

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

December 10, 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=NtvFMAWIP0E>

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in Council Chambers at 06:30 PM with Mayor Alan Snow 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 via Zoom conferencing, 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 Chief Bill Hawkins, Interim Fire Chief Jason Martin, Parks & Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, IT Administrator Michael Keith, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Ms. Heckmaster, made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2024 Council Meeting. Motion carried

Prior to Citizen's Participation, Dan Rife called a point of order and addressed Mayor Snow and the council. He stated that he believes the impeachment process and the results are invalid and illegal and therefore believes that he remains as Mayor. He stated he was present and willing and able to resume the seat and his duties with the gavel. Mayor Snow said that there was a hearing coming up on Friday to determine the results of the impeachment and said he was not willing to give up his seat. Dan Rife stated that the City's own attorney is in agreement that the council did not have enough votes to make the impeachment valid or legal.

During Citizen's Participation, Georgeann Dinger, 1321 Hazel Ave, spoke about an incident with the Animal Control Officer that happened the week prior. She also asked that the dog tie out ordinance be revised to allow for a small amount of time out on a lead. She is unable to be outside in certain temperatures and would like to be able to put her dog out on a lead for a small portion of time. She also spoke on behalf of Donna Platko who was unable to be at the meeting. She handed out pictures of other dogs that are always tied out and nothing has been done about it.

Bill Scheerer, 422 E 13th St, asked the Mayor if he took an Oath to uphold the laws of the state of Missouri, he answered yes, and Mr. Scheerer asked why he wasn't allowing Dan Rife to take back his seat and that Dan has every right to demand his seat back.

Bill Putnam, 624 Belle Air, was in attendance on behalf of the Steadley Trust to clear up some rumors that had been on Facebook and to give a little history on the trust and what they do.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met on December 9 and discussed a budget adjustment in Resolution 2062. They also discussed a network host project for IT, the City's cost will be \$42,000 and the remainder of the \$155,663.90 will be covered by a grant. She also reported that when Michael Keith took over the City's IT department, the City was not up to industry standards and now we are. The next meeting is January 13 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 January 14 at 5:30.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for December 16 at 5:30.

Mr. Barlow reported the Public Services Committee is between meetings and the next meeting is scheduled for December 17 at 5:30.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Public Works Committee met on December 3 and discussed Council Bills 24-57 and 24-58. They also discussed the stop sign on Main and Southside and Maple and Southside. Mr. Carney reported that there is not enough traffic for a 4 way stop and it would have been illegal for us to put stop signs at those intersections. He also reported that Wyatt Hettinger with the Public Works office will be transferring over to the Police Department. They discussed the Missouri Regional Bridge Program and there is a grant opportunity that the committee will be forwarding to council at a later date. He also reported that the street department is working on leaf pickup and that there is much more than last year. The next meeting will be January 7.

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

Mayor Snow reported that the next council meeting falls on Christmas Eve. Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster to cancel the December 24 Council meeting. Motion carried.

During Remarks from Council Members, Ms. Schramm reported on the work on the Tourism position and the creation of a Tourism steering committee, and her participation in the salary study committee meetings. She also reported on attending the Jasper County Commissioners meeting, the Public Administration offices Christmas tree tags for gifts for those in need and the Sheriff's office Shop with a Deputy program. Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Christmas parade was excellent and she commended Meagan Milliken with CW&EP on being recognized as one of the 20 under 40 honorees from the Joplin Globe. Ms. Leece wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked all of the City departments for their hard work, and reported on her attendance at the salary study committee meeting. Mr. Peterson apologized for not being in person and thanked Mr. Keith and Ms. Deal for their hard work in getting him set up to attend virtually. Mr. Taylor thanked CW&EP for Sparkle in the Park and that his granddaughters loved it.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins asked Georgeann to get with him about the issues she addressed. He also mentioned the Humane Society and that Amy who was filling in as Director, is not longer there. He also mentioned the Laverne Williams Christmas Party that is scheduled for December 21.

Interim Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that the temperatures have been too cold to do the washing and push in of the new engine, so they will do one when the weather warms up. The new fire engine will be put in service that evening after some equipment has been installed. He also mentioned that he and Fire Marshal Eli Maples were currently attending the Emergency Management Conference in Branson and has gotten some good ideas to bring back to Carthage. He then asked to be excused from the remainder of the meeting to travel back to Branson.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that there was the final parks playground ribbon cutting at Griggs Park. She thanked the MBH Trust again for their generosity to help get new playgrounds and restrooms at all of the parks. She also reported that the Candy Cane Hunt in Central Park with Vision Carthage was successful and that there were many kids in attendance.

