

# City of Carthage, Missouri

## CITY COUNCIL

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FEBRUARY 24, 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. Assistant Police Chief Jeff Pinnell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The following Department Heads were present: Assistant Police Chief Jeff Pinnell, Fire Chief Jason Martin, Public Works Director Josiah Bayless, and Golf Operations Supervisor Cory Kerbs, and City Clerk Miranda Deal. Police Chief Chad Dininger and Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine were absent.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026 regular Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Prior to public comments, the Mayor addressed the Mark Peterson case and said that he has been talking with the Attorney General's office and is waiting for more information.

During Public Comments, Mitsy Welch addressed the Council and asked if they would resolve her complaint against the police department.

Julie Reams, President of the Chamber, spoke on many of the free business resources that can be utilized by businesses in town. She also spoke on the Earth Day Celebration on April 18 from 10-2 in Central Park. The Empowering Women's Conference in May 13, there are monthly Men's group meeting, and there will be announcements in the near future about the 60th anniversary celebration of the Maple Leaf Festival.

Darren Collier, President of the CWEP Board, spoke on the council bill that is on first reading. He said that it is the first of three agreements that the Council will see and they are all related to getting the new substation put in out at the Economic Development Park.

Tiffany Cossey, 1306 S Main, appreciated the Mayor's comments on the Mark Peterson case, then suggested that the Council use their power to investigate what was said the night of the closed session where the vote was taken to do the forensic audit. She wants to find out what was told to the Council to determine if there are others that need

to be held accountable for the Mark Peterson case. She also believes the Council should hire an outside source that has no relations to the City to investigate payments that have been made between 2023-2025 to make sure there was proper approval for \$1,000 or more invoices.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee is between meetings. 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 meeting scheduled for this day was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee met February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30. The traffic flow on Main and Maple was reviewed and the police and fire departments do not believe there is anything sufficient to change the traffic flow, they forwarded to the Public Works Committee to review as well. There was a discussion on redoing the handicap signs and painting at St. Ann's Catholic Church, it was also requested to add a third spot to the north of the others. This was also forwarded to Public Works to get the work done by the street department. They approved a donation of a pool table to the fire department that will be on the next Council agenda. The roof at Fire Station 1 needs to be redone, and an RFP will go out for replacement costs. The purchase of AED machines was approved, the money for these was received from the McCune Brooks Hospital Trust. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to approve the bid for 15 AED's, 8 battery packs, 8 electrodes and 8 carrying cases, for \$34,990.00 from Joplin Safety NET. Motion carried. They forwarded the resolution for the approval of the LEST grant, and the police and fire department presented their 5 year capital plans. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Schramm reported that the Public Services Committee met February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Becky Freeman asked to operate her Tropix food truck within Municipal Park and Fair Acres during the spring and summer sports seasons. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the operation of this food truck during the spring and summer. Motion carried. They also discussed the Earth Day Celebration and the use of Central Park. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the use of Central Park on April 18 from 10-2 for the Earth Day Celebration. Motion carried. They discussed the new pool contract and the changes were hours are from 1-6 daily, \$5 gate fees, private rental fees increased, you can bring your own outside food and drinks, and on Wednesdays, there is free swim for Carthage residents. There was only one firework bid turned in and it is in Council Bill 26-09. Cory Kerbs discussed starting alcohol sales at the golf course, he presented the policies and pricing. Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the golf course to start selling alcohol effective immediately. Motion carried with 6 ayes and 1 nay with Mr. Wells casting the nay vote. The lime scooters were discussed, there is a community survey going around right now to get the citizens input on them. Mr. Bonine presented the 5 year capital plan for Parks and Golf. Ms. Schramm also reported that she would be going to Columbia, MO to meet Mr. Bonine at the MRRRA conference and meet with

different pool vendors. The next meeting is being moved and is scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm.

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

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Perkins for the CWEP Board, Mr. Wells for the Civil War Museum Board, Ms. Schramm for Vision Carthage, and Mr. West for the Kellogg Lake Board

Mayor Flanigan reported that he will be having a meeting with Josiah and the County Commissioners to discuss a formerly adopted MOU with the County related to repair and clean up responsibilities on some of the roads within town. He reported on a meeting with CWEP members to get some of the ordinances updated and changed that relate to CWEP and their financial reports. He reported that the CEDC is working on some stuff out at the economic development park, and that MoDOT inspected the bridges recently and is requiring the City to shut down two northernmost Garrison bridges due to extreme deterioration. The bridges will be closed to traffic at 8 am on Friday February 27.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Peterson gave a brief history on the bridges and why nothing has been done about it and what the future looks like. The bridge committee has been working on a game plan of what to do and how to fund the replacement of all the deteriorating bridges within Carthage. Mr. Perkins said that he conducted his own survey of the scooters and 7 out of 10 people 79 and older don't want the scooter. Mr. Snow asked that the golf course alcohol policies be sent to Mr. Gold for review. He also mentioned that some of the other cities that have the electric scooters and bikes have other ordinances on file regarding the responsibility of the scooters and he believes we should look into doing something like that. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells to amend the agenda to add Mayor's Appointments to the agenda in order for the Mayor to nominate someone for the Insurance Audit and Claims Committee. This motion was made due to the emergency situation of no committee quorum for the Insurance Audit and Claims Committee due to Mr. Cifuentes no longer coming to meetings, and Ms. Kang is out for a medical procedure. Motion carried. Mr. Snow also commented on Mitsy Welch's comments earlier during public comments, he stated that the Council does not and cannot get involved in police department matters and told Ms. Welch to file a complaint. She had asked the Council to meet in a special session to discuss her legal issues with Municipal Court and the Council does not have that power to do anything with the tickets or arrest that was made. Ms. Schramm mentioned that she had sent some Council Bill requests and draft Council Bills to Ms. Cox, the Mayor, Mr. Peterson, and Attorney Gold for their review. She said it is council bills left over after the 2024 year and she would like to get these issues cleaned up now. She also mentioned the charges against Mark Peterson getting dropped and she wants the Council to investigate what happened during the closed session on February 14, 2023 when the vote was taken to start the forensic audit. Mr.

Wells asked if the Police Department would be enforcing the age limit on the scooters since you have to be 18 to register through the app.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless reported that him and Jeff Meredith had been going around the square and giving meeting information to the business owners and residents that will be impacted from the additional sidewalk project that extends off the immediate square. The meeting will be Thursday March 5 at City Hall and anyone is welcome to attend to discuss the project. He also reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission has many items on the next agenda that do not include the design guidelines. When the asphalt agreement gets approved tonight, Blevins will be able to pave the Macon street culvert and get that road back open hopefully next week. He reported on the meeting with the County on the road maintenance agreement. The emergency ordinance on the agenda is to correct the names on the plat that was recorded incorrectly.

Golf Operations Supervisor Cory Kerbs was present in place of Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine and reported that he was just sitting in and taking notes for Mr. Bonine.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that the storm spotter class has had 23 sign up so far, this does not include the numbers from his department. They will have to move that meeting to City Hall or Memorial Hall due to the numbers closer to the meeting on March 26.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the property tax revenues are currently \$6,500 higher than this time last year. HR Coordinator Michael Miller and herself met with the workers comp auditor and there were 4 bad years, and the city has had 2 good years recently and that will result in a 10% reduction in the experience mod. She attended the chamber board meeting and there are a lot of exciting things that Julie will be presenting in the future. She and Alan Snow attended the MML Legislative Conference last week and got to speak with many important politicians from the state. They spoke with the Lieutenant Governor about the bridges along with our area representative and senator and hopefully that can help open some doors on getting them fixed. She also addressed Ms. Cossey's comments about the audit and stated that her and her staffs role was to provide information and the bank statements we provided we also subpoenaed by the auditors. She has worked diligently to help stabilize and maintain trust within the City and she welcomes any review or inquiries into the city and will work with whomever to provide information. There have been changes made to the CIAC review of the claims by providing the check registers so everything is accounted for, and she is open to providing any information requested as long as it is allowed by law.

There was no report of the claims committee due to the lack of quorum for that meeting.

Under Old 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-03.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-04.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-05.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-06.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-07.

Under New Business, C.B. 26-08 -- An Emergency Ordinance to amend Council Bill 21-01, which approved the final plat of the Katie's 1st Addition generally located South of St. Louis Avenue and East of Robertson Avenue, in the City of Carthage, Missouri, as requested by Justin Holzwarth was placed on first reading.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to move Council Bill 26-08 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 26-08 -- An Emergency Ordinance to amend Council Bill 21-01, which approved the final plat of the Katie's 1st Addition generally located South of St. Louis Avenue and East of Robertson Avenue, in the City of Carthage, Missouri, as requested by Justin Holzwarth was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Jana

Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-08.

C.B. 26-09 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Pyro Spectaculars, Inc. for the July 4, 2026 firework display in the amount of \$25,000.00, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-10 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Fair Acres Family Y, Inc. for Management of the Aquatic Facilities for the 2026 season in the amount of \$100,000.00, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-11 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri, authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Facilities Study and Environmental Documentation Agreement with Southwestern Power Administration was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mayor's Appointments was added to the agenda as an emergency item due to the Insurance Audit and Claims committee no longer having a quorum due to Mr. Cifuentes no longer attending and Ms. Kang being out on medical leave.

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to approve the Mayor's Appointment of Ray West to the Committee on Insurance Audit and Claims. Motion carried.

Under Resolutions, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve Resolution 2113 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Police Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 2113 was adopted after a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

During closing comments, Ms. Schramm mentioned the Soroptimist spud fundraiser that is Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Wells asked Chief Martin to add him to the list for the storm spotter class. Mr. West asked for prayers for the two fallen officers from Christian County. Mr. Perkins brought up the age for the lime scooters.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.