City of Carthage, Missouri
CITY COUNCIL

November 26, 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=Wg0X9jfqeBQ

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in Council Chambers at 06:30 PM with Mayor Alan Snow presiding.

Prior to the invocation and the pledge, Mayor Snow spoke to the council and those in attendance about the decorum of the council meetings and how he will be running the meetings. He asked that citizens keep their comments related to city business. There will be a council bill at a later date for council decorum.

Interim Fire Chief Jason Martin gave the invocation. Police Captain Chad Dininger led the flag salute.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Interim City Administrator Traci Cox and City Attorney Jon Gold were also present.

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

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm to amend the minutes of October 31, to remove what appears to be a typo where it talks about Dan Rife being impeached and removed from office. The sentence reads "…Dan Rife was no impeached and removed from office" he requested that the "no" be removed. Motion carried

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson to amend the October 22 minutes to include all of Ms. Schramm's statement regarding the CWEP 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.

Motion to add this to the minutes from October 22, carried.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to approve the amended minutes of the October 22 and October 31, 2024 Council Meetings. Motion carried.

During Citizen's Participation, Misty White with Feeding Inc. thanked Ms. Schramm and all of those who helped with the recent Feeding Inc 5K.

Sally Stuart with Vision Carthage introduced herself as the new Co-Director and also mentioned that Kate Kelly was the other Co-Director. Her goal with Vision Carthage is to work together and not duplicate projects or roles with other organizations. She reviewed the City contract and then reviewed all the projects that Vision has done over the past year. She also highlighted the upcoming Candy Cane Hunt in Central Park and the Casino night in February that is a huge fundraiser for Vision Carthage.

Shawna Myers, leader of the local Girl Scout Troop, was present to ask for permission to pull a trailer with girl scouts on it from the Way of Salvation Lights back to the Methodist Church by the square. Captain Dininger said he didn't see any issues with it as long as there was proper lighting on the trailer. She was also told that she did not have to seek approval for this every year.

Holly Williams, 1739 S Baker Blvd, spoke on her complaints about the church located next door to her and the noise they are causing. Mayor Snow said that there isn't much t he City can do if they aren't violating the noise ordinance. He also asked Attorney Gold if there was anything that could be done. Mayor Snow said that there could be a meeting with the Police Chief and Attorney Gold to discuss further options.

Ron Wells, 2026 S Maple, spoke to the council and Mayor Snow about calls being returned to citizens when they try to contact them. He expects a call back if he leaves a message for them. He also spoke on the number needed for a quorum for council meetings and believes that there only needs to be 4 present to have a meeting since there are 6 members of council at this time. Attorney Gold was asked how many it took and he stated that there are a total of 10 elected seats and whether or not they are filled, they need 6 to have a meeting since that is the total number.

Bill Scheerer, 422 E 13th St, asked Attorney Gold about the votes needed for the impeachment. Attorney Gold said that his opinion on the votes needed was 7, but he was not hired to represent the council during the impeachment process, that is what Paul Martin was hired for and Mr. Martin advised that they only needed 6.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for December 9 at 5:30.

Ms. Schramm reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. The next meeting is December 10 at 5:30.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings, but there is one item that needed to be addressed. The Run through the Lights event at the Way of Salvation lights is scheduled for December 16 and they have asked for some road closures for the race. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to close westbound Fairview traffic at Wynwood at 6 pm, eastbound Fairview traffic at Grand at 6 pm, eastbound Highland traffic at Grand at 6 pm, westbound Highland traffic at Clinton at 6 pm, the option to close grand from Highland to Fairview and close the lights to vehicular traffic at 6 pm and open to pedestrians at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.

