



City of Carthage, Missouri
PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

May 19, 2026 - 5:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine, Tourism Director & Public Information Officer Melissa Little, Administrative Assistant Angie Judd, City Administrator Traci Cox, Golf Operations Supervisor Cory Kerbs

Chair Beth Kang called the meeting to order at 05:30 PM.

2. Old Business

1. Approval of April 21, 2026 minutes.

Mr. Topete motioned to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to accept/approve item 2.1. by Juan Topete;
Motion passed with a 4:0

AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Citizen Participation

(Citizens wishing to address the Council or Committee should notify the City in advance and provide the item they want to address in written format at least 24 hours before the meeting. Please call Angie Judd at the Parks & Recreation office at 417-237-7035, or email a.judd@carthagemo.gov.)

Sally Stuart, President of Vision Carthage, thanked the Parks Department, the City, and City Council for the recent Dumpster Days event, stating that it was a great success.

4. New Business

1. Consider and discuss Jasper County Youth Fair.

Mr. Bonine presented the request from the Jasper County Youth Fair. This event is an annual week long event held in July. He explained that campers would be present from June 11 through June 18 and requested permission for families and children to remain in the park after the park closes to care for animals. He also requested approval for bounce houses to be used during the event. Mr. Topete

made a motion to approve the event and forward it to the full Council. The motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to accept/approve item 4.1. by Juan Topete;
Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. Consider and discuss Concerts in the Park.

Brady Beckham, President of the Carthage Council on the Arts, requested approval for Concerts in the Park in Central Park on the third Saturday of each month June through August. Concerts would be held south of the fountain, utilizing a flatbed trailer to elevate the band and electricity from the small pavilion. Requests also included merchandise sales and use of a hose connection in the pool area for a slip-and-slide on the west side of the pool. Music would begin at 7:00 pm with setup occurring between 4:30 and 5:00 pm. Ms. Little stated she would add the event to the City events calendar. Mr. Topete made a motion to approve the request and forward it to the full Council. The motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to accept/approve item 4.2. by Juan Topete;
Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

3. Consider and discuss Kid's Fishing Day in Kellogg Lake Park.

Jackie Boyer, President of the Kellogg Lake Board, requested permission to host the Kellogg Lake Kids Fishing Day on June 6 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Setup would occur Friday afternoon, with cleanup following the event. She also requested closure of the lake to public fishing from May 31 through noon on June 6 to allow fish stocking between June 1 and June 3. The event is intended for children ages 15 and under and will include refreshments. Mr. Perkins asked whether a prize white catfish would be included this year; Ms. Boyer stated she was unsure if there would be a white catfish this year and noted that a scavenger hunt with prizes would also be offered this year. Mr. Topete made a motion to approve the event as outlined and forward it to the full Council. The motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to accept/approve item 4.3. by Juan Topete;
Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

4. Consider and discuss Carl Lewton Stadium agreement.

Mr. Topete motioned to table the item. The motion passed.

ACTION: Motion to table item 4.4. by Juan Topete;
Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

5. Consider and discuss Central Park wading pool operations.
- Jonathan Roberts, CEO and President of the Fair Acres YMCA, presented aquatics operation proposals for consideration. He provided four options for the operation of the Central Park Wading Pool. Option 1, with a contract price of \$12,500, included traditional operations. Option 2, with a contract price of \$16,000, would provide traditional operating hours with weekend operations but no extended hours. Option 3, with a contract price of \$19,000, would offer a traditional season with weekend operations and expanded hours until 6:00 pm, allowing free dinners to be served to anyone under the age of 18 at 4:30 pm. Option 4, with a contract price of \$22,000, would provide operation from Memorial Day weekend through August, including flexibility for special events. Mr. Roberts stated that lifeguard ratios would be maintained at 25:1, though actual attendance averages closer to 20 participants. Ms. Cox asked about usage during Food Truck Friday events, and Ms. Little noted that attendance had not been as high as anticipated. Mr. Bonine reported that the pool was currently being filled and that leaks had been caulked in preparation for opening. Mr. Roberts stated that the YMCA would continue to manage chemicals, vacuuming, and routine cleaning operations. Ms. Cox stated that although lifeguards may not be strictly necessary, partnering with the YMCA for operation of the Central Park Wading Pool would be a wise approach. Mr. Thorn stated his preference for Option 4 because of the extended hours, additional operating days, and opportunity to provide free meals. Mr. Perkins made a motion to approve Option 4 in the amount of \$22,000 and forward it to the full Council. Ms. Kang stated that it was a good investment and an appropriate plan given the current circumstances. Mr. Thorn asked whether the age limit could be increased from 10 years old to 12 years old. Mr. Roberts stated that siblings are typically accommodated and suggested the possibility of adding sprinklers or other amenities for older children. The motion passed. Mr. Roberts requested permission to open the wading pool during the upcoming Memorial Day weekend, noting that it had already been approved under the previous contract. Permission was granted for the holiday weekend, with any extension contingent upon Council approval.

ACTION: Motion to accept/approve item 4.5. by Jack Perkins;
Motion passed with a 4:0

AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Discussion then turned to a proposal for community access to the YMCA Aquatics Center during peak-use periods on Fridays and Saturdays. The proposal included a \$3 admission fee for access to locker rooms, the therapy pool, lap pool, splash pad, and sauna. Mr. Thorn expressed concern that the proposal may not provide sufficient value. Ms. Cox stated that the proposal demonstrated the City's effort to provide aquatics opportunities for residents. Mr. Topete commented that the program could be beneficial for residents unable to travel outside the City. Mr. Perkins made a motion to approve the YMCA Aquatics Center usage proposal, including \$2,000 in support of the Water Safety Program as part of the \$13,000 contract price. The motion passed. