

# City of Carthage, Missouri

## CITY COUNCIL

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FEBRUARY 10, 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, 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. Peterson, to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2026 regular Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

During Public Comments, Tom Brekken 1816 S Maple, asked the Council to consider making a portion of Main and Maple Streets one-way streets due to them being a smaller width. He is concerned about emergency response and during Marian days, there is no way for traffic to flow both ways when cars are parked along both sides of the streets.

Jana Conklin, Manager of the Boots Court gave an early update on the operations at the visitors center. They have already had many people from other states and countries visit this year. They expect to have many travelers stop and visit with the Route 66 Centennial celebration this year. There will be a kick-off event in June to celebrate Route 66.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met February 9<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the budget adjustment in Resolution 2112. They discussed the ward residency council bill that is on first reading as C.B. 26-04. They also heard Administration and IT capital requests for next budget year. The next meeting is scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. They discussed the Museum Guide job description. Changes include updating the hours of work, holidays, and adding the Tourism Director and the person they report to. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to

approve the changes to the Museum Guide job description. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Schramm reported that the Public Services Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Ms. Schramm did report that there have been ongoing meetings with the YMCA to work out a new agreement for the pools.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Public Works Committee met February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm they approved the bid for this years paving. That appears in Council Bill 26-07. They reviewed the new bids for HH and Chapel sidewalks, that discussion has been tabled until they can speak with the school district to see if they are willing to help cover the additional costs since the bids came in around \$64,000 more than budgeted. There was a special meeting held a special meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm to approve the final easement contracts for getting access to the economic development park. One is with Mercy and the other is with Swearingen Farms. Those appear as council bills 26-05 and 26-06. The next meeting is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Ms. Schramm for Vision Carthage, Mr. Thorn for the Library Board, Mr. Peterson for Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation, and Ms. Kang reported on the Downtown Merchants Alliance.

Mayor Flanigan reported on budget meetings, attending the legislative kickoff, Chamber coffees, the Vision Carthage Fundraiser event, and speaking to the Carthage Rotary group.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Peterson reported that the bridge committee will be meeting later in the week. Mr. Perkins was approached by a private family trust looking for other non-profits to donate to. Ms. Kang said that there is a non-profit group that takes people to and from medical appointments and they are looking for more drivers for that program. Ms. Schramm reported on attending a RISE coalition meeting, and meetings with the humane society continue. Mr. Wells received some complaints that there is not enough signage around Mark Twain School for people to slow down.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that on March 26 at 6:30 pm at station 2, they will be holding the storm spotter class. On February 16, there will be a remembrance ceremony held at Park Cemetery for fallen firefighter Steve Fierro. He is working on his capital budget requests to present, and he also congratulated Jason Choate with CWEP for being chosen by the Governor to be on the Safe Drinking Water Commission.

Police Chief Chad Dininger reported that Aaron Kmick has been promoted to Training Lieutenant, Hayden Swinehart has been promoted to Detective Sergeant, and Chris Haddock has been promoted to Corporal.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine reported that the golf crew has been working hard with this nicer weather we have had. The parks crews are also busy with cleaning up the parks due to increased visits due to weather. He is also working on his capital budget and contracts for all things parks related.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless reported he is working on his capital requests to present. There was a special use permit approved at Planning and Zoning that is on first reading, it is for a day care center that is greatly needed in the community. The signal at HH and Garrison should be closed out by MoDOT soon, and there is a final walkthrough scheduled with MoDOT for the Hazel and Airport expansion project. He also wanted to mention that the Blevins bid came in way under the other two bids that were received and it will be a great thing since it can help us buy more asphalt for the budgeted amount.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the sales tax came in at \$283,031.02 which is 2.43% higher than the same month last year, year to date it is .41% below the same time last year but still on target for budget projections. The use tax came in at \$181,415.00 which was very good, this time last year it came in at \$106,318. Year to date it is 15.27% higher than the same time last year. She also reported that she and the Mayor met with Naomi Baker who works with U.S. Representative Eric Burlison, they have an office in Joplin and if anyone has any questions or issues with anything that is Federal, to reach out to their office to see how they can help.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$2,762,759.88, against the following funds: General Revenue \$91,528.07, Public Health \$87.94, Lodging \$3,990.58, Civic Enhancement \$1,000.00, Parks/Stormwater \$149,084.36, Fire Protection \$1,029.32, Golf \$19,087.73, Capital Improvements \$6,826.42, Myers Park \$3,167.00, Use Tax \$17,525.00, Library \$25,000.00, Payroll \$444,433.46, and Carthage Water and Electric \$2,000,000.00. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old 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 second reading 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. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-02.

Under New Business, C.B. 26-03 -- An Ordinance authorizing a special use permit for the operation of a Day Care Center located on the Northeast corner of River Street and

Airport Drive as requested by Kellen and Victoria Bounous, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-04 -- An Ordinance amending the Carthage Municipal Code to establish a residency requirement for City Council Members within the district they represent was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-05 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Road Easement Agreement with Swearingen Family Farms, LLC, for the purpose of constructing a road into the Economic Development Park was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-06 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Mercy Health Southwest Missouri/Kansas Communities for a Temporary Construction Easement, for the purpose of constructing a road in the Economic Development Park was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-07 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Blevins Asphalt Construction Co., Inc. for the Annual Asphalt Paving Contract for fiscal year 2025-2026 in the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri (\$71.50 per ton of asphalt), was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Under Resolutions, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to approve Resolution 2112 -- A Resolution authorizing a budget adjustment to the Public Safety Fund for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for a line-item adjustment to Capital Outlay Police Department for payment to Axon for tasers and body cameras.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kang to amend to amount in the Resolution to \$9,845.52. Motion carried.

Resolution 2112 as amended, 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 asked that any council member that knows they will be gone for a council meeting, reach out to Ms. Deal to let her know. Ms. Kang congratulated Jason Choate for his appointment. Mr. Snow wished everyone a happy valentines day.

Mr. West made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, 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, and 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 7:23 p.m.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 7:48 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.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.