

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

September 9, 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=FCknAJOPxpM>

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.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Kate Gilpin, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Derek Peterson 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, Public Works Director Josiah Bayless, and IT Administrator Michael Keith. Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor was also present.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2025 Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

During Presentations, Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor administered the Oath of Office to Ward 2 Council Member, Genaro Cifuentes. Jeff Meredith gave a quarterly update on what the CEDC has accomplished and the items they are currently working on.

During public comments, Gene Griffith, 1050 James, addressed the Council about water issues around the area and encouraged the Council to do research on current water issues. He stated he would like to see the Council create a committee to design a comprehensive water policy to stop excess usage. Georganne Dinger, 1321 Hazel, spoke of her displeasure with the actions of some contractors in the area, stating she would like to see more accountability for their actions. She also stated that her voting place was not aligned with her home address and wonders how many others are voting in incorrect wards. Eileen Sherlock spoke about the Carthage Crisis Center, stating they are looking for collaboration with those in the community. She stated they have brought back the GED program so anyone who uses The Center will have the opportunity to complete the program. They also have job employment education for residents. Nicholas Carter, Carthage Crisis Center, reported that he was a former

resident, now Center staff, and gave a brief description of the services and support offered by The Center.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met on September 8th. He reported they discussed a budget adjustment for the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year for the Fire Tax Fund. This is on tonight's agenda as C.B. 25-63. Also discussed was the taxi grant application which is on tonight's agenda as C.B. 25-61. Lastly, they discussed changes to Chapter 17 Article VII Relating to the Carthage Redevelopment Corporation Ordinance. This is on tonight's agenda as C.B. 25-64. The next meeting is scheduled for October 13th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Wells reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. There was no other business conducted. The next meeting will be on September 23rd at 5:30.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting will be on September 22nd at 5:30.

Mr. West reported that the Public Services Committee is between meetings. The next meeting will be on September 18th at 5:30.

Mr. Wells reported that the Public Works Committee met on September 2nd. It was decided to re-open bids on the HH & Chapel Road Sidewalk Project. A \$5,500.00 bid from Terra Foundation was accepted for the Water Delineation Study for the Economic Development Park. They also increased the price for 24 x 36 inch copies that are printed for customers. The new price is \$3.50 for black and white copies, and \$4.00 for color copies. The next meeting will be on October 7th at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Thorn for the Carthage Library; Ms. Schramm for Vision Carthage, Wildcat Glades and The Missouri Master Naturalist, Restoration Carthage, Planning and Zoning, and Harry S. Truman TAC; Mr. Wells for Planning and Zoning.

Mayor Flanigan reported on the numerous meetings and interviews conducted over the last few weeks. He reported that the Chamber has had the Afterhours Social at The Palms, where the original void which was discovered during recent sidewalk renovations. He stated the Chamber has also had two Chamber Coffee events, one at the YMCA and one at the Roundabout Laundry. He also attended the Tree Board meeting and spoke about the Emerald Ash Bore which infects the Ash trees located in Carthage. He discussed the process the DNR is working toward to remediate the bore problem and the impact it might have on the city. He stated he took a call from the representatives of the National Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. The Coalition is trying to slow the Federal adoption of rules and regulations which would allow larger trucks on the roads. Lastly, he reported meeting Public Works Director Josiah Bayless and the contractor who has the next planning phase of the sidewalk rejuvenation. These sidewalks would be outside the Square, going down to Central, over to Howard, and

possibly west to Garrison. He expressed the desire for better and earlier communication from the contractors to the businesses who will be affected and to the public at large. He reported attending the VFW celebration of Patriot Day, stating both the fire department and the police department took place in the event. In response to comments from citizens, Ron Wells has agreed to head a committee to focus on code and ordinance enforcement. It will include representatives from the fire, police, Public Works, and Municipal Public Legal departments to ensure correct procedures are followed.

During Remarks from Council Members, Jack Perkins asked if the city would be selling the logs from the ash tree removal. City Administrator Traci Cox stated the trees must be removed by contract and the City is not being paid to have them removed. Mr. Snow welcomed Mr. Cifuentes to the Council. Ms. Schramm also welcomed Mr. Cifuentes to the Council and stated she had stopped at the Chamber today to get her Maple Leaf Festival Events poster. She says anyone who would like a poster may also stop at the Chamber to get one. Mr. Wells said he had the opportunity to meet with Josiah Bayless at Public Works so he could get a better understanding of the processes used in Code Enforcement. He stated he will continue to go to other departments to build a good relationship and gain an understanding about what goes on within each department. He says the new Code Enforcement committee will meet after he returns from the MML conference. Ms. Gilpin discussed the City's involvement with the Humane Society and wondered if Joplin would take animals if they could not be taken to Carthage. Mr. Cifuentes thanked the Council and said he will do his duty to be a good council member and looks forward to learning from the others. Mr. West welcomed Mr. Cifuentes to the Council.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins welcomed Mr. Cifuentes, stating he looks forward to getting to know him and work with him. The training lieutenant is working on the next Citizen's Academy, which will be held during October. The training is open to the public and will cover most aspects of the several types of things done within the department. Classes will be given and instructed by officers within the department. He reported a retirement reception was held for Officer Troy Richards.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported the department will be participating in a "Senior Prom" at Maple Tree Terrace from 1 – 3 p.m. on September 10th. There will also be a grain bin rescue training held Friday, September 12th from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. at Station 1. He reported two major fires in the last five days and reported mutual aid was received from several departments in the area. He thanked his crew for their hard work and dedication during these fires and reported no loss of life or injuries.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless gave an update about the sidewalk project on the Square, reporting that it is completed as far as the contractor's obligations go. There were a few changes made, with employees of his department completing some of the remaining work to cut costs. Special signposts have been ordered, and signage should go up soon. He reported that asphalt is scheduled to be laid Monday September 15th for the Hazel Street road widening project. He hopes that it will be completed very

soon. Airport Drive is still awaiting Spire's completion of the gas line. The East Chestnut box culvert had a water line that was too close to the concrete of the flow line. CW&EP was called in to assess and the water line was moved, with work being completed before the following day. He thanked the CW&EP employees who did the work so quickly.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported an internal meeting was held to discuss the new mandates issued by the State regarding the taxi program. She stated the taxi program is now required to have a full-time dispatcher. An increase in training mandates for staff and drivers has also been implemented. Ms. Cox also reported attending a design team meeting with Vision Carthage where a discussion was held regarding Hometown Holidays festivities. She also attended a non-profit Connect meeting held by Chante Beckham. Ms. Cox thanked Dan Curry for visiting her yesterday and bringing literature about a group called "Light Sports." The group worked over the weekend to clean Carl Lewton (Rock) Stadium and played ball in the stadium after they were finished. She encouraged everyone to attend the September 24th Planning and Zoning meeting which will go over the proposed changes to the Historic Preservation Guidelines. Lastly, she reported the permit has been received for placement of the maple leaf sculpture which will be placed in the roundabout near Casey's. She is hopeful the sculpture will be in place before the Maple Leaf Festival.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$925,339.05 against the following funds: General Revenue \$ \$250,726.49, Public Health \$996.92, Lodging \$4,213.29, Parks/Stormwater \$60,662.18, Golf \$9,138.44, Capital Improvements \$9,469.50, Parks and Recreation \$54.26, Myers Park \$133,891.50, Use Tax \$2,790.50, Public Facilities \$113,804.68, Library \$60,000.00, and Payroll \$279,591.29. Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 25-59 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 202 -- Drug Free Workplace of the Personnel Policy Manual of the City of Carthage was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Kate Gilpin, Genaro Cifuentes, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 25-56.

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 with no action taken.

C.B. 25-60 -- 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. 25-61 -- An Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to apply for federal financial assistance on behalf of the City of Carthage and to execute any contract(s) resulting from such application for any grants between the City of Carthage and the Missouri

Highways and Transportation Commission providing for capital, operating, and/or marketing assistance, comprised of federal funds to be expended for Commission-approved transit projects was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-62 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Terra Foundation, to perform a Water Delineation Study on the South Economic Development Park land that consists of roughly 246 acres, for \$5,500.00, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-63 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the Fire Sales Tax Fund was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 25-64 -- An Ordinance amending Chapter 17, Article VII, Section 17-257, 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 Ms. Gilpin, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Genaro Cifuentes to the Committee on Insurance/Audits and Claims and to the Public Safety Committee. Motion carried.

During closing comments, Mayor Flanigan reminded everyone that Thursday, September 11th, is National Patriot Day, a day of remembrance for those lost during the 9/11 attacks and all of our service providers doing things for us on a day-to-day basis. Mr. Snow again welcomed Mr. Cifuentes to the council. He discussed Carthage Tiger football; and stated he is looking forward to the MML conference. Ms. Schramm reported she is also attending the MML conference and is looking forward to it. Ms. Schramm spoke briefly about the "See something, say something" movement, reporting an incident at the school where her daughter works. In Tacoma, Washington was stopped because someone saw something and said something. She encourages everyone to speak up if they question anything. Mr. Wells agreed with Ms. Schramm, stating offense is always better than defense. He also encourages people to speak out if they see something that concerns them. Ms. Gilpin agreed with Ms. Schramm. Mr. Perkins mentioned Logan Van Wy, who pitches for the Houston Astros and is a Webb City native. He reported that MLB announcers spoke a lot about Logan being the only player from MSSU to go play in the Major League. Mr. Thorn said he was happy to see Rock Stadium received some attention over the weekend, stating the stadium is a big part of the city and needs to be appreciated. He also spoke about Patriot's Day and said we need to remember those who lost their lives during the attack. Ms. Kang welcomed Mr. Cifuentes and said she is looking forward to going to meetings with him and learning together. She also spoke of Patriot's Day. She also said Mr. Curry called her about Rock Stadium. He said they are recovering items during their cleaning that pertain to the earlier days of the stadium and are important to its history.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, 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 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Kate Gilpin, Genaro Cifuentes, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried at 7:45 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilpin, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 9:56 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Kate Gilpin, Genaro Cifuentes, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
September 9, 2025

The Carthage City Council met in a closed session on the above date in the City Hall Conference Room at 6:30 p.m. with Mayor David B. Flanigan presiding.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, 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 9 ayes and 0 nays. Ayes: Kate Gilpin, Genaro Cifuentes, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried and the Council entered closed session at 7:45 pm.

The following Council Members answered roll call Kate Gilpin, Genaro Cifuentes, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Attorney Jon Gold, City Administrator Traci Cox, HR Coordinator Michal Miller, and Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor were also present.

Mayor Flanigan made the appointment of Richard Bonine for the position of Parks and Recreation Director.

After discussion, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to accept the mayor's appointment of Richard Bonine for the position of Parks and Recreation Director, followed by a roll call vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays. Ayes: Kate Gilpin, Genaro Cifuentes, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Mayor Flanigan made the appointment of Chad Dininger for the position of Police Chief.

After discussion, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to bring Chad Dininger into the meeting to answer any questions Council may have, followed by a roll call vote of 7 ayes and 2 nays. Ayes: Genaro Cifuentes, Ray West, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Nays: Kate Gilpin and Jack Perkins.

Chad Dininger joined the meeting at 8:42 pm.

After discussion, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilpin, to accept the mayor's appointment of Chad Dininger for the position of Police Chief, followed by a roll call vote of 8 ayes and 1 abstain. Ayes: Kate Gilpin, Genaro Cifuentes, Ray West, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Abstain: Jack Perkins.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gilpin, to adjourn the closed session Council Meeting at 9:56 p.m. followed by a roll call vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays. Ayes: Kate Gilpin, Genaro Cifuentes, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried and the Council returned to regular session.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Taylor
Deputy City Clerk