

# City of Carthage, Missouri

## CITY COUNCIL

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APRIL 28, 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 Pro Tem Juan Topete presiding. Fire Chief Jason Martin gave the invocation. Police Chief Chad Dinger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. City Attorney Jon Gold and City Administrator Traci Cox were also present.

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

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to amend the agenda to add administering the Oath of Office to Council Member Beth Kang. Motion Carried.

City Clerk Miranda Deal administered the Oath of Office to Beth Kang.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2026 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

During Public Comments, Mitsy Welch asked the Council again to look into her case and missing items from the police department.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Wells reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. The committee also approved the council bill to add Good Friday as a holiday and change the observed days for Christmas Eve and Christmas when they fall on weekends. There was also a vote to bring back section 2-160 to committee for discussion relating to the termination or discharge of the City Administrator. The Committee voted to change the meeting time to 6 pm unless there is a heavy agenda, and then the time will be 5:30. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee met April 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Jessica Duncan was present to ask for street closures for a block party. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, to close Wendy Lane from Buena Vista to Laura on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm. Motion carried. They also discussed a street closure for a Cinco

de Mayo Cultural Celebration and Community Health Event. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to close East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street from Howard to Grant, including the parking lot at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Howard, on May 5<sup>th</sup> from 2-6:30 pm. Motion carried. Janna Conklin with the Boots Visitors Center was present to discuss a block party and ask for street closures. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reddy, to close Olive Street from Garrison to the alley behind the Boots Center, on June 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30 pm. Motion carried. The committee discussed changes to Chapter 15 – Nuisances of the City Code, that appears in CB 26-30. C-Town Cruises requested permission to back into all spaces on the square for monthly car shows. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison to allow backing into all spaces on the square on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of every month until October from 4-9 pm. Motion carried. The Fire Department received bids for the Station 1 roof repair. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Reddy, to approve the bid from Ridgeline Roofing in the amount of \$25,400.00 for station 1 repairs. Motion carried. Chief Martin asked for a budget adjustment out of his use tax fund to buy additional supplies for the AED's that were purchased. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. West, to approve the purchase of the additional supplies with Use Tax funds. Motion carried. The committee discussed the taxi service and the discussions will need to continue on how to move forward when the expenses are more than revenues for the taxi and the state and federal government are requiring cities to do more and more without additional funding. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Kang reported that the Public Services Committee met April 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30. Lime Scooters will be on the Council agenda for discussion at the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting to decide if the council wants to move forward with the scooters for the season. There is also work being done to assess the pool and what repairs need to be done. The committee discussed the Schreiber Employee park day in Central Park. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to allow the use of Central Park on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 pm for the Schreiber employee park day. Motion carried. There was a Fiesta En El Parque event hosted by Arvest bank discussed. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to allow the use of Carter Park on May 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 pm and to allow food trucks to be parked at the park for the event. Motion carried. The solar car teams will be coming through town at the end of July. They requested to camp in the park on their trip through town. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to allow overnight camping by the solar car teams on July 29<sup>th</sup> in Municipal Park near the Rodeo Grounds. Motion carried. The committee discussed council bills for the Kellogg Lake Rearing Pond project, the skating rink agreement, and the Vision Carthage agreement. They also heard about the golf revenues and the revenues from the liquor sales that started in March. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Topete reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Jason Martin for the Police and Fire Pension Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Juan Topete reported that the budget meetings are still going on with the departments and administration. He also attended the ribbon cutting for the sculpture on the roundabout. He thanked former council member Kirby Newport for attending the public services meeting last week and having students attend as well. There were students in the audience from his class for the council meeting. He also said that applications were still being taken to fill the ward 2 vacant seat.

During Remarks from Council Members, Ms. Kang reported that she attended the ribbon cutting for the sculpture and for the dog park. Mr. Wells reported that he attended the new farmers market pavilion recently, he also asked if there was going to be some kind of ordinance put in place to handle the issues that are had with the lime scooters and with the electric chairs being driven on roadways. Ms. Reddy said she and her husband recently visited the Boots Visitors Center and were impressed with the location and everything they have going on. Ms. Harrison said she is excited to be back and start attending all the upcoming events. Mr. Thorn reported he visited the Boots Visitors Center and toured their new short term RV parking spots. Mr. Perkins encouraged everyone to attend the Fiesta En El Parque event.

