

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

October 22, 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=JHXdrnKL8wc>

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in Council Chambers at 06:30 PM with Mayor Dan Rife presiding. Interim 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, Alan Snow, Tom Barlow, Tiffany Cossey, and Jana Schramm. Interim City Administrator Traci Cox and City Attorney Jon Gold were also present.

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

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the minutes of the October 8, October 10, and October 15, 2024 Council Meetings. Motion carried.

Mayor Rife presented proclamations for the workers of CW&EP for volunteering to help in the hurricane recovery in Louisiana and Florida. He also presented a proclamation to Julie Reams for all of the work that goes into planning and hosting the Maple Leaf Festival.

During Citizen's Participation, Julie Reams with the Chamber of Commerce, gave thanks for the Proclamation that was presented. She also wanted to give thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped put on the Maple Leaf events.

Ron Wells, 2026 S Maple, said he went to the Public Safety meeting about the speed on his street and the issue is being referred to the Public Works committee to help determine a solution. He also believes that the charter needs to be changed by people who are residents of Carthage.

Kathleen Gilpin, 100 E 4th St., spoke in favor of the citizens voting to keep Tiffany Cossey on the Council.

Ed Hardesty, 615 Euclid, mentioned the signatures that were collected to get the recall question on the ballot. It was learned that the signatures are public and some who have signed are being harassed about signing. He said that everyone has their right to free speech and that includes political speech.

Amy Anderson, Director of the Humane Society, spoke to the council about the humane society needing more funds because they are at a financial breaking point. They are also looking for a new board president. They need help and participating in fundraising efforts.

Deborah Ummel, 13696 County Road 110, spoke about a fire at her farm that the Carthage Fire Department responded to. She spoke about how they worked as a team and fought the fire like it was their own property. She also asked why the Council would not accept the appointment of Jason Martin as Fire Chief.

Tom Nixon, 2444 S County Lane 124, spoke on previous firefighters he had to discipline for stealing items by giving them the choice to resign or be terminated. He said Ms. Cossey should be held to the same standards as employees are for taking recall signs.

Patrick Scott, owns business at 2443 Fairlawn Ave, he asked that everyone start working together to heal the divide in the city. He asked for Bill Scheerer and Kirk Friesen to meet and talk about their differences. He thanked the council members for serving.

Karen Trotter, 615 Euclid, brought up the meeting that Patrick Scott would like to have and said that Ms. Leece asked for that to happen a long time ago. The Council are the ones who need to talk, not other citizens. She states that some of the council members have tried to talk and have been shut down.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met on October 14 at 5:30. The committee discussed the ARPA funds and the funds need to be spent or obligated by December 31. Ms. Cox talked about transferring some of the projects to the ARPA fund and some money transferred to other accounts to comply with the federal guidelines. Sales tax and Use tax numbers were down, the marijuana tax was up almost a 75% increase. The committee also approved a budget adjustment for the I-49 roundabout for \$95,000. This will take the closure of the road down from 8 weeks to just 1 week for that project. There will be an adjustment and approval at the next meeting. Council Bill 24-52 is on the agenda which is the council bill for the adjustments that have already been approved. The next meeting is scheduled for November 11 at 5:30.

Ms. Cossey reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. The committee discussed the Peachtree CID, which is on the council agenda later in the evening. The next meeting is schedule for November 12 at 5:30.

Mr. Heckmaster reported that the Public Safety Committee met October 21 at 5:30. The committee heard from Ronnie and Regina Wells about the speeding on their street. There were many options discussed to resolve the issue. G&R Carriage rides are requesting to do their carriage rides for the holiday season again. They are not asking for any type of closures. Mark Sponaule shared plans of the Christmas parade on December 2. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the following road closures from 5-8 pm on December 2 Chestnut and Main, one block east of Grant Street, and one block west of Lyon Street, south from Main Street to 11th Street east and west to Grant Street to Lyon Street, including the intersections of 9th and 10th Streets. He also requested to close and vacate the Carthage Square, both inside and outside the square. Motion carried. The committee also discussed traffic concerns during school pick up at Fairview School, Dr. Goodnight and Chief Hawkins are working to resolve the issue. She also reported on a meeting with the humane

society and what can be done. Acting Fire Chief Jason Martin reported on equipment and the new brush truck. The next meeting is November 18 at 5:30.

Ms. Cossey reported the Public Services Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is November 19 at 5:30. They are working on having a special meeting due to a grant proposal deadline.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5 at 5:30.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Ms. Leece for the Carthage Humane Society, Mr. Peterson reported there will be no October meeting for the Kellogg Lake Board, Ms. Schramm reported for CW&EP.

Mayor Rife reported on attending the recent CEDC meeting and being in the Maple Leaf parade.

