

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

February 25, 2025 - 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=zohRoz-9yIM>

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in Council Chambers at 6:30 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, Ray West, 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, IT Administrator Michael Keith, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2025 Council meeting. Motion carried

During Public Comments, Joel Terry, 2219 Alison, asked questions regarding a stoplight at River and Fir, the railroads and plans to fix them, the park bathrooms being vandalized, and Kellogg Lake issues.

Ron Wells, 2026 S Maple, stated he was running for ward 5 council member and discussed some of the things he would want to address if elected.

Renae Minshew, Carthage Humane Society, reviewed things that have been done out at the shelter the last few months and discussed future fundraisers that will benefit the shelter.

Kate Gilpin, 100 E. 4th, stated she is running for ward 1 council member and also discussed some of the things she wants to address if elected.

Bill Scheerer, 423 E 13th St, stated that closed session discussion should stay in closed session and should not be discussed outside of there. He also thinks people shouldn't be attacking certain council members for how they vote.

Ed Hardesty, 615 Euclid, spoke in favor of Council Bill 25-06 for the Police Officers. He also wants the animosity and ridiculousness to stop and for people to treat each other with respect and make the employees feel comfortable and cared for.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is March 10th 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 March 11th at 5:30.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Public Safety Committee met on February 24th. They discussed the updated agreement for Council Bill 25-06, there was some clarification that was needed in one section. They also discussed adding the Lunar New Year to the exceptions list for fireworks in Council Bill 25-09, there needs to be more research done into this and it will be tabled this evening. The committee heard from Interim Chief Martin on a ladder truck that is available and cheaper than the projected budget amount that was in FY 2027. The committee also heard detailed information about the Police and Fire Department 5-year capital requests. The next meeting will be on March 17th at 5:30.

Mr. Barlow reported the Public Services Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is February 27th at 5:30.

Mr. Taylor reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is March 4th at 5:30.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Ms. Schramm for the Jasper County Commission, Ms. Leece for CW&EP, Mr. Peterson reported the February Kellogg Lake Board meeting was cancelled.

Mayor Snow thanked all the staff involved in getting the snow cleared in last weeks storm. He wished Mr. Carney a happy belated birthday. He met with employees at the Police Department and the Fraternal Order of Police representative, the officers are very happy right now and have no requests at this time. There were some other items discussed that they would like to have implemented and are common in other agreements across Missouri. These will be developed and presented at a later time. He also reported on meetings with the Humane Society.

During Remarks from Council Members, there was thanks extended from many for all those who worked in the snow and cold weather, Mr. West thanked the public for all of their comments, Ms. Leece wanted to thank the Police Department for their hard work in the shooting incident that happened last week, Ms. Heckmaster wanted to thank Officer Haddock who was in a wreck during the snow storm and he got checked out and returned to work to finish his shift, Ms. Schramm thanked Chief Hawkins for personally taking care of a dog at large issue.

Mr. Snow also reported that the work on the sidewalks around the square is starting this week and that they will be doing their best to keep business disruption to a minimum.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins thanked everyone for the kind words towards his department and that the suspect in the shooting incident was found within 12 hours and is currently in custody.

Interim Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that he has been working on his departments budget, they had lots of calls on Monday and it was a new hires first day and they got to experience all of it. He also addressed the fire that happened outside of town during the cold temperatures. It was reported that there was equipment failures and he wanted to clarify that it wasn't Carthage

equipment. There were no hydrants where the house was located and so other agencies provided mutual aid and brought in water, but there were parts on those trucks that were frozen and water was not able to be released, so the structure was unable to be saved.

Interim City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the goal for the downtown sidewalk project is to be done by June 30 so the project doesn't have to be carried over into the next fiscal year. She also reported that a \$1,000,000.00 CD was being moved to Guaranty Bank for 12 months with a rate of 4.87%. She thanked Renae for the updates at the Humane Society and said that she would be taking a tour of the facility on Wednesday. She also reported that there was a committee formed almost two years ago to review the Ordinances relating to Carthage Water and Electric and how some of them need to be updated. One of them deals with financial reports and how they are to be prepared, and the other is to look at extending board member terms to 6 years rather than 4 so there is plenty of time to learn the process of the utility and understand it and be able to apply that knowledge to making decisions. She also reported that the first meeting of the Tourism Board would be Wednesday at 10 am.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$3,144,386.95 against the following funds: General Revenue \$88,736.67, Public Health \$158,694.70, Lodging \$772.60, Parks/Stormwater \$8,196.00, Fire Protection (\$187.41), Golf \$37,563.81, Capital Improvements \$4,005.17, Parks and Recreation \$244.89, Myers Park \$3,834.00, Use Tax \$17,376.55, Public Facilities \$7,047.94, Library \$15,000.00, Payroll \$303,102.03, and Carthage Water and Electric \$2,500,000.00. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business C.B. 25-07 -- An Ordinance waiving the buyback option stated in Corporation Warranty Deed recorded with the Jasper County Recorder's office in book 2670 page 0149 on January 19, 2023, for all of Lot Number Two (2), Block Number Three (3), in Myers Park Subdivision, Plat Number Four (4), 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, West, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-06.

C.B. 25-08 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for Specified Funds (General Fund, Use Tax Fund, and Public Facilities Bond Fund) was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-07.

Under New Business, C.B. 25-06 -- An Ordinance authorizing and adopting provisions for collective bargaining with law enforcement personnel was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-09 -- An Ordinance to amend Chapter 10, Article I, Section 10-4 of the Carthage City Code to add Lunar New Year as an exception to Section 10-3 was placed on first reading.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to table this Council Bill until research could be done and presented to the Public Safety Committee at their March meeting. Motion carried.

During closing comments, Ms. Schramm addressed Mr. Scheerer's comments about closed session details being released and assuming it was her and her sister. She said he was incorrect about it being her and that she keeps closed session details to herself. She also addressed Mr. Hardesty and some of the things he has said about her.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, 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 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to close the meeting according to section 610.021 (3), the agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded, followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Nay: Lori Leece. Motion carried and Council entered closed session at 7:28 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting 9:10 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried.

Mr. Taylor made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
February 25, 2025**

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. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, 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 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to close the meeting according to section 610.021 (3), the agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by a public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded, followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Nay: Lori Leece. Motion carried and Council entered closed session at 7:28 p.m.

There was a short recess before the closed session started. Council went into closed session at 7:37 p.m.

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

Attorney Jon Gold, Interim City Administrator Traci Cox, City Clerk Miranda Deal were also present. MPR Attorney Matt Gist joined via telephone.

Attorney Gold and Gist updated the council on legal matters.

HR Coordinator Michael Miller joined the closed session at 8:07 p.m.

The Council discussed personnel issues.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 9:10 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Chris Taylor, Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Miranda Deal
City Clerk