# City of Carthage, Missouri

## CITY COUNCIL

August 12, 2025 – 6:33 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=kZ0Ff5QfOrk

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in Council Chambers at 6:33 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, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. 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, Public Works Director Josiah Bayless, IT Administrator Michael Keith, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2025 Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

During Presentations, Chuck Bryant gave a brief overview of the documents on the agenda that came from the CW&EP Board. He then introduced Roddy Rogers, Executive Director of Southwest Missouri Water, who gave a presentation about future water sources. There has been decades long work with the Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission to look at using Stockton Lake as a source of drinking water. The agreement being presented later in the meeting is an agreement for the City to purchase the water storage from Stockton Lake. After the agreement is signed by all entities that are a part of the project, the JMUC will sign the agreement and send it to the Corps of Engineers. He went over the history of the study that was done to determine Stockton Lake to be the best option and what the future years will hold.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee was supposed to meet on August 11, but there was not a quorum present. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8th 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 is still working on the employee records policy and the whistleblower policy. They approved the conflict of interest council bill that is on the agenda for first reading, and they approved the new drug and alcohol policy. The drug and alcohol policy changes are to get it in compliance with state law. The next meeting will be August 26th at 5:30.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting will be August 18th at 5:30.

Ms. Schramm reported that the Public Services Committee is between meetings. She did have a few items to report since there was no July meeting. She stated that the Parks and Recreation Director interviews have started and that there were over 50 applications received for the position. She reported on the disc golf project that is going in at Kellogg Lake, there will be a putting green and a disc golf driving range added which is a wonderful thing because there is nothing like it around here. She also met with Josiah and Roxana with the Jasper County Youth Fair to talk about naming the streets around the fair grounds at Municipal Park. She also attended the recent Tourism Advisory Board meeting. The next meeting will be on August 19th at 5:30.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Public Works Committee met August 5th. They received an update of the HH and Chapel Road sidewalk project. The company that had the lowest bid was not compliant with MoDOT and neither was the second lowest bidder. Hessling Construction was the highest bidder and they have agreed to come down on their price to meet the second lowest bidder. They also discussed Resolution 2097 to purchase a side arm mower as the current one is no longer usable. The street department had budgeted to build a storage barn in this years capital and they need the side arm mower more, so the resolution is to switch the barn for the mower. They also heard about the next dumpster days event that will potentially be put on in the YMCA parking lot. The next meeting will be on September 2nd at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Perkins for the Personnel Appeals Board and Mr. Peterson for the Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation Commission.

Mayor Flanigan reported that he met with CASA in Joplin, attended Marian Days, participated in a meeting through MML for City Mayors across the State. There is some legislature that is aiming at potentially eliminating the sales tax on food. He recently attended many committee meetings and toured Ajinomoto Foods. He has also put together an ad-hoc bridge committee to discuss the City's bridges and what the next steps are to get them fixed. He has almost got all the board appointments filled and he is working on a candidate for the vacant Ward 2 council seat.

Administrative Reports were given first with Chief Hawkins reporting that Marian Days was a success and thanked everyone involved in that. He also reported that he has had one officer resign.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that Marian Days was a success and thanked the Police Department for all of their work in coordinating the safety of the event. He also reported that Sudstock is this Saturday at Municipal Park. He was also saddened to report that the Fire Department has had a few retirees pass away recently and thanked surrounding agencies for helping cover for them so they could attend the funerals. There has also been a renewed interest in having an Honor Guard, so he will look into that and potentially ask for a budget adjustment out of their donation account. He also reported that Deputy Chief Maples, and Training Officer Calhoon, and himself were attending a conference this week to get their certification credits for investigators. Also, Ajinomoto Foods reached out to them about scheduling a hazmat training activity.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless gave an update on the downtown square sidewalk project and that they have begun work on the crosswalks now. He also spoke with the contractor for the Hazel and Airport Drive widening and they are going to focus on getting Hazel opened up as soon as possible. There was a pre-construction meeting for the new farmers market pavilion, and the Street Superintendent position is currently being advertised.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the sales tax numbers for July and August are under budget and last year for the two months for sales tax, the amount received was $526,000  and this year it is at $516,000. The use tax is also down from last year, it was at $242,000 for July and August last year and this year it is at $221,000.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Peterson reported on the bridge committee meeting and reported that right now they are still collecting information on the life of the bridges, who owns them, etc. The committee is made up of citizen members who’s expertise spans many different fields. Ms. Gilpin said that if the food sales tax goes away, that will cause the sales tax numbers to decrease and that would not be a good thing. Mr. Perkins reported that he has lived in states that don’t have a food tax and they just increase the regular sales tax rate to make up the difference. Ms. Kang reported that she has attended a lot of meeting and toured the parks. She also attending the water utility workshop at CWEP along with a few other council and staff members. Mr. Snow reported that Council Bil 25-52 is the yearly levy adjustment. This year the valuations increased and due to state law, the city’s tax levy had to decrease. There is also a public hearing on August 26 for citizens if they wish to speak on the levy changes. He also said that Council Bill 25-54 relating to the CW&EP agreement for water storage was very important for the City. He thanked Ms. Cox and Mayor Flanigan for getting Regina Wells’ complaint about Griggs Park handled very quickly. Ms. Schramm reported on attending the MPUA meeting at CW&EP. She also mentioned that the golf course rates went into effect and that there have been some complaints about it. The costs to run the golf course have increased and there has not been a rate increase since 2017, there will be a time for public input at the public services meeting if anyone wishes to speak on the rates. She will also be attending the Empowering Women’s luncheon hosted by the Chamber. Mr. Wells reported that Chief Martin gave him and the grandkids a tour of the fire station and appreciated it. He also reported that his wife wanted to thank Ms. Cox and the Mayor for the fence at Griggs Park.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $3,198,145.34, against the following funds: General Revenue $225,170.30, Public Health $160,525.84, Lodging $9,788.65, Parks/Stormwater $59,429.54, Golf $17,632.60, Capital Improvements $16,382.00, Myers Park $155,487.28, Use Tax $25,177.83, Public Facilities $46,892.69, Public Library $50,000.00, Payroll $431,658.61, and Carthage Water and Electric $2,000,000.00. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 25-48 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Tyler Technologies, Inc. to provide an annual subscription for financial software for 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, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-46.