Interim City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the use tax was down a little for the month in the amount of \$140,787.53 and that it has been in effect for 3 years. Over the 3 years, it brought in over three million dollars and that the tax was split between the Parks, Public Works, and Police and Fire, so they have been given their amounts to spend on projects they would like at their departments. The sales tax was up 3.3%. She also reported that there is a bid for a farm lease out right now and that it is for the land at the South Economic Development park. There was a previous agreement with a farmer and the Butcher's and that the City bid it out before continuing with that person. Someone has accepted the Tourism position, but they cannot start until after the first of the year. Their name has not been released yet. City Hall had a Christmas Parade Float this year and she thanked Dene from the City Hall staff for all of her hard work and creativity in creating the float. She also reported that the Chamber has started an Ambassador program for the local businesses and that she is serving as an Ambassador.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$3,623,406.58, against the following funds: General Revenue \$139,311.61, Public Health \$318,724.21, Lodging \$1,838.20, Civic Enhancement \$500.00, Parks/Stormwater \$58,226.54, Fire Protection \$843.82, Golf \$2,395.58, Capital Improvements \$6,840.86, Myers Park \$4,451.00, Use Tax \$7,990.21, Public Facilities \$162,610.93, Public Library \$80,000.00, Payroll \$339,673.62, and Carthage Water and Electric \$2,500,000.00. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

The City of Carthage held a public hearing regarding a grant of tax abatement for construction of a new production facility and cold storage building for the storage and handling of raw materials and ingredients used in the production process for finished goods at 2499 Hazel Ave. in the City (the "Project") The Project is wholly within the Jasper County/Carthage Enhanced Enterprise Zone. The City is considering granting real property tax abatement for the Project pursuant to Sections 135.950 to 135.973 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, as amended. Jeff Meredith, the Economic Development Director, gave a presentation on what this project will bring to the City of Carthage. There were questions from citizens relating to the housing that will be needed for the new jobs. Mr. Meredith said that the housing study will be done in January and he will then work to convince developers to build in Carthage since Schreiber has chosen to expand in Carthage it is bringing many new jobs. There were also questions on the requirements for what people need to have in order to get hired on at Schreiber. Mr. Meredith explained that Schreiber requires a GED and that there are other factors that determine who

they hire. The public hearing was then closed after no further questions or concerns were voiced.

Under Old Business, 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-54.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-55.

Under new business, C.B. 24-55 -- An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing tax abatement for a project located in the Carthage-Jasper County Enhanced Enterprise Zone to be undertaken by Schreiber Foods, Inc was placed on first reading.

Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to forward Council Bill 24-55 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 24-55 -- An Emergency Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing tax abatement for a project located in the Carthage-Jasper County Enhanced Enterprise Zone to be undertaken by Schreiber Foods, Inc. was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-56.

C.B. 24-57 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Sprouls Construction, Inc. for the Governor's Transportation Cost Share, Airport Drive and Hazel Avenue Roadway Improvements Project in the amount of \$1,098,449.10, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to forward Council bill 24-57 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 24-57 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Sprouls Construction, Inc. for the Governor's Transportation Cost Share, Airport Drive and Hazel Avenue Roadway Improvements Project in the amount of \$1,098,449.10, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-57.

C.B. 24-58 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Hessling Construction, Inc., of Dexter, Missouri, for the Downtown Square Sidewalks and

Streetscaping Restoration Project in the amount of \$840,406.75, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading.

Ms. Leece made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to forward Council bill 24-58 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 24-58 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Hessling Construction, Inc., of Dexter, Missouri, for the Downtown Square Sidewalks and Streetscaping Restoration Project in the amount of \$840,406.75, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 24-58.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to approve Resolution 2062 -- A Resolution authorizing a supplemental budget adjustment to the General Revenue Fund for Parks and Recreation Travel and Training and for Parks and Recreation Capital Outlay for Ash Tree removal and replacement, and to the Public Facilities Bond Fund for a change order to move the exit ramp at the I-49 Interchange, for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Resolution 2062 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to approve Resolution 2063 -- A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri supporting an application by Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc., for Missouri Housing Development Commission funding for low income housing tax credits and tax-exempt mortgage financing for renovations to Highland Acres and Meadows Apartments. Resolution 2063 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. Taylor, to approve Resolution 2064 -- A Resolution authorizing a special use permit for the sale of liquor by the drink pursuant to section 25-251 (18), and to allow for the placement of an exterior sign at 910 S. Garrison Ave, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2064 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. Heckmaster wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Mr. Barlow told everyone about church services for Christmas. He also reminded everyone that this is a stressful time of year for some. Ms. Schramm thanked Mr. Meredith and Stephanie Howard for their work in getting the Schreiber project in Carthage and thanked Schreiber for choosing Carthage for their expansion. She also reported that she attended the Holiday Homes tour that the Carthage Historic Preservation puts on and thanked everyone who opened their home and helped with the event. She also thanked CW&EP for Sparkle in the Park. She also mentioned that Julie Reams with the Chamber has been working hard at getting people to shop local and she is promoting holiday business shopping. Mr. Peterson again thanked Mr. Keith and Ms. Deal for helping him get set up virtually and thanked Schreiber for choosing Carthage.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, 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.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, 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 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried at 7:48 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 9:09 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 Mr. Taylor, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
December 10, 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.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, 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.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, 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 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried at 7:48 p.m.

There was a short recess before the closed session started. Council went into closed session at 8:00 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. Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, Golf Operations Supervisor Tyler Markham and Alyssa Hess joined the first part of the closed session to discuss a real estate opportunity.

They left the session at 8:10 p.m.

The Mayor updated the Council on real estate matters.

They returned to closed session at 8:25 p.m.

They left again at 8:35 p.m.

Attorney Gold updated the Council on legal matters.

Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 9:09 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

DRAFT