City of Carthage, Missouri
CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 11, 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=xQbmmuAMroM

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: Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Chris Taylor was absent. 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 and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, and IT Administrator Michael Keith.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2025 Council meeting and closed session. Motion carried

During Public Comments, Chuck Bryant, CW&EP President, discussed the recent power outages in Carthage, and the work CW&EP does in conjunction with the SPA to keep power on in Carthage. He also explained how certain events lead to triggering a safety shutdown to the grid.

Misty White, 1649 S. Garrison, discussed the appointment of Jason Martin as Fire Chief, stating she feels his non-appointment was politically motivated. She expressed her wish that Mr. Martin would be appointed, as she feels he is the right candidate for the position.

Patrick Scott, 505 Count Road 75, discussed his concerns relating to the address reported on council candidacy paperwork by Ward 4 candidate, T.J. Teed. He is unsure where Mr. Teed legally resides and questions his eligibility to run for council in Ward 4.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met on Match 10th. She reported Interim Fire Chief Jason Martin has found a fire truck the department wishes to purchase. The truck is at Banner Fire Equipment, who would like a letter of intent to purchase. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to provide a letter of intent to purchase to Banner Fire Equipment. Motion carried. The cost of the truck is $1,187,602.00. Interim Chief Martin estimates the additional equipment needed for the truck will come in $50,000 - $100,000 below what has been budgeted. The committee also discussed door access security at Public Works and the Street Department, which is on the agenda as Council Bill 25-14. She also states the Carthage Police Department received a Law Enforcement Sales

Tax (LEST) grant in the amount of $23,991.55, on the agenda as Resolution 2077. They also discussed the Kellogg Lake Board request, on the agenda as Resolution 2078. This is a 50/50 grant, with the cost to the City being $65,937.25. Also discussed was a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which is on the agenda as Resolution 2081. This grant supplies $22,500.00 toward PZHP design guidelines, with the City's portion coming in at $15,000.00. The next meeting will be on April 14th 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 will be on March 25th at 5:30.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting will be on March 17th at 5:30.

Mr. Barlow reported the Public Services Committee met on February 27th. Discussed was the YMCA Spring youth soccer field usage which is on the agenda at C.B 25-13. Also discussed was the request from the Kellogg Lake Board requesting funds in the amount of $65,937.25, which was forwarded to the Budget Committee. They discussed the Carthage Youth Softball contract, which is on the agenda as C.B. 25-11. Discussion of the Tropix Tropical Sno trailer being allowed to operate in the parks beyond the time allowed by the City Charter. Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to allow the Tropix Tropical Sno trailer to access the parks at the times outlined in the packet. Motion carried. Also discussed was the Lightspeed point of sale system for Golf Course, on the agenda as C.B. 25-10. The Little League contract for field usage for the Spring season was also discussed and is on the agenda as C.B. 25-12. Last discussed was the capital budget that was submitted. The next meeting will be on March 27th at 5:30.

Mr. Barlow reported the Public Works committee did not meet due to lack of business. The next meeting will be on April 1st at 5:30.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Ms. Schramm for Vision Carthage, the Tourism Steering Committee, the Jasper County Commissioners, and the Harry S. Truman Coordinating Committee, Mr. Peterson for the Kellogg Lake Board, and Mr. Barlow for the Library Board.