C.B. 25-50 -- 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, Public Facilities Bond Fund, Fire Sales Tax Fund, Public Safety Fund, and Civic Enhancement Fund) 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, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-47.

Under New Business, C.B. 25-51 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2025–2026 for specified funds (General Fund, Use Tax Fund, and Public Facilities Bond Fund) for carryover projects was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-52 -- An Ordinance levying general taxes upon real estate property located within the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri for the year 2025, for General Revenue purposes and other purposes, and fixing the rates thereof was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-53 -- An Ordinance authorizing the City of Carthage, Missouri, to enter into a subagreement with the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission regarding reallocated water storage space in Stockton Lake was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-54 -- An Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Chapter 18, and Chapter 21 of the Carthage City Code was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-55-- An Ordinance to amend the Personnel Policy Manual of the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B 25-56 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Carthage and Jasper County regarding the use and distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds for the Jasper County Jail Treatment Program was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-57 -- An Ordinance to establish a procedure to disclose potential conflicts of interest and substantial interests for certain municipal officials was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-58 -- An Ordinance amending Chapter 17, Article III, Section 17-37 – Members, of the Carthage City Code was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Under Mayor's Appointments, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Mayor's Appointments as presented. Motion carried.

Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation
Tori Bounous – December 2029 – replacing Jim Swatsenbarg

Carthage Tree Board
Jory Mertens – December 2026

Civil War Museum Board
Gary Stuart – December 2026 – new appointment
Chris Johnson – December 2026 - reappointment
Steve Weldon – December 2028 – reappointment

Under Resolutions, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to approve Resolution 2096 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from the Steadley Trust in the amount of $25,000.00, for rodeo arena improvements. Resolution 2096 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve Resolution 2097 -- A Resolution authorizing a budget adjustment to the General Revenue Fund for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for a line item adjustment to Capital Outlay in the Street Department for purchase of a used 6330 John Deere side-arm tractor (VIN 1L06330HPCH742927), using funds originally obligated for construction of a storage barn. Resolution 2097 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to approve Resolution 2098 -- A Resolution declaring the intent of the City of Carthage, Missouri, to finance the costs of projects for the electric system. Resolution 2098 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

During closing comments, Mayor Flanigan reported that the recent Food Truck Friday event was another success, he also mentioned that CW&EP had a dunk tank out there and the GM was noticeably absent from participating. He also announced that HR Coordinator Michael Miller had recently become a Senior Certified Professional through the Society for Human Resource Management and congratulated him on the achievement. Ms. Kang thanked the Council and Mayor for getting the City back on track and getting things done that needed attention. Mr. Snow reported that school starts next week and asked for everyone to pay attention as all the kids return back to schools. He also encouraged everyone to support the fall sports programs. Ms. Schramm thanked the departments involved with Marian Days, and thanked Chief Martin for taking extra care of people along the Marian Days parade route by handing out waters to those in need and making sure everyone was safe in the heat. Mr. Wells reported that many people ask him how City Council is going and he said that things are getting done and he also hears that everyone is please with what a great job the Mayor is doing. Ms. Gilpin said she was thankful for the work that got done that evening. Mr. West echoed Ms. Schramm's comments about Marian Days and thanked the public safety departments for all of their work. Mr. Perkins wondered how long the LIME scooters would be in town.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.