City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 22, 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=kZKiMqNzkfg

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, Lori Leece, Terri Heckmaster, Tom Barlow, and Jana Schramm. 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, Interim Public Works Director Josiah Bayless, Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger, IT Administrator Michael Keith, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Heckmaster, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2025 Council meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Snow presented plaques to outgoing Council Members Chris Taylor and Terri Heckmaster and thanked them for their service.

During Public Comments, Jeff Meredith with the CEDC, read a letter to the Council that he received from Schreiber Foods regarding their expansion project. At this time, they are putting the project on pause due to the current economic conditions, they will update us at a later time regarding the future of the project. He also reported that the City of Carthage received a $750,000 CDBG grant for the downtown sidewalk expansion project for the sidewalks going off the sides of the square.

Chuck Bryant, CWEP General Manager, congratulated all the new council members and encouraged the new members, and the outgoing members to sign up for the customer academy that CWEP hosts.

Tiffany Cossey, 1306 S Main, congratulated the new council members and thanked Mayor Snow for all of the work he has done.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met April 14th, the committee reviewed the agency contracts and approved the Boots Court agreement, the third year of the Chamber and Vision Carthage contracts, the CEDC asked for extra funding, but that agreement was tabled until the FY 25-26 was closer to being done to see where financials are at. The committee reviewed and approved the revenue estimates prepared by Ms. Cox.

Ms. Cox also reported that the City has asked MoDOT for another taxi which would be paid for with and 80/20 grant. The next meeting will be May 12th at 5:30.

Ms. Schramm reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. The door access project at Public Works will start on Monday, the IT grant was reinstated, and the committee decided to table the Ollis/Akers/Arney agreement until the agreement was provided and could be reviewed. The next meeting will be on May 12th at 5:30.

Ms. Heckmaster reported that the Public Safety Committee met April 22nd at 4:45, Cassie Nichols and Melissa James were present to discuss St. Luke's Color Run/Walk event scheduled for June 14. Ms. Nichols and Ms. James will meet with Public Works and the Police Department to determine needs for the event and present again at next month's Public Safety Meeting. Jackie Boyer was present to request street closures within Kellogg Lake Park for the Annual Kid's Fishing Day Event. Patrol of Kellogg Lake Park will be increased beginning June 2 as that is when the lake will be stocked with extra fish. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to close the streets beginning June 6 at 5:00 pm until close of the event on June 7 in Kellogg Lake Park for the Kid's Fishing Day Event. Motion carried. Sally Stuart was present to request alcohol in Central Park on June 28 between the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm for Art in the Park. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to allow alcohol in Central Park on June 28 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for Art in the Park. Motion carried. Jessica Duncan requested street closures for the 3rd annual Neighborhood Block Party on Wendy Lane. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to close Wendy Lane from Laura Street to Buena Vista on May 31 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for their Neighborhood Block Party. Motion carried. Megan Milliken from CWEP requested road closures on 7th Street and the intersection of Maple and 7th the closure of 7th Street from Garrison to Lyon, including the intersection of Maple St. & 7th Street, for the CWEP Big Truck Event for the 1st grade students from Columbian Elementary to learn about CWEP and explore the Big Trucks. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to close 7th Street from Garrison to Lyon, including the intersection of Maple St. & 7th Street on the morning of April 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for the CWEP Big Truck Event. Motion carried. Tourism Director Melissa Little was present to request the committee to allow alcohol from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the remaining Food Truck Friday events for the 2025 year. The committee requested that the alcohol be contained by roping off an area specifically for alcohol sales. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to allow alcohol in Central Park for the remainder of the 2025 Food Truck Friday events as requested. Motion carried. The committee approved Resolution 2085, which declare the old command bus from the Police Department as surplus. Fire Chief Jason Martin requested that the money budgeted for Honor Guard uniforms be reallocated to purchase a new mower for the south fire station. Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to reallocate $9,500 from Honor Guard uniforms to be used for the purchase of a new mower for the south fire station. Motion carried. The Committee also approved Resolution 2084 be forwarded to council for consideration. This Resolution is to accept a donation of $1,000 for the Fire Department. The next meeting will be on May 19th at 5:30.

Ms. Schramm reported the Public Services Committee met April 15th. Sally Stuart was present to request the use of Central Park for the Art in the Park event. This is a private ticketed event, and will be in a designated area. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece to close Central Park in the designated area and remain open to public outside the area on June 28 from 7-10 pm for the Art in the Park event. Motion carried. Angel Himes, with Schreiber Foods, was present to request the use of Central Park for the Schreiber Park Day event, there will be many activities, includes a beverage truck within the park. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to allow Schreiber Foods to use Central Park on June 7 from 3-8 pm for their Schreiber Park Day event. Motion Carried. Debbie Herbst was present to request the use of Central Park for the 23rd annual Great Americans Day. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to allow the use of Central Park on May 13 from 8-2 pm for Great American Days. Motion carried. Jana Sawyer, the Director of the R-9 Language Programs, was present to request the use of Central Park for the 2nd annual Cultural Festival which would be open to the public. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to allow the use of Central Park on May 2 from 5:30-7 pm for the Dual Language Academy Cultural Festival. Motion carried. The LIME scooters MOU was discussed and there are some minor changes that are being made, this has been tabled until the May 20 Public Services meeting. Ms. Schramm reported that the Pool Steering Committee had met and decided to keep the pool plans at Municipal Park, they are meeting with Waters Edge to review plans and pricing. The next meeting will be on May 20th at 5:30.

Mr. Taylor reported the Public Works Committee met at the beginning of the month and discussed the downtown sidewalks, they had a cracking issue and that has since been repaired, they have also installed the handicap bump outs on the North side. The next meeting will be May 6th at 5:30.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Peterson for the Kellogg Lake Board, Ms. Leece for the Carthage Water and Electric Board, and Ms. Schramm for Vision Carthage and the Harry S. Truman Coordinating Council.

Mayor Snow recognized Keith Wheat with the Street Department, he has been working for the City for 40 years. He reported on meeting with the Humane Society and sending them a revised contract, he reported that they did reject the contract and they will be working to find a solution. He has been working with Bren Flanigan on the Mayor transition, and he thanked council for all the support he received as Mayor.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Taylor thanked everyone he has worked with in the City during his time on Council. He also thanked the citizens for allowing him to serve. Mr. Peterson thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Heckmaster for their time on Council. Mr. West congratulated the new members and looks forward to working with them. Ms. Leece also looks forward to working with the new members and thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Heckmaster. Ms. Heckmaster thanked everyone in the City and looks forward to seeing Carthage grow and strive, she thanked Ms. Deal for all her technology help, and thanked Ms. Cox, Mayor Snow, and all the Council and departments heads for all of their knowledge. Mr. Barlow sent heartfelt thanks to Mr. Taylor and Ms. Heckmaster. Ms. Schramm reported on the blessing box that is at the Grace Episcopal Church and encouraged everyone to put food and other necessities in it for those in need. She thanked Julie with the Chamber and Toni with Crosslines for making this possible.

Police Chief Hawkins thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Heckmaster for their time on Council.

Fire Chief Jason Martin also thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Heckmaster for their service. He reported that 4 sirens failed to make sound in the recent storms and that he and his department were working on fixing them. They found it was a special fuse that goes to the audio that was needing replaced, and they will be testing them tomorrow at 10 am and then still continuing the every Saturday testing at noon.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the Central Park restroom renovations had started, the plantings around town would be happening soon. She also thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Heckmaster and welcomed the new council members.

Interim Public Works Director Josiah Bayless thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Heckmaster. He reported there was a preconstruction meeting that morning for the Hazel and Airport widening project. They will begin moving in equipment next week and he will get with Melissa Little to get information posted on the website and Facebook about any closures. He also reported that they are taking a week off from the sidewalks around the square and that they would be back next week.

Tourism Director Melissa Little thanked Mr. Taylor and Ms. Heckmaster for their service. She also reported that the April Food Truck Friday event was very well attended, there were 20 food trucks and 21 vendors. It is estimated that there were 5,000 visitors. She thanked the Parks and Recreation department for their help in picking up trash. She said that the May event would have an alcohol vendor, and that the event marketing for May has reached 130,000 people. The Citywide garage sale map will be available on Friday, the Tourism Advisory Board will meet April 30 to secure a date for the 2026 Route 66 event we are hosting. They are also working on updating the Visitor's Guide.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that Melissa has done a wonderful job taking on the Food Truck Friday event. She reported that the budget meeting discussing the CWEP budget would be on Wednesday May 14. She also reported that all the ARPA money has been spent and the report for the ARPA funds has been submitted. She thanked Ms. Heckmaster and Mr. Taylor for all of the work they have done.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $1,833,483.78 against the following funds: General Revenue $527,847.23, Public Health $160,272.31, Lodging $4,760.10, Public Safety $4,534.91 , Parks/Stormwater $24,845.49, Fire Protection $30,653.38, Golf $29,412.20, Capital Improvements $8,798.78, Parks and Recreation $77.03, Myers Park $3,030.50, Use Tax $14,898.21, Public Facilities $45,741.99, ARPA $594,771.90, and Payroll $383,839.75. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Taylor, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 25-22 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept the donation of two parcels of land from RSM Development to the City of Carthage for property located in the Sunrise Meadows subdivision, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Leece, to forward Council Bill 25-22 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 25-22 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept the donation of two parcels of land from RSM Development to the City of Carthage for property located in the Sunrise Meadows subdivision, in the City of Carthage, Missouri second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Taylor, Peterson, West, Heckmaster, Leece, Barlow, Schramm. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-21.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to approve the results of the April 8, 2025 election results as follows:

