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board until May 2026. Motion carried

During Closing Comments, Ms. Heckmaster commended the approval of Mark Gier to the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board.

Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.