

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

January 27, 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. Fire Chief Jason Martin 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, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Council Members Genaro Cifuentes and David Thorn were 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.

Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026 regular Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee is between meetings. 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. The committee discussed the dental insurance renewal with Delta Dental, this insurance is 100% paid for by the employees. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve the Delta Dental insurance renewal with no increase for next year. Motion carried. Rebecca Baker with KPM CPA's was present to discuss the 2025 audit. The issued an unmodified, clean opinion, which is the best you can get. There was no findings of noncompliance with the single audit and she spoke highly of the staff involved in getting documents and reports for the auditors. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the audit for the year ending June 30, 2025. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee met January 26th. Meagan Milliken was present from CWEP to discuss the Tower to Tower 5K that is in May. There are no road closures needed, the police department will be helping to monitor the traffic during the event. They discussed the MODOT HMV mini grant that will pay for officer overtime during certain campaigns throughout the year, this appears in Resolution 2109. They discussed Resolution 2110 which is another grant from the State to purchase two flock

cameras. Resolution 2111 is for the decommissioning of 5 police vehicles and 1 taxi vehicle. The next meeting is scheduled to fall on a holiday, so it will most likely be held the following Monday on February 23rd at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Schramm reported that the Public Services Committee met January 20th. The youth fair board asked for permission to have 4 decaying trees cut down at no cost to the city where they are building the new poultry barn. They discussed and approved the Carthage Little League contract which appears in Council Bill 26-02. Cory Kerbs introduced his new assistant at the golf course, Ethan Sage. The December golf rounds were up due to the nicer weather and the pro shop is having an end of season closeout sale to try and move some of the product. Angie Judd reported that the handmade market is going through March at Memorial Hall. Melissa Little reported that one of the employees at the Civil War Museum had put in their notice and she will be doing interviews to find a replacement. She will also be appearing on living well to discuss future events in Carthage, the Red White and Boom planning has started, and she presented website analytics to the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for February 3rd at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Ms. Schramm for Vision Carthage, Mr. Wells for the Jasper County Commission, Mr. Peterson for Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation, Mr. Perkins for CWEP, and Ms. Kang reported on the new Downtown Merchants group.

Mayor Flanigan reported that he met with Jimmy Morris, the new Eastern District Commissioner, He attended the CEDC, CWEP, P&Z, and Police and Fire Pension meetings. He also attended the MODOT Community Forum on the Central Avenue upgrades that will start this summer. He thanked the Street department, and the Police and Fire employees for all of their hard work in the recent snow.

During Remarks from Council Members, many Council Members extended their appreciation to the street department for helping get roads plowed, Ms. Kang reported that she also attended the CWEP meeting and the MODOT forum. Mr. Snow thanked Jimmy Morris for attending the Council meeting and said he is the first commissioner he has seen at the City's Council meetings, he also reported that Jim Swatsenbarg had passed away. Jim was involved in many things with the City of Carthage and made a big impact in the community. Ms. Schramm reported that she attended the CWEP meeting, and the MODOT forum. She recently toured Quality Inn with Melissa Little to see the changes the new owners have made and met with the new manager who has been working with the Police Department to keep the hotel safe and crime free. She thanked Julie Reams for the AI meeting which helped show small businesses how they can use AI to help run their business. Mr. Wells thanked Jimmy Morris for coming, and asked if it would be possible to somehow get people to not park on the roads during

snow storms so the plows can clear the streets better without needing to go around vehicles parked on the curb.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless reported that leaf removal will wrap up once the snow is gone. The street department had very little issues with this snow storm and removing the snow from the roads and square with the new sidewalks and bump outs. He will be also attending the levee district #1 meeting next week just so there is a representative from the City in attendance. He reported that the stop light at Fir Road and Garrison is flashing red on all sides due to a MODOT requirement. They require the light to flash red for 14 days to make travelers more aware that there is a light there. Once the 14 days are up, the East to West Traffic on Fir Road will be a flashing yellow most times. He also reported that the Central Avenue construction is going to be from Garrison out to the Interstate and that MODOT has agreed to start construction on the west end by the Interstate, to help keep construction to a minimum near Garrison where all the Route 66 travelers will be passing through this year for the Centennial of the Route.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine reported that the weekends Memorial Hall events were able to be rescheduled due to the snow, the winterization of the parks has gone well. He thanked Chad Carney, his Parks Superintendent for all the hard work he has been doing. The golf course is slowing down due to cold weather, and his crews are mainly working on indoor repairs and preparing for Spring projects.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that he has some guys in winter fire school, and they are also doing in house instructor courses. They have a high school student who has committed to attending Fire 1&2 classes in Webb City and will be a certified firefighter when he graduates high school, he will come to work for the department after serving in the military. Chief Martin hopes to host a weather spotter class soon, but is waiting to hear back on potential dates. The department has ordered the storm siren batteries and will have to manually replace them in the sirens once they are received.

Police Chief Chad Dininger reported that they hired one experienced officer recently who will be a great asset to the department. They also performed interviews for the Training Lieutenant, and there will be an announcement once they decide who will fill that position.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that in February, department heads will be reporting their capital budget requests to their committees and encouraged the council members to make sure they are in attendance and to ask questions if they feel compelled to do so. As far as the parking off the street during snow, the Public Information Officer can put something out on social media the next time there is a snow event. She also thanked Mr. Bayless and his crew for the snow removal and thanked City Hall staff for all of their hard work they put in during the audit.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$498,685.23 against the following funds: General Revenue \$67,515.22, Public Health \$3,834.99, Lodging

\$2,858.00, Public Safety \$1,100.00, Parks/Stormwater \$11,509.11, Fire Protection \$3,574.45 Golf \$35,891.21, Capital Improvements \$89,187.88, Parks and Recreation \$7,031.21, Myers Park \$4,096.50, and Payroll \$272,086.66. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-01.

Under New Business, C.B. 26-02 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with Carthage Little League for non-exclusive use of the baseball fields at the Fair Acres Sports Complex during the summer of 2026, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

During Mayor's Appointments, Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the Mayor's Appointment of Eric Miller and Angie Judd to the Care Leave Committee until August 2026, and the reappointment of Morgan Hough to the Care Leave Committee until December 2027. Motion carried.

Under Resolutions, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve Resolution 2109 -- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept the Missouri Department of Transportation Hazardous Moving Violations Mini Grant for the Carthage Police Department. Resolution 2109 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve Resolution 2110 -- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept the Missouri Department of Public Safety Local Violent Crime Prevention Grant for the Carthage Police Department. Resolution 2110 failed after a roll call vote of 5 yeas 2 nays and 1 abstaining. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow. Nays: Jana Schramm and Ron Wells. Abstain: Beth Kang

There were many discussions on the flock cameras that would be purchased using this grant, pros and cons were discussed along with safety concerns.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve Resolution 2111 -- A Resolution approving the declaration as surplus to the City's needs and authorizing the disposition of certain Police Department vehicles. Resolution 2110 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

During closing comments, Mayor Flanigan thanked Jimmy Morris for attending, Mr. Perkins voiced his opinion on Resolution 2110 and the use of flock cameras. Mr. Snow voiced his disappointment with the vote results of Resolution 2110 and hopes that the failure of the vote for that grant doesn't affect future grants. Ms. Schramm talked about the abuse of flock cameras nationally, Ms. Kang said she would like to see the policy that will be in place prior to voting to approve the cameras. Mr. Wells mentioned flock cameras and if the public knows about the ones currently out there. Mr. Topete thanked everyone for their views on the flock cameras and said that it is up to them as a council to have trust in their police department and the policies they create for their employees to follow. Mr. West also voiced his disappointment for the vote and said the cameras are not monitored 24/7, if there is no reason to access it and look up a vehicle, then the images won't be viewed and delete after 30 days.

Mr. West made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.