Mr. Barlow reported the Public Services Committee met on November 19 and had many items on the agenda. The committee heard from Roxanne Willard with the Jasper County Youth Fair on projects they would like to do. Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to allow the Jasper County Youth Fair to do the following projects: install a 14x20 portable office building on an existing concrete pad near the beef barn, add gutters and leaf guards to the south side of the beef/hog barn to match the north side, write grants to fund new hog pens for the hog barn, and remove a dead tree near the exhibit building in Municipal Park. The Youth Fair will cover all costs and secure funding for the projects. Motion carried. The committee also heard from Jackie Boyer on the landscaping plan at Kellogg Lake. Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the landscape plan of planting 10 trees and various flowers and grasses in the spring, for the Kellogg Lake playground area. Motion carried. The golf course had a few items to be discussed, including trade agreements, this will be discussed at a later time after a policy has been drafted. Tyler Markham spoke to the committee on the invasive grasses at the golf course. He requested permission to apply for a grant with the Department of Conservation to help cover the costs of replacement. The bids for the golf chemicals were reviewed. Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve the bid from Advanced Turf Solutions in the amount of $50,040.08. Motion carried. The disc golf basket bids were reviewed, Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster to approve the bid from Dynamic Disc in the amount of $15,900.00 for the purchase of the disc baskets. Motion carried. The bids for bleachers in the parks was reviewed, Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve the bid for bleachers from Bulte Company for the amount of $7,444.50 per set of bleachers. Motion carried. The committee discussed the cost share grant that appears in Resolution 2061. They also discussed the fencing contract in Council Bill 24-56. They reviewed the bids for scoreboard at Fair Acres. Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to approve the sourcewell bid from Nevco for 4 scoreboards in the amount of $17,376.55. Motion carried. The committee discussed plans from Zanevan for concession stand upgrades at Fair Acres, RFP's will be sent out for this. Bids for lighting at the new playgrounds were discussed. The bid is only for the lights and does not include labor. Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to accept the bid from Wesco, for 19 new lights in the amount of $66,410.36. Motion carried. There was a donation from the Boylan foundation that appears in Resolution 2060. The next meeting is scheduled for December 17 at 5:30.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for December 3 at 5:30.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Ms. Heckmaster for the Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation Commission, Ms. Leece for the CWEP Board and Humane Society, and Mr. Barlow for the Public Library Board.

Mayor Snow asked that the Council Members refrain from directly contacting Attorney Gold and go through him and Ms. Cox first. This will help cut down on the monthly bill and Attorney Gold from answering the same questions for multiple people. He also said that the Council ahs the authority to talk to department heads about citizen issues, but they cannot direct them to do something. He mentioned that every complaint that comes in can't always be resolved. He would like to see all council bills go to appropriate committees before coming to the council so that way it is able to have questions asked and answered prior to council meetings. He also formed a salary study committee to review the results of the study, this committee is made up of Ms. Leece, Ms. Schramm, Ms. Cox, and Michael Miller. There is also a City Administrator hiring committee made up of Ms. Leece, Ms. Schramm, Ms. Heckmaster, and Michael Miller. He also reported on meetings with potential appointees for the vacant council positions. He wants to work at gaining trust back with the citizens. He also asked for a motion to amend the agenda to move up the election of Mayor Pro Tem to be after the approval of the election results. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to amend the agenda to move the election of Mayor Pro Tem up to be item number 2 under New Business. Motion carried.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Peterson commended CW&EP for Sparkle in the Park, Ms. Leece said she had attended one meeting of the customer academy that CW&EP did and said she learned a lot. She also expressed her gratitude for all city employees, no matter what departments they work for. Ms. Heckmaster thanked the street department for leaf pickup, and thanked CW&EP and the Parks department for Sparkle in the Park. Mr. Barlow echoed the thanks given by the others. Ms. Schramm recapped recent tours of city departments and other meetings she had been to over the last month.

Interim Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that the new fire engine has equipment that is backordered, the engine that had the emergency repairs will become a reserve truck, the brush truck is still in Indiana, and the FD radios are being upgraded to the moschwin radios. They have also done interviews to fill the vacancies at the department, they will be participating in the Cookies with Santa at Mercy Carthage on December 5, Butterball donated a TV to Station 2, and the FD will be driving Santa at the end of the Christmas parade.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the Lime scooters have been picked up, staff has been working at Central Park lately, Griggs Park playground will have a ribbon cutting on December 3, the Candy Cane Hunt with Vision Carthage will be at Central Park on December 9.

Mayor Snow said that he has asked the department heads to share the work of employees or bring them to committee meetings to talk about all the good that is happening throughout the city.