During Remarks from Council Members, thanks for the CW&EP workers and the Chamber and other city departments were extending by all for the hurricane help and Maple Leaf events. Mr. Taylor asked those who sit in chairs along the parade route to pick up their trash and not leave it on the ground. Ms. Leece addressed Patrick Scott's comments and said that there are a lot of double standards and that people have had rude comments towards her husband. Ms. Heckmaster was saddened by what Ms. Leece reported, she also agreed with Mr. Taylor in asking people to pick up their trash. Mr. Snow was unable to attend the Maple Leaf events due to being out of town. Mr. Barlow says he is doing what he can to do what is right and help the city heal. Ms. Cossey agreed that the unkind comments need to stop and be civil. She also wanted to ask Ms. Anderson what dollar amount the humane society needs to stay in operation. She asked the Mayor about the City Administrator hiring meeting he said he would set up. Mayor Rife said he is putting a hold on it until after the impeachment. Only one person applied for the Tourism position and that is unusual. She also asked if he invited Mr. Dally to address the red flags regarding CW&EP, Mr. Dally was unable to attend the night's meeting. She also mentioned the election that has the recall question for herself on the ballot. Ms. Schramm reported on the various events she has attended the last few weeks. She also reviewed the CW&EP timeline. "CWEP City Timeline: After the last Council Meeting on Oct 8th, the mayor stated he had a timeline that was a little different from the one from CWEP. I requested that timeline and in it I found a few differences.

There were 2 communications omitted from the Mayor's timeline that are included in the CWEP Timeline:

1. With CWEP board member Danny Lambeth and Mayor Dan Rife on May 17, 2023 with Mr. Lambeth following up on the meeting with Chuck Bryant and Mayor Rife to review the compensation process. The email states, "I am pleased that now you and our CWEP Board Liaison, Mr. Snow, have a much better understanding of our process." And the mayor's response thanking Mr. Lambeth.
2. An email between Chuck Bryant and Dan Rife setting up a meeting with the two of them on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, there was a reference that stated a meeting on May 3, 2023. This may be because for some reason it was not on the mayor's city email address, but his personal account.
3. The third item was strange to find in the packet from the city. It is an email from Michael Keith, dated April 9, 2024 sent to Greg Dagnan with the subject BROADVIEW INVESTMENT CLUB III. In the email it lists the members of the investment club.

**amended at the 11-26-24 council meeting to add highlighted portion.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins reported that Maple Leaf was a success, there were a few mishaps but nothing serious. He also revisited Ms. Heckmaster's comments about the speeding issue from public safety and said it was going to be worked on with Public Works.

Interim Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that there were 539 paid participants at the pancake feed, kids 5 and under ate for free. He thanked his guys and Morgan Housh for waking up early to put on the feed. He reported that he has received one resignation from one of his workers. He also thanked Steve Barnett who brought up the 1939 Mack fire truck that was in the parade. He also said the touch a truck event was a great success.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that she was under the weather and did not attend Maple Leaf, but Julie did a great job with it.

Interim City Administrator Traci Cox reported that Maple Leaf was a success and that Julie works hard at growing the events every year and she thanked all the employees that helped out. She reported on the meeting with the humane society and explained that the money for them comes out of Public Health, but so does the code enforcement and landfill fees so if funding was increased out of public health, the fund would not be sustainable. There needs to be a solution figured out to get them more money by using the General Fund. Payroll is their biggest expense, all of their dog food is donated by Blue Buffalo, but they are in need of cat food. She encouraged donations from all. She touched on the comments from Patrick Scott and working together and says that she has been trying to work together with everyone and that the employees already work great with one another.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$2,414,871.22 against the following funds: General Revenue \$121,074.58, Public Health \$163,530.06, Lodging \$2,500.00, Parks/Stormwater \$27,835.12, Fire Protection \$30,653.38, Golf \$19,011.85, Capital Improvements \$4,830.31, Parks and Recreation \$7.67, Myers Park \$4,010.50, Use Tax \$108,682.25, Public Facilities \$695,978.48, Payroll \$236,757.02, and Carthage Water and Electric \$1,000,000.00. Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 24-51 -- An Ordinance accepting the final plat of the Urban Living Subdivision generally located South of Wendy Lane and West River Street, in the City of Carthage, Missouri, as requested by Building Carthage LLC was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Snow, Barlow, Cossey, and Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-51.

Consider and discuss a date for a council work session. Ms. Cossey asked for dates to propose for the joint meeting with CW&EP. Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster to propose November 14 and November 21 at 6 pm as potential dates for a joint meeting. Motion carried.

Under New Business, C.B. 24-52 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for specified funds (General Fund, Golf Fund, and Use Tax Fund) was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Discuss Peachtree CID. Ms. Cossey stated that this was discussed at the Insurance Audit and Claims committee and that she would like to request the state for records showing the money

that was disbursed to the CID. There is an extra tax in the CID that is collected, paid to the CID and then the CID pays the City for reimbursement of the improvements in the Peachtree area. There have only been sporadic payments received and asked staff to look into the amount that should have been collected and figure out how much is still owed. She said she had asked the former City Administrator to do it and it didn't get far. Ms. Cox suggested getting the permission from the chair of the CID to be able to allow staff to get tax information from the state.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cossey, to table the Mayor's appointments until the November 12 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

During closing comments, Ms. Schramm thanked Julie and the Chamber board for all of their hard work in putting on the Maple Leaf Festival, she thanked all of those involved with the different events and said there was a great turnout for all of them. She also said that Ms. Cossey is an asset to the City. Mr. Peterson congratulated the high school football team on beating Webb City. Ms. Leece said Maple Leaf was wonderful and thanked all who attended the chicken pageant, Ms. Heckmaster said her favorite part of Maple Leaf was Jason Martin's son waving from the fire truck, she also expressed her appreciation for all city departments and for the CW&EP workers who volunteer after disasters. Mr. Snow was upset to have missed the events over the weekend.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM.