

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

January 13, 2026 – 6:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

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. Training Office Brian Calhoon gave the invocation. Police Chief Chad Dininger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Council Member Genaro Cifuentes was absent. City Attorney Jon Gold and City Administrator Traci Cox were also present.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Chad Dininger, Fire Chief Jason Martin, Public Works Director Josiah Bayless, Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025 regular Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

During Public Comments, Georgeanne Diener, 1321 Hazel, thanked the Mayor for going to her meeting on the humane society and animal control issues within the City. She invited everyone to attend the next one on January 26th at 6:30 at the Ulmer Community Room.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met January 12th. They approved the budget amendment in Council Bill 26-01 which includes grant revenues and expenditures and emergency purchases that have been made. They approved the anonymous donation for the police department that is in Resolution 2108. They also approved the budget calendar for fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete to approve the budget calendar for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for February 9th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. They approved the wellness packet for the City employees and the incentive amounts of \$200 for a non nicotine user and \$100 for a nicotine user. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells to approve the packet and the incentive. Motion carried. The auditor will be at the next meeting to present the City's audit results, he encouraged anyone interested to attend. The auditor will not be presenting during the council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee meeting scheduled for December 15th was cancelled due to a lack of business. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26th at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Schramm reported that the Public Services Committee scheduled for December 11th was cancelled due to a lack of business. The next meeting is scheduled for January 20th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Public Works Committee met December 11th. The committee decided to rebid the HH/Chapel road sidewalk project so there is no risk of losing the TAP grant by backing out of that project. That side of town is developing quickly. They also selected an engineer for the 3rd Street bridge replacement. They decided to go with the Zanevan who is the City's contracted engineer due to their familiarity with that area and the project that will be taking place. The meeting scheduled for January 6th was cancelled due to a lack of business. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3rd at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. West for the Kellogg Lake Board, Mr. Thorn for the Library Board, Ms. Kang for the Boots Foundation, Ms. Schramm for CW&EP, Vision Carthage, and the Harry S Truman Coordinating Council, Mr. Wells for the Civil War Museum and the Jasper County commission, and Mr. Peterson for Planning, Zoning & Historic Preservation.

Mayor Flanigan thanked all those who signed up to run for city council. He reported on the retirement party and last call that was done in honor of Chief Hawkins retirement. The Junior High had an awards ceremony to celebrate a few of their students who entered an essay competition and made it to the national level. Council Member Topete was also at that ceremony. He reported on many meetings he has attended including the quarterly MML Mayor's meeting where they discussed State legislation discussing the tax reductions or eliminations that would greatly affect all cities.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Wells said that he enjoyed all the Christmas festivities and Sparkle in the Park. Ms. Schramm reported that the Humane Society could always use volunteers to help walk the dogs, she welcomed Chief Dinger as the new Police Chief officially. She said that she would be attending the legislative meeting with Jill Carter and Cathy Jo Loy on January 30 and the next Empowering Women's luncheon. She also thanked the Mayor for running for reelection. Ms. Kang reported that she attended the new Downtown Merchant's Alliance meeting and hopes to see wonderful things come from the local business owners on the square, she also reported that a few citizens of Carthage would be inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. Mr. Thorn reported that Helen Hubbard who is a resident of St. Lukes recently turned 106 and they had a birthday celebration for her. He also wants to see the humane Society and the City work together again because that is a big reason why he wanted to be on City Council. He also would like to see some code enforcement changes along Route 66 to beautify Carthage for the 100th anniversary of the route since there will be many travelers passing through. Mr. Topete was glad to be chosen to

sit in on the Assistant Police Chief interviews and wished Chief Dininger good luck as he has to choose between 3 really great applicants. He also congratulated the junior high students who were recognized for their essays and was proud of his wife for being a part of the process.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine reported that he is looking for any new ideas to incorporate into the 4th of July celebrations at the park. He also thanked everyone for the support they have shown him since he started.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless reported that the Hazel and Airport widening project is nearing completion, the HH signal should be up and running soon as the new cabinet has been installed. He also reported that the Airport Drive sidewalks have been completed and they are still working on the Fairview sidewalks, they hope to have Fairview open to vehicle traffic soon. Leaf pickup is running behind, since there has been nice weather, the street crews have been working on more asphalt as weather has allowed and they will do leaf pickup again soon as the weather will return to colder temperatures. He has also heard some questions about why the street crews go onto the CRM property to pickup leaves and he explained that the Father's would pile all the leaves up from the entire property along Highland and Grand and if a large rain came through, it would wash all the leaves into the stormwater and causing blockages and flooding problems. To prevent the stormwater issues, it has been better for everyone for them to drive through and pick up the mass amount of leaves that come from that property. He also thanked Julie Tilley for her continuous hard work on going through the historic guidelines that are being discussed at the Planning and Zoning meetings. There are two openings at the street department, and budget planning for next year has started. He also reported that the Macon street culvert is around 1 month out from being opened and the Center street culvert replacement has started.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that there were 2 fires this past Friday evening. He thanked all the organizations and groups for the hospitality over the holidays with the foods and snacks they brought to the department. He also reported that Scott Roughton, a CFD retiree passed away over the weekend. He thanked Joplin fire department for offering to cover the station this coming Friday so that the entire department could attend the funeral. He also reported that during the winter, his crews do as much training as they can, so he has a lot of his guys attending different training opportunities.

Police Chief Chad Dininger reported that there have been some manpower changes at the department, he also received great feedback from the interviewees. There is a new ACO officer, the former ACO is currently in the police academy and then there still remains one open position.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that she attended a meeting with the R-9 board to discuss decisions at the state level that could affect schools and learn to better advocate for what is best for our schools. She also reported that there is a public meeting about the MODoT improvements on Central Avenue that will be held on

January 22 from 4:30-6. She reported that the sales and use tax numbers are up and in line with the budget.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$5,462,514.76 against the following funds: General Revenue \$326,537.08, Public Health \$337,704.00, Lodging \$6,625.30, Public Safety \$11,267.10, Parks/Stormwater \$159,834.26, Fire Protection \$71.95, Golf \$27,579.30, Capital Improvements \$209,072.35, Parks and Recreation \$1,149.29, Myers Park \$211,028.14, Use Tax \$27,320.84, Library \$85,000.00, Payroll \$1,059,325.15 and Carthage Water and Electric \$3,000,000.00. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business, C.B. 26-01 – An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for specified funds (General Revenue Fund and Civic Enhancement Fund) was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Under Resolutions, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve Resolution 2108 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of an anonymous donation of \$10,000.00 by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City Policy. Resolution 2108 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

During closing comments, the Mayor reported that Mr. Cifuentes had decided not to run for city council for his current seat, so that seat will be determined by write in votes at the election. Mr. Thorn encouraged everyone to attend the planning and zoning meetings to discuss the design guidelines and at this time, he is not in favor of them because he thinks they are an overreach since they want homeowners to make changes based on the guidelines but offer not incentive. Ms. Kang thanked all the departments and staff who are not recognized often for all of their hard work. Mr. Snow reported that Donal Myers will be turning 107 next month and will be the oldest resident in Jasper County. He also spoke on the budget process that is about to start with new department heads and encouraged them to reach out to Ms. Cox and Ms. Deal if they have questions. He also wished the high school sports going on good luck. Mr. Wells asked when Spire would be done doing their work in town. Mr. Peterson spoke on what Mr. Thorn had said and that anything that the planning and zoning commission decides, will ultimately end up in front of council for approval before being implemented.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to close the meeting according to Section 610.021 (2), the agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss leasing, purchasing or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration therefor, followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek

Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to close the meeting according to Section 610.021 (1), the agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys, followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried at 7:52 p.m..

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 9:58 p.m. followed by a roll call vote 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried.

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