Mayor Snow wishes to commend Detective Snow and patrol officers Lane, Criqui, Fallis, Tacket, and Ransom for their work during the March 4th shooting incident in Carthage, reporting they had two suspects in custody within 24 hours. He also reported on touring the Humane Society with Chief Hawkins, Ms. Cox and discussing a new contract with them. Also reported was the resignation of Public Works Director Zeb Carney, whose last day will be April 4, 2025.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Peterson discussed the appointment of Jason Martin to Fire Chief, stating his previous 'No' vote was not politically motivated, that he has full faith in Mr. Martin's ability and dedication, and will happily vote to appoint Mr. Martin tonight. He also expressed his opinion that Ms. Cox has done an exemplary job as interim City Administrator and will be happy to approve of her hiring when it comes before the Council. He stated he will explain in more detail the Kellog Lake Board request, Resolution 2078, later in the meeting. Ms. Leece expressed her concern about the newly opened roundabout, saying the arrows painted in one of the lanes are confusing and hopes this will be corrected. She also congratulated Carthage R-9 for their new baseball field and said there was a great turnout today for the field dedication. She also congratulated Interim Fire Chief Martin on the new fire truck. Mr. Snow spoke about the roundabout, saying the project has not been cleared as complete with the state, as there are items that need to be corrected before it is marked complete. The arrows Ms. Leece questioned are items on the list. Ms. Heckmaster echoed Mr. Peterson's comments about Mr. Martin, stating she will be happy to vote yes to approve his appointment t Fire Chief. She also said she will be happily voting to approve the hiring of Ms. Cox as City Administrator when that comes before the Council. She also said how happy she is that Carthage has the involvement with SBA for our electric needs. Mr. Barlow stated it is beyond time for Mr. Martin's appointment as Fire Chief and will happily vote yes tonight to approve his appointment. Ms. Schramm says she is also in support of the appointment of Mr. Martin to Fire Chie and she will also be voting yes tonight. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson to amend the agenda to add C.B. 25-16 – An ordinance to amend Section 2-316 of Chapter 2, Article 4, Division 2 of the Code of the City of Carthage, Missouri. Motion carried. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to amend the agenda to add C.B. 25-17 – An ordinance to amend section 2-328 of Chapter 2, Article 4, Division 2 of the Code of the City of Carthage, Missouri. Motion carried.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins reported on recent cases, including two shootings, and an arson case involving the parks bathrooms. He reports all suspects are in custody. He also reported on a child abuse case, and a recent murder within the city.

Interim Fire Chief Jason Martin thanked everyone for their kind words about his upcoming appointment. He says they have been working trying to find a new truck, and once a letter of intent is submitted, the fire department should be getting a new ladder truck. He also reported a new hire worked a recent call involving a young child, saying those calls are difficult for all involved but especially so on a new hire. He says he appreciates The Bridge and Jude Champagne for hosting a debrief of the event on Thursday morning for the fire personnel.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported about fires set in Central Park men's restroom, which has caused the closing of the men's and women's restrooms due to needed repairs. She said the restrooms will now be locked earlier due to daylight savings time and reports vandalism in other parks restrooms is down a little bit. She hopes the times can be moved closer to when the parks close, but that will depend on the trend of vandalism. She thanked the police for the time spent patrolling the parks to help deter vandals. She also reported fencing improvements at the Fair Acres ball fields.

Interim City Administrator Traci Cox thanked the council for the kind words spoken of her tonight. She reported sales tax revenue for the month of march came in 1% higher than March 2024. Sales tax is up 2.06% YTD, $47,642.00. The Use Tax is still down but has increased slightly. Use Tax for March came in at $127,878.00, 5.79% higher than March 2024. YTD Use Tax is $958,544.00. YTD property taxes are up approximately $11,000.00.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $933,618.40 against the following funds: General Revenue $264,521.47, Public Health $294.26, Lodging $5,520.21, Parks/Stormwater $59,628.21, Fire Protection $467.02), Golf $16,915.34, Myers Park $4,751.50, Use Tax $111,498.67, Public Facilities $18,077.71, Library $25,000.00, and Payroll $426,944.01. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 25-06 -- An Ordinance authorizing and adopting provisions for collective bargaining with law enforcement personnel was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Peterson, West, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-08.

Under New Business, C.B. 25-10 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Contract with Lightspeed Point of Sale for the Carthage Golf Course, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-11 –An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with Carthage Youth Softball League for non-exclusive use of the softball fields at the Fair Acres Sports Complex during the summer of 2025, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-12 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with Carthage Little League for non-exclusive use of the baseball fields at the Fair Acres Sports Complex during the summer of 2025, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-13 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with Fair Acres YMCA for non-exclusive use of the fields at the Fair Acres Sports
Complex for the YMCA's Spring Sports Program, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-14 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Total Electronics Contracting, Inc. for installing door access controls for security at the Public Works and Street Department buildings was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-15 -- An Ordinance authorizing the City of Carthage to enter into an Agreement with Traci Cox for the purpose of employing her as City Administrator for the City of Carthage, authorizing the Mayor to execute said Agreement by and on behalf of the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Consider and Discuss Aquatic Facility – Ms. Schramm stated funding had not been secured for over a year so the process needed be looked at again. She stated it needs to be determined if it’s the location and size needed and that’s why a board had been appointed. The board will go in and decide if a site study is needed or what amenities that it will entail to get the aquatic center built for the town. Ms. Cox added that the steering committee was initially formed to look at funding for the project, however the current design plans that were previously approved by Council is a $15,000,000.00 project and securing funding for that will be very difficult. There has been discussion on where the facility should be located, with previous Council voting and approving Municipal Park as the location. This will also be discussed by the steering committee. Ms. Leece urged citizens to give their opinions on the location of the aquatic park.

