City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

JUNE 24, 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=w1qGuDACJbU

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in Council Chambers at 6:30 PM with Mayor David B. Flanigan presiding. Fire Chief Jason Martin gave the invocation. Police Chief Bill Hawkins led the flag salute.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Council Member Lori Leece was absent. 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 Mr. Wells, to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025 Regular Council meeting. Motion carried.

During Public Comments, Jan Reid, 204 W. Macon, spoke to the council about the stray cat problem and how the humane society charges a large amount for animals to be dropped off, and the ACO won't help. She thanked Councilman Thorn for his help with the stray cat she had at her house which had kittens at his house.

Tiffany Cossey, 1306 S. Main St, spoke to the council on the golf fund deficit and also spoke on the employment record policy and dislikes how it is currently written and asked the council to postpone and rewrite the language.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met earlier in the evening to discuss changes to the golf fund budget. He explained the changes made which included adjustments to the seasonal hours, removal of a golf maintenance position, and a lease purchase of the wide area mower. The revenue changes were adjusted to reflect the new price increases that are on the agenda to be voted on later in the meeting. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to amend the budget to include the new numbers for the golf course fund, Revenues of $929,200.00 and expenditures of $1,029,349.04. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for July 14th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. The committee reviewed and approved the job description for the new Police Corporal position. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the Police Corporal job description. Motion carried. The employee records policy was discussed and the committee reviewed the changes that had been made which included adding the mayor Pro Tem as the member of council to view the record and report back to the whole council. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells to move Council Bill 25-44 back to new business since it had been amended. Motion carried. They also discussed the changes to section 2-122(c) and voted to postpone until the next committee meeting to allow time for Paul Martin to review the changes and offer his opinion on if the changes could affect the pending litigation with the former Mayor. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilpin, to postpone Council Bill 25-45 until the next meeting. Motion carried. The committee discussed the changes to the whistleblower policy and discussed adding Council Members for employees to file complaints to. The next meeting is will be July 8th at 5:30.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee met on June 16th. The committee approved a road closure request for the annual Belle Air block party. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Thorn, to approve the closure of Belle Air from Grand to the end of the cul-de-sac, Clinton from St. Louis to Highland, and Fulton from Clinton to Highland from 4-9 pm on June 29th for the block party. Motion carried. They also approved road closures in Municipal Park for the Jasper County Youth Fair. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to close the road between Barn #7 and Chitwood Barn #6 from gate to gate beginning Tuesday night at midnight, July 8th through Saturday July 12th. Motion carried. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to close the road between the Kolpin Concession Stand and small pavilion #8 from Wednesday to Saturday July 9th – July 12. Motion carried. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to allow camping in the park from Saturday July 5th through Sunday July 13 for our exhibitor families. Children exhibiting during the fair are also requesting special permission to be in the park around the livestock area after 10:00PM to care for livestock and provide security of exhibits. Motion carried. They also asked the JCYF for name recommendations so that maybe by this time next year, the roads can be named to make it easier. They approved the Police Corporal job description, and Chief Martin introduced the new Battalion Chiefs. The next meeting will be June 21th at 5:30.

Ms. Schramm reported that the Public Services Committee met June 17th. They discussed the Ralleye in the Park event on September 21 hosted by theBridge Church. There is going to be a 5K, worship session, car show, inflatables and more activities. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to allow the Ralleye in the Park event at Central Park on September 21 from 8 am – 3 pm. Motion carried. They discussed the Sudstock event in Municipal Park on August 16. This is a free event put on by the Alliance of Southwest Missouri. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to allow the use of Municipal Park on August 16 from 9 am – 4 pm for the Sudstock event. Motion carried. The Jasper County Youth Fair was present to request the use of the park and allow food trucks. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to allow the use of Municipal Park for the Youth Fair, and to allow camping and food trucks from July 5-July 13. Motion carried. Council Bill 25-37 has the new fees for the golf course, including demand based pricing for green fees. The committee approved the bid from Scott's Landscaping for the landscaping and irrigation at the Fairlawn Roundabout where the Maple Leaf structure will be, that appears in Council Bill 25-47. They also reviewed and approved the new golf budget numbers. The next meeting will be on July 15th at 5:30.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting will be July 1st at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Ms. Schramm for the Harry S Truman Coordinating Council and Vision Carthage. Mr. Perkins for the CW&EP Board, Mr. West for the Kellogg Lake Board, and Mr. Peterson for the Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Flanigan reported that there is no Humane Society update at this time. Food truck Friday was another successful event. He attended numerous events including: Chamber coffee, Library Board meeting, CW&EP board meeting, Steadley board meeting. He toured the Wastewater Treatment Plant, went to the unveiling of the new statute outside of Crosslines, he attended the promotion testing at the Fire Department, and the 24 Gym groundbreaking ceremony for their expansion. He has put the hiring committee together for the Public Works Director. The committee consists of himself, Mr. Snow, Mr. Peterson, Ms. Cox, and he has added an engineer to the committee, Dave Haffner. There have been 20+ applications received for Police Chief, when the applications get narrowed down, he will name the hiring committee for the Police Chief. He also announced that he would be taking application for the Ward 4 vacancy through the end of the week and then conducting interviews with those who have expressed interest in serving before bringing a recommendation to council for approval.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. West stated he reached out to business owners in his ward and none of them had any concerns, Mr. Perkins added a few more details to his explanation of the CW&EP plans to tap into Stockton Lake as an additional water resource. Mr. Thorn said he has talked to people in his ward and their concerns are about code enforcement and dogs running at large. He also said he was invited to attend the Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation meetings for the design guidelines. Mr. Snow said there is a public hearing for the budget and encouraged anyone with comments or concerns to participate. He also thanked staff for all their work on the budget and encouraged to vote for approval. Ms. Schramm reported on the meeting with the Planning and Zoning relating to the Historic guidelines. The guidelines have been there, they just need some updating. She met with Jeff Meredith and discussed the middle income housing needs, and thanked him, Ms. Cox, and Julie Reams for working together to promote small businesses. She attended the CW&EP meeting where they selected their officers for next year. She said the YMCA is in the process of putting a pavilion at the Y that will have multisport courts and a splashpad that will begin after the 4th of July. The YMCA held drowning prevention classes for local second graders, the square YMCA location is closing, and they won the medium business award at the Chamber banquet. She also reported that Julie Reams is in full swing for Maple Leaf, the Chamber golf tournament, and preparing for the Marian Days tour. She is also working on some shop local campaigns. Mr. Wells reported that he had budget concerns and said the City needed to get a plan for the Garrison bridges before they are closed.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins reported that he put the year-end report on everyone's desk. He mentioned that this year is supposed to be the largest ever crowd for Marian days, and he reporting on two officers retiring this year.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that they did their promotion testing and announced their Battalion Chiefs. He also reported they have been getting ready for the 4th of July and the fireworks start at 9:30 pm.

Interim Public Works Director Josiah Bayless reported that the street sweeper would be down for a couple of days, the square sidewalks are moving along and they will soon be redoing the crosswalks and finishing the bump-outs. Airport and Hazel widening is moving along, and the mosquito fogging will be going again this week.

Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger reported that the Central park restrooms should be open by the end of the week, the Mahjong classes at Memorial Hall have been a success, the Red, White and Boom event is coming along nicely with many activities through the day, and there is a pickleball league in July that you can sign up for now.

City Administrator Traci Cox wanted to announce the change in the firework discharge ordinance and that from June 30-July 5, the end time for fireworks has been changed to 11 pm.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $638,004.08, against the following funds: General Revenue $97,503.96, Public Health $160,690.14, Lodging $5,559.75, Parks/Stormwater $5,967.50, Golf $21,823.49, Capital Improvements $1,359.69, Parks and Recreation $105.24, Myers Park $11,072.00, Use Tax $18,078.50, Public Facilities $53,821.08, and Payroll $262,022.73. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

The City of Carthage will hold a Public Hearing for approval of the City of Carthage budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year. Mr. Perkins was the only participant and he stated that he would like to see plans for a playground in Municipal Park near Kiddieland where the old equipment was removed from.

Under Old Business, C.B. 25-37 -- An Ordinance repealing Ordinance 17-38, increasing the golf cart rental fees, increasing membership fees due to cart fee increase, and revising the demand-based pricing for green fees, at the Carthage Municipal Golf Course was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-38.

C.B. 25-40 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Contract with ATS Contractors, LLC. for sidewalk improvements along Airport Drive and Fairview Avenue, pursuant to TAP 1601(706), in the amount of $574,199.40 in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-39.

C.B. 25-41 -- An Ordinance authorizing utility rate changes for electric, water, and wastewater services as requested by the Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-40.

C.B. 25-42 -- An Ordinance adopting the budget of the City of Carthage, Missouri for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. FY 25-26 Draft Budget was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-41.

C.B. 25-43 -- An Ordinance authorizing a special use permit for a one licensed operator beauty shop by Kirsten Kelley in her residence at 2508 Stephen Street in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes:

Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-42.

C.B. 25-45 -- An Ordinance amending section 2-122 (c) of the Carthage City Code did not come back out of committee and is postponed until the July 8 Council Meeting.

Under New Business, C.B. 25-44 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 200 – General Employment Policies of the Personnel Policy Manual of the City of Carthage by adding Section 208 – Employment Records Policy was placed on first reading. Ms. Schramm wants to have the section amended that allows a path for Council Members to have access to personnel files.

There was a lot of discussion around why a council member would need to have access to individual personnel files. There were comments against allowing council members access to personnel files by Mr. West, Mr. Thorn, and Mr. Snow.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to postpone this council bill until the July 22 Council Meeting to allow for time to work on the language of the policy. Motion carried.

C.B. 25-46 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the Kiwanis Club of Carthage, Missouri and the City of Carthage, Missouri to grant to the Kiwanis Club of Carthage, Missouri utilization of an area in Municipal Park known as Kiwanis Kiddieland was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-47 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Scott's Landscape and Excavation for the Fairlawn Roundabout landscaping and irrigation, in the amount of $25,170.00 in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Under Mayor's Appointments, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Doug Huntley to the Library Board of Trustees until July 2028 and the appointment of Cindy Rogers to the Library Board of Trustees until July 2028, and Leigh Salyer to the Library Board of Trustees until July 2028. Motion carried.

During closing comments, Mr. Snow said that he appreciates all the debate that the Council had that evening reminded everyone about rules to wait to speak until you have been recognized by the Mayor. He also wished everyone a Happy 4th of July. Ms. Schramm thanked Mayor Flanigan for being so involved in all the events in town. Mr. Peterson thanked Mr. Snow for the reminder and apologized if he spoke out before being recognized, he also thanked Attorney Gold for all of his work and guidance. Ms. Gilpin thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mr. West 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 promotion 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 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried and the Council entered closed session at 8:22 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilpin, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:54 pm.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
June 24, 2025

The Carthage City Council met in closed session on the above date in the City Hall Conference Room with Mayor David B. Flanigan presiding.

Mr. West 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 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried and the Council entered closed session at 8:22 pm.

There was a short recess and closed session was called to order at 8:29 pm.

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

Attorney Jon Gold, City Administrator Traci Cox, City Clerk Miranda Deal, and HR Coordinator Michael Miller were also present.

Mayor Flanigan, Ms. Cox, and Mr. Miller discussed a personnel issue with the Council.

Mayor Flanigan recommended, pursuant to Charter Section 4.11, to remove from office Department Head/Parks and Recreation Director Abi Almandinger effective immediately. The majority of the members of Council voted to consent to the Mayor’s removal of Abi Almandinger with a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Perkins, to adjourn the closed session Council Meeting at 9:50 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried and the Council returned to regular session.

Respectfully submitted,

Miranda Deal
City Clerk