Mayor:	Ed Hardesty – 608 votes
	David Bren Flanigan – 1,302 votes
	Write-in – 19 votes
Ward 1:	Chris Taylor – 78 votes
	Kate Gilpin – 86 votes
	Write-in – 1 vote
Ward 2:	Ray West – 95 votes
	Write-in – 2 votes
Ward 3:	2 year Term
	David Thorn – 218 votes
	George Butler III – 172 votes
	Write-in – 6 votes
	1 Year Term
	Katrina Short – 199
	Jack Perkins – 207
	Write-in – 1 vote
Ward 4:	TJ Teed – 195 votes
	Alan Snow – 541 vote
	Write-in – 6 votes
Ward 5:	Keith Hurlbut – 203 votes
	Ron Wells – 234 votes
	Write-in - 6 votes

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Heckmaster made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to adjourn the Old Council. Motion carried and the Old Council adjourned at 7:24 pm.

There was a short recess.

Under New Business, City Clerk Miranda Deal administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Bren Flanigan and Council Members Kate Gilpin, Ray West, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, and Ron Wells.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Lori Leece, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Tom Barlow, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to approve the Mayor's Committee Appointments. Motion carried.

Ms. Leece made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Mayor's Board Liaison Appointments. Motion carried.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to nominate Alan Snow as Mayor Pro Tem. No other nominations were received. The council voted unanimously to appoint Alan Snow as Mayor Pro Tem.

C.B. 25-23 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and CGI Digital for a cost-free decorative street banner program, in partnership with Vision Carthage was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leece, to approve Resolution 2084 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2084 was adopted after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Peterson, Gilpin, Leece, West, Perkins, Thorn, Barlow, Snow, Schramm, and Wells.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilpin, to approve Resolution 2085 -- A Resolution approving the declaration as surplus to the City's needs and authorizing the disposition of police equipment (command vehicle) consisting of a 1990 International 3800 FBC (RV body type) (VIN 1HVBBCFNXLH697961) with approximately 69,485 miles of use to be scrapped. Resolution 2085 was adopted after a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Peterson, Gilpin, Leece, West, Perkins, Thorn, Barlow, Snow, Schramm, and Wells.

The Insurance, Audit and Claims Committee did not have a chance to review an agreement with Ollis/Akers/Arney so they had tabled Resolution 2086 until the May 13 committee meeting.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to table Resolution 2086 until the May 13 Council Meeting. Resolution 2086 -- A Resolution authorizing the City of Carthage to enter into broker agreement with Ollis/Akers/Arney for the 2025/2026 policy year

During closing comments, Mayor Flanigan stated that it is an honor to serve as Mayor and he wants to make Carthage better. He thanked the last Council for serving and was appreciative of what they had done. He acknowledged Mr. Snow for his time serving as Mayor during a challenging time. He presented a plaque to Mr. Snow to honor the time he served as Mayor of the City of Carthage. Mayor Flanigan also applauded all those who had the willingness to serve on the City Council. Mr. Peterson echoed Mayor Flanigan's words and welcomed the new members. Ms. Gilpin thanked the citizens who voted for her, Mr. Leece welcomed the new Mayor. Mr. West said it was great to see all 10 seats filled again. Mr. Perkins stated that he decided to move back home a few years ago and so he did and now he is ready to serve. Mr. Thorn hopes to help Carthage move forward. Mr. Barlow was also happy to see all the seats filled. Mr. Snow thanked Mayor Flanigan and all the recognition he has received. He said this will start his eighth year on the City Council and he is happy to be back in his Council seat. He also wished the Carthage Tigers good luck on all the spring sports. Ms. Schramm welcomed the new Mayor and thanked Mr. Snow for his time serving as Mayor. Mr. Wells thanked Ms. Deal for her technology help and thanked the voters. This is his second time serving and he looks forward to working with everyone.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.