



City of Carthage, Missouri

BUDGET WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

May 13, 2026 - 5:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, David Thorn, Juan Topete

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor David B. Flanigan, Robin Harrison, Susan Reddy

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Traci Cox, Administrative Assistant Dorothy Weber, City Clerk Miranda Deal, IT Director Michael Keith, Parks Director Richard Bonine, Fire Chief Jason Martin, Chuck Bryant CW&EP General Manager, Kelli Nugent CW&EP Chief Financial Officer, Cassandra Ludwig CW&EP General Council and Director of Customer Relations, Ben Schwarting and Jamie Jadwin CW&EP finance.

Chair Alan Snow called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM

2. Old Business

1. Approval of May 11, 2026 Minutes

ACTION: Motion to approve May 11, 2026 minutes by Juan Topete
Motion passed with a 5:0

AYES: Beth Kang, Ron Wells, Alan Snow, Juan Topete, David Thorn

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Citizens Participation

(Citizens wishing to speak should notify Department Head or Committee Chair in advance)

4. New Business

1. Discuss Carthage Water and Electric budget for fiscal year 2026-2027

Mr. Bryant spoke about the chart of accounts and the projected numbers for the electric, water, wastewater and communication accounts. Mr. Bryant explained that they have implemented a new way to capture the cost of each employee per account. Currently CW&EP has 91 employees. Mr. Bryant spoke about the upcoming calendar year projects to include an HVAC upgrade to fix moisture

issues and fixing retaining walls. Mrs. Kang and Mr. Bryant discussed the payment in lieu of tax policy and the last time that it was revisited. Mr. Bryant went over the capital in wastewater and Mr. Wells asked if there is any expansion. Mr. Bryant stated that there isn't a need for expansion yet. Mr. Bryant spoke about the lead utility line replacement project and the property that the new lift station is on. The Committee discussed a 2.5%-3.0% increase in rates.

ACTION: Motion to forward Carthage Water and Electric budget for FY 26/27 to Council by Juan Topete
 Motion passed with a 5:0

AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Ron Wells, David Kang, Juan Topete

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

2. Budget Perfection

Ms. Cox spoke about general revenue. General operating expenses have increased while revenue has not. One of the biggest expenses in general liability insurance. The Committee discussed the different accounts and if they have increased or not. Ms. Cox spoke about priority-based budgeting. Ms. Cox suggested different ways of saving money this upcoming fiscal year. Mrs. Harrison asked questions about overtime amounts. Mrs. Harrison spoke about having specific info in the agenda packets for Committee meetings. Mr. Snow would like to revisit step increases in December 2026.

ACTION: Motion to adjust longevity step increase and cola increase in budget by Ron Well
 Motion passed with a 5:0

AYES: Ron Wells, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, David Thorn, Juan Topete

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Staff Reports

5. Adjournment

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| ACTION: | Motion to Adjourn at 9:02 by Ron Wells |
| | Motion passed with a 5:0 |
| AYES: | Juan Topete, Ron Well, Beth Kang, Alan Snow, David Thorn |
| NOES: | None |
| ABSTAIN: | None |