

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 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=44Dcj1sVdcM>

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in Council Chambers at 6:30 PM with Mayor Alan Snow presiding. 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, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. Council Member Lori Leece 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, Fire Chief Jason Martin, Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, IT Administrator Michael Keith, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

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

Mayor Snow reported that he presented a proclamation for Donal Myers.

During Public Comments, Renae Minshew with the Carthage Humane Society spoke about the animal problem within the country and the lack of agreement between the City and the humane society.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee is between meetings. 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. She reported that Rebecca Baker with KPM was present to review the City's annual audit and reported on the ARPA reporting issue that was within their report. The issue will be addressed when the reporting period opens up in April. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to accept the audit results as presented. Motion carried. She also reported on the code change for the 2-160 (b) that is on the agenda for the night. The next meeting will be on April 8th at 5:30.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Public Safety Committee met on March 17th. The committee reviewed the addition of Lunar New Year to the fireworks exception ordinance, they also decreased the time that fireworks can be discharged for all the exceptions. The committee heard from Todd with Vintage Rods who would like to host a car show on the square on May 17 from 3-5 pm. He requested permission for cars to back into the parking spaces. Ms.

Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to allow the cars to back into the parking spaces on May 17 from 3-5 pm. Motion carried. They heard from Melissa Little, the Tourism Director, about the road closures needed for the food truck Friday events. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to close 7th Street from Garrison to Lyon and Lyon from 7th to Chestnut on April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 12 from 7 am until 10 pm. Motion carried. They also heard from Chief Martin about the ladder truck that will be ready late 2026, there has been a letter of intent to purchase issued, the council bill entering into the agreement to purchase is on the agenda as Council Bill 25-19. The next meeting will be on April 21st at 5:30.

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

Mr. Barlow reported the Public Works Committee is between meetings. 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 and the Jasper County Commissioners.

Mayor Snow reported that April 4 will be Mr. Carney's last day with the City of Carthage. He thanked him for his service to the City and all the improvements that he has been a vital part of. He will be greatly missed. He also reported that he would like to name Josiah Bayless as the Interim Public Works Director until a committee can be formed and that position is filled. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to appoint Josiah Bayless as the Interim Public Works Director beginning April 4.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Taylor thanked Mr. Carney for all of his work and believes that Josiah will do an excellent job. Mr. West encouraged everyone to go and vote and mentioned that early voting had started and that the decisions that City Council makes affects citizens the most since it is in their town. Mr. Barlow thanked City leadership and the Police Department for their help in fixing the drop off and pick up issue at Fairview school. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster to amend the agenda to move Council Bill 25-18 up to be read before the second reading of Council Bill 25-15. Motion carried. Ms. Schramm also reported that she met with Kim Bausinger with United Way and wanted to promote the 2-1-1 program they have. It provides links for help in various areas based on your zip code. She also reported that their Day of Caring is on June 13 and encouraged everyone to get out and volunteer at their local nonprofit organizations.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that there have been a lot of red flag days lately and asked the public to please pay attention to those alerts on the weather conditions. He reported that there will be a demo at the next public safety meeting for a mass notification system. He also mentioned there is potential for severe weather this weekend, and that the letter of intent had been given to the company for the ladder truck currently in production.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the Central Park irrigation project has started, she also reported that the new fencing was going up at the Fair Acres Ballfields and thanked the McCune Brooks Trust for their generous donation to the City to help get the much needed updates throughout the City.

Interim City Administrator Traci Cox reported that Midwest Public Risk had alerted her to a change in the way they do their deductibles and that each City is rated individually now rather than it being the same across the state. The City of Carthage Law Enforcement liability deductible is going up from \$1,000 to \$5,000 per occurrence, and that the Public Official/Employment Practices liability deductible is going up from \$1,000 to \$50,000 per occurrence.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$1,153,136.25 against the following funds: General Revenue \$185,025.56, Public Health \$159,190.25, Lodging \$3,240.85, Public Safety \$1,003.52, Parks/Stormwater \$10,040.00, Fire Protection \$177.97, Golf \$18,124.93, Parks and Recreation \$46.98, Myers Park \$4,504.50, Use Tax \$68,977.42, Public Facilities \$4,742.00, and Payroll \$698,062.27. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 25-09 -- 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-09.

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 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 25-10.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-11.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-12.

Ms. Schramm asked that in next years agreement, there needs to be something to include the age group of 13-16.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-13.

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 second

reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-14.

C.B. 25-18 – An Emergency Ordinance amending Section 2-160 (b) of the Carthage City Code was placed on first reading.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to advance Council Bill 25-18 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 25-18 – An Emergency Ordinance amending Section 2-160 (b) of the Carthage City Code was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-15.

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 second reading.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to amend the language of the contract to what was presented in the packet, removing the stricken sections in parts a and c. Ms. Cox mentioned that section a was changed to match the Charter, and section c was changed to match the City Code. Motion carried.

Council Bill 25-15 passed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-16.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to allow Ms. Cox to live within 5 miles of the City limits of Carthage. Motion carried.

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 was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 4 yeas and 2 nays. Ayes: Peterson, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. Nays: Taylor, West. The Council Bill failed.

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. was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 6 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Heckmaster, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-17.

Under New Business, C.B. 25-19 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Banner Fire Equipment, Inc., for the purchase of one (1) E-One Typhoon HP 75 Ladder Fire Apparatus was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-20 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with The Walker Collaborative Team to prepare the Historic District Design Guidelines for the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

During Mayor's Appointments, Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to approve the Mayor's Appointment of Traci Cox as City Administrator. Motion carried.

During closing comments, congratulations were extended by all to Ms. Cox. Mr. Peterson thanked Ms. Schramm, for requesting that the claims reports be included in the packets. Ms. Heckmaster stated she was disappointed about the failure of Council Bill 25-16. She stated that Mr. Beimdiek once told her that it takes 2 years for a board member to get familiar with how the utility board works and that they make big decisions for the citizens and their power. They should be allowed 2 years to learn and 4 years to serve. Ms. Schramm also expressed her disappointment with the failure of Council Bill 25-16.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.