C.B. 25-16 – An ordinance to amend Section 2-316 of Chapter 2, Article 4, Division 2 of the Code of the City of Carthage, Missouri. Ms. Schramm explained this is to prevent to removal of the entire CW&EP board and sets up the precedent as to how many members can be appointed and their terms and is for the security of the CW&EP board. She also wanted to add under A. where the mayor, to eliminate potential conflicts, is to notify the CW&EP GM if candidates are delinquent in utility payments and adds standards that should be met by those on the CW&EP committee. She states there should be some vetting that goes into these people and knowledge of who's being appointed. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to amend Section A. of Section 2-316 of Chapter 2, Article 4, Division 2 of the Code of the City of Carthage, Missouri, to include "The mayor, to eliminate potential conflicts, is to notify the CW&EP GM if candidates are delinquent in utility payments and adds qualifications that should be met by those on the CW&EP committee." Motion carried.

C.B. 25-17 – An ordinance to amend section 2-328 of Chapter 2, Article 4, Division 2 of the Code of the City of Carthage, Missouri. Ms. Cox says this revision states the City will receive financial reports from CW&EP but not the list of expenditures that has previously been submitted. She says the amendment also states CW&EP must bring any contracts they enter to the Council.

During Mayor's Appointments, Mr. Barlow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Mayor's Appointment of Jason Martin as Fire Chief. Motion carried.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to approve Resolution 2077 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Police Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2077 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Peterson, West, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to approve Resolution 2078 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Kellogg Lake Board to submit a grant application to the Steadley Memorial Trust for the "Rearing Pond" Project, with the City of Carthage funding 50% of the project total. Resolution 2078 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Peterson, West, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to approve Resolution 2079 -- A Resolution approving the recommendation of the McCune-Brooks Regional Hospital Trust for the distribution of funds ($35,400.00) from the Restricted Trust Fund to the City of Carthage. Resolution 2079 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Peterson, West, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to approve Resolution 2080 -- A Resolution approving the recommendation of the McCune-Brooks Regional Hospital Trust for the distribution of funds ($100,000.00 per year for five years) from the Restricted Trust Fund to the Fair Acres Family Y. Resolution 2080 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Peterson, West, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to approve Resolution 2081 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for City of Carthage the development of design guidelines to protect the historic character of the City of Carthage. Resolution 2081 was adopted after a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Peterson, West, Leece, Heckmaster, Barlow, and Schramm.

During closing comments, Ms. Schramm said she went to the baseball fiend grand opening at McCune-Brooks Regional Hospital Stadium, thanking all who donated to make the stadium possible. Mr. Peterson congratulated Fire Chief Jason Martin on his new appointment. Ms. Leece also congratulated Chief Martin on his appointment. Ms. Heckmaster says the weather is beautiful now and encouraged all to go spend time at a local park. Mr. Barlow congratulated Chief Martin and thanked him for the grace and patience he showed through the long delay in his appointment.

Ms. Leece 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 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried and the Council entered closed session at 7:48 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting 8:09 p.m. followed by a roll-call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
MARCH 11, 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. Leece 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 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried and the Council entered closed session at 7:48 p.m.

There was a short recess before the closed session started. Council went into closed session at 7:57 p.m.

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

Attorney Jon Gold, Interim City Administrator Traci Cox, Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor were also present.

Attorney Gold updated the council on legal matters.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to allow City Attorney Jon Gold to dismiss the Brightly lawsuit. Motion carried by a vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jan Schramm.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:09 p.m. followed by a roll-call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Ray West, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Taylor
Deputy City Clerk