Police Chief Chad Dininger reported that there will be a large charity motorcycle ride coming through town soon. There will be 150 motorcycles that come in to view the Boots Visitors Center and then they will circle the square and then exit the City. He also reported they have one officer graduating from the police academy in May and 2 officers will complete their field training this week, the department is still short one officer.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that there was some recent promotion testing. He has vacancies in his department as well, they have lost 4 since the year started. He also went over the storm from earlier in the week and why the sirens kept sounding. He said that the sirens were put on timers for 5 minute intervals once Carthage was listed in the path of the storm, and it continued until the storm was past the City. He also asked the schools to open the shelters early so people weren't driving in the storm to get to the shelters. There were about 900 people who were at the 4 FEMA storm shelters throughout the city.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine reported that little league games had started and he went over the events happening for the Red White and Boom event on July 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a 5K, golf tournament, Kiddieland ride, inflatables, facepainting, watermelon fee, a live band, food trucks and vendors, bull riding in the evening, and the night will end with the firework show. He also thanked Mr. Perkins for his help on the playground lights and speaking with CWEP on getting assistance with those.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless reported that the code enforcement efforts are going well and his department has received more positive feedback than negative and they are seeing progress with the properties. He also said there are organizations that are willing to help those in need get their properties fixed. Sunday is dumpster days at the Fair Acres parking lot, the planning and zoning meeting is scheduled for Monday,

and Blevins is currently in town to pave Garrison and a part of East Central past the bridge by Leggett.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the Downtown Revitalization Coalition had another meeting and there is something being created to help people get businesses started. The Humane Society Contract is still in the works with hopes of bringing a contract to committee soon. She thanked CWEP for all of their help with the pool issues. She also reported on a Council Bill for guidelines regarding short term rentals.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$601,738.17 against the following funds: General Revenue \$105,143.79, Public Health \$169,555.78, Lodging \$2,512.36, Public Safety \$7,748.56, Parks/Stormwater \$3,237.50, Fire Protection \$646.00, Golf \$13,162.67, Capital Improvements \$7,474.00, Parks and Recreation \$63.75, Use Tax \$4,900.00, Public Library \$25,000.00, and Payroll \$262,293.76. Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Public Hearings, The Carthage City Council will hold a Public Hearing at City Hall, 326 Grant St. Carthage, Missouri at 6:30pm on April 28th, 2026, to consider the following: An annexation request for property known as Lot 13 in Breckenwood 3rd Addition. There were no participants for the public hearing.

Under Old 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 Richard and Wylone Abbott was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-22.

C.B. 26-23 -- An Ordinance to amend Chapter 2 of the Code of the City of Carthage to add Article III Division 6, Section Sec. 2-178. - General functions, in the City of Carthage, Missouri, adding to the functions of the city clerk the requirement to post all agendas was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-23.

C.B. 26-24 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amended agreement with the Boots Court Foundation/Carthage Visitors Center beginning July 1, 2026, for Tourism and Marketing Services, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-24.

Under New Business, C.B. 26-27 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Lease Agreement with Jason and Pam Graff for continued use of the pavilion in

Municipal Park as a skating rink for a one-year term commencing May 1, 2026 was placed on first reading with no action taken with no action taken.

C. B. 26-28 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Elements Construction Concepts, Inc. of Joplin, Missouri, for the Kellogg Lake Sidewalk and Pavilion in the amount of \$134,143.00, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-29 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Vision Carthage for Specified Services in the City of Carthage, from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-30 -- An Ordinance amending Chapter 15 -- Nuisances of the Carthage City Code was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-31 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 503 – Holidays Authorized of the Personnel Policy Manual of the City of Carthage by adding Good Friday and amending the holiday observation days for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day when Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday was placed on first reading with no action taken.

During closing comments, Ms. Kang wanted to let Chief Dininger know that she has received many good compliments on the new Animal Control Officer. Mr. Wells and Mr. West thanked the students for attending the meeting this evening. Mr. Thorn welcomed Mrs. Reddy and Mrs. Harrison to the council. Mr. Perkins explained the students in attendance that the committee meetings are where most of the work happens and encouraged them to attend more of them. Mr. Snow said he will talk to Mr. Newport about his class.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wells, 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: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. Motion carried at 8:12 p.m.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Reddy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:27 p.m. followed by a roll call vote 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. Motion carried.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.