Interim City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the City received the invitation to the CRM dinner, so she asked council members to watch for that email. She also said that the committee meetings haven't been happening lately but that there is still a lot of progress going on. She reported on the tourism position and the future creation of a steering committee. She also reported on her recent attendance at a MoDOT Southwest district meetings to discuss projects in our area. The Carthage projects were the HH and Chapel intersection, I-49 and Garrison at the south fire station, and 571 and HH where Walgreens is. The HH and Chapel intersection would be a roundabout and it is currently ranked 9th on the priority list so it will be forwarded to the State. She also met with Sally from Vision Carthage to discuss the future projects and changes with Vision Carthage.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $3,291,193.54 against the following funds: General Revenue $280,498.11, Public Health $16,429.41, Lodging $3,464.86, Parks/Stormwater $63,400.12, Fire Protection $5,141.46, Golf $25,644.88, Capital Improvements $30,035.10, Parks and Recreation $8.78, Myers Park $9,191.00, Use Tax $69,703.21, Public Facilities $49,004.27, Public Library $65,000.00, Payroll $673,672.34, and Carthage Water and Electric $2,000,000.00. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-52.

Under New Business, approval of the election results. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to approve the certified election results from the County Clerk. Motion carried.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to nominate Ms. Heckmaster as Mayor Pro Tem. There were no other nominations, Ms. Heckmaster was elected Mayor Pro Tem by a vote of 4 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstain. Ayes: Peterson, Leece, Barlow, Schramm. Nays: Taylor. Abstain: Heckmaster

C.B. 24-53 -- An Emergency Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to apply for federal financial assistance on behalf of the City of Carthage and to execute any contract(s) resulting from such application for any grants between the City of Carthage and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission providing for capital, operating, and/or marketing assistance, comprised of federal funds to be expended for Commission-approved transit projects was placed on first reading.

Ms. Leece made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to forward C.B. 24-53 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried unanimously.

C.B. 24-53 -- An Emergency Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to apply for federal financial assistance on behalf of the City of Carthage and to execute any contract(s) resulting from such application for any grants between the City of Carthage and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission providing for capital, operating, and/or marketing assistance, comprised of federal funds to be expended for Commission-approved transit projects was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-53.

C.B. 24-54 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with JH Sign Designs, LLC of Joplin, Missouri, for the South Economic Development Park Billboard Sign in the amount of $20,548.00, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 24-56 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with MW Fence Co LLC, of Joplin, Missouri, for a one-year contract for various fencing projects for the Carthage

Parks and Recreation Department, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2057 -- A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Carthage granting an administrative lot split for property located at 2740 Grand Ave between County of Jasper and Arvest Bank, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2057 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve Resolution 2059 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Fire Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2059 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

Ms. Leece made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2060 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Parks and Recreation Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2060 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2061 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to accept a Community Forestry Cost Share Grant from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Resolution 2061 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

During closing comments, Ms. Schramm reviewed other meetings she had attended including meeting with Jonathan Roberts with the YMCA, attending the Jasper County Cemetery Preservation meeting, the Crosslines banquet, and the color run for Feeding Inc. She also gave the number of trick or treaters that went by her house on Halloween and thanked Mayor Snow for running a smooth meeting. Mr. Taylor wished everyone safe travels over the holiday, Mr. Peterson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Mr. Barlow said that it is good to give thanks.

Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to close the meeting 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 followed by a roll call vote of 5 yeas and 1 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Nays: Lori Leece. Motion carried.

Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, 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 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried at 8:09 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 10:10 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:16 PM.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
November 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 Alan Snow presiding.

Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to close the meeting 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 followed by a roll call vote of 5 yeas and 1 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Nays: Lori Leece. Motion carried.

Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, 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 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried at 8:09 p.m.

There was a short recess before the closed session started. Council went into closed session at 8:24 p.m.

The following Council Members answered roll call Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm.

City Attorney Jon Gold, Interim City Administrator Traci Cox, and City Clerk Miranda Deal were also present.

Attorney Gold updated the council on current legal issues. No action was taken.

At 9:27 p.m., Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, Golf Operations Supervisor Tyler Markham and Alyssa Hess joined the meeting to discuss a real estate opportunity. No action was taken.

Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 10:10 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Deal
City Clerk