

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 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. 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, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Council Member Beth Kang 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, and Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2026 regular Council meeting minutes. Motion carried.

During Public Comments, Regina Wells, 2026 S Maple, expressed her concerns with Lime scooters and the liabilities they might cause for the City of Carthage and its residents.

Julie Reams, Carthage Chamber of Commerce, announced the Maple Leaf Festival the Four-States Finest sponsored through KOAM. This is the sixth award for the festival. She thanked the City for their continued support thought the event and for those who volunteer to help. She also thanked the community for continually attending the festival and making it the best.

Jeff Meredith, CEDC, thanked the Swearingin family and its trustees for the donation of a land easement to be used for the construction of and ambulance barn. He also reported that two easements will be filed at the Recorder's office this week. He spoke about daycare facilities within the community. One has expanded and another nonprofit has been approved and is currently devising their business plan. He reported the CEDC housing committee continues to focus on the need for housing. He also spoke briefly about the impact Lime scooters have on the city.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met March 9th at 5:30. They discussed the budget goals and the overall priorities for the year. Ms. Cox discussed COLA, step, and merit increases for employees. She stated the bridges were added to the budget for Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027. They also discussed a budget adjustment for park lighting installation. IT Director Michael Keith discussed a new

cellular provider for the city and recommended an agreement with Verizon. Ms. Cox discussed the current tax revenues. She also noted the Kellogg Lake board approached the City about the purchase of banners for the new bridge on the east side of town. The cost would be \$2,500.00 and Ms. Cox stated this could be funded through the Central Municipal Activities so there would be no need for a budget adjustment. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. He reported the discussion of three new ordinances which would add or amend parts of the City Code. Ms. Cox reported she has been training City Clerk Miranda Deal in financials and budgeting. Ms. Cox said funds had been allocated for her to attend GFOA training, but she would like to use those funds to send Ms. Deal to GFOA training in Kansas City. She also reported working is being done on the budget and progress is being made on agency contracts. The next meeting is scheduled for March 24th at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16th at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Schramm reported that the Public Services Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is being moved and is scheduled for March 23rd at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Public Works Committee met March 3rd at 5:30. He reported Dumpster Days was discussed, as was the possibility to change parking on Main St. and Maple St. between Centennial & Fairlawn, during Marian Days. Public Works Director Josiah Bayless gave an update on the budget for FYE 2026. He also presented the 5-Year Capital Budget. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7th at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Perkins for CWEP; Mr. Wells for the Code Enforcement Committee; Mr. Snow for the Humane Society; and Mr. Peterson for Planning, Zoning, & Historic Preservation.

Mayor Flanigan reported he met with the Library Board and there are three board member seats that will turn over soon. There are several people who have expressed interest in serving on the board. He said he and Mr. Snow met with the McCune-Brooks Hospital Board. He reported that the Zoning Board of Adjustment met to make an adjustment within plats in the city. Planning & Zoning has been working on the Historic Guidelines. He reported the Tree Board has been working, and new trees have been planted along Grand and portions of Centennial. Lastly, he reported on the bridge meeting with county and state officials to discuss the state of the bridges. He said the video of the presentation can be found on YouTube.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Peterson thanked Ms. Cox, Mayor Flanigan, and everyone at City hall who helped facilitate the bridge tour meeting. Mr. Perkins suggested Mr. Bonine try to renegotiate the cost of the fireworks for the City's

4th of July celebration since tariffs have been eliminated. Mr. Thorn announced the Library Board meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. He stated he has received a few calls about the bridges and about Lime scooters. Mr. Snow explained the Planning Zoning & Historic Preservation board is not trying to create new guidelines, they are updating existing guidelines. They are not creating new historic districts; they are updating the guidelines within those districts. He said Carthage has had designated historic districts since the 1980s. Ms. Schramm reported she attended the bridge meeting and commended Mr. Peterson on his knowledge of the bridges. Mr. Wells stated he has made some inquiries about Lime scooters. He asked for both pros and cons from those responding. He stated most people are against the scooters.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine reported that he and staff are busy working on budgets and contracts. He said he recently attended a Parks & Rec conference where he met several good vendors. He stated he will try to renegotiate the fireworks contracts at Mr. Perkins's urging.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless thanked Julie Reams for meeting him and officials who were unable to attend the bridge meeting last week. They were able to go today and tour with those officials. He also reported that asphalt is back and Blevins Asphalt will be around town paving roads within the next few weeks. He said Old Route 66 by Kellogg Lake has already received new pavement and new Route 66 stencils will be used to paint logos on the new pavement. He mentioned the Airport Rd sidewalk project is underway. He has heard several comments about curbs in the middle of the roadway and explained those a requirement of the conditions of the TAP project, as the project is funded with a state-issued grant. These curbs appear when a crosswalk is in the middle of a roadway instead of at an intersection. The curbs are designed as places for pedestrians to stand safely as they wait for an opportunity to cross. He said the Center Street and Macon Street box culverts are a priority now that paving has begun and work will begin on those within the next few days. He reported a meeting was held about the downtown sidewalk extension project, which is slated to begin after the Maple Leaf Festival.

Fire Chief Jason Martin commented on the weather the past few weeks and said that he will keep the schools, Public Safety chair, and City administration about danger zones during threatening weather.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that sales tax revenue for the month of March is \$283,031.02, 2% higher than the previous fiscal year. Year-To-Date sales tax in the General Fund \$2,349,469.00, down just half a percent from the same time last year. Use tax is \$125, 980.78, which is down 1.5% from the same month last year. Year-to-Date, the City is at \$1,083,511.00. \$124,966.00 ahead of the same period last year. She also thanked Congressman Burlison's field reps who were here for the bridge meeting and tour.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$1,716,912.74, against the following funds: General Revenue \$123,015.39, Public Health \$ 587.39, Lodging \$6,924.54, Public Safety \$11,511.11, Parks/Stormwater \$57,594.75, Fire Protection \$351.25, Golf \$17,002.41, Capital Improvements \$233,981.68, Parks and Recreation \$355.07, Myers Park \$200,063.86, Library \$25,000.00, and Payroll \$1,040,525.29. Mr. Peterson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried with a 7:1 vote, Mr. Perkins voting no.

Under Old Business, 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-09.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-10.

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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-11.

Under New Business, C.B. 26-12 -- An Ordinance annexing certain adjacent territory known as Lot 13 in Breckenwood 3rd Addition, into the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri as requested by Stephen Carlton was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-13 -- An Ordinance annexing certain adjacent territory which consists of a 24.23-acre parcel on East Fir Road, into the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri as requested by Carthage R9 School District was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-14 --An Ordinance accepting the re-plat of Blackberry Briar Subdivision located East of Prospect Avenue between 13th Street and Budlong Street, in the City of Carthage Missouri, as requested by Wright Family Homes/Chris Wright was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-15 -- An Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and Zanevan Engineering, LLC for engineering services on the 3rd Street Bridge Replacement Project (BRO-R117002), in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Under Resolutions, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, to approve Resolution 2114 -- A Resolution providing for the formal acceptance of a donation to the City of Carthage's Fire Department by the City Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri pursuant to City policy. Resolution 2114 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve Resolution 2115 -- A Resolution approving the recommendation of the McCune-Brooks Regional Hospital Trust for the distribution of funds in the amount of \$65,000.00 from the Restricted Trust Fund to the Jasper County Youth Fair. Resolution 2115 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve Resolution 2116 -- A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Carthage granting an administrative lot split for property located at 1005 James Street (Manley's Addition Lot 28) as requested by Mayra Morales Hernandez. Resolution 2116 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve Resolution 2117 -- A Resolution authorizing a budget adjustment to the General Revenue Fund for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for a line-item adjustment to Capital Outlay for the installation of park playground lights. Resolution 2117 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells.

During closing comments, Ms. Schramm told everyone to enjoy their Spring break next week. Mr. Wells mentioned that it is 12 days until Spring and commented on the incoming weather. Mr. Topete discussed Lime scooters and said he understands Mr. Wells' concerns. He told the Council and Parks Director that some of the issues he has heard with Lime are within the Council's control. They can control the areas where the scooters are used. Mayor Flanigan announced that Mr. Cifuentes has turned in his resignation and that the seat will not be filled due to the upcoming election next month. Mr. Perkins asked why we glorify instruments of death in public parks, pointing out the number cannons located in our parks and around town. He wonders why there is not just a monument. Mr. Thorn mentioned that it is Spring break. He also mentioned it is St. Patrick's Day and encouraged everyone to enjoy it. He mentioned the Storm Spotter

meeting on March 26th and signups are still open. He mentioned today is his grandson's 17th birthday. Mr. Snow mentioned the severe weather we are having right now does not concern him as much as the 20-degree weather that is coming next week.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schramm, 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 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried at 7:44 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Schramm made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:21 p.m. followed by a roll call vote 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Derek Peterson, Juan Topete, Ray West, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Jana Schramm, and Ron Wells. Motion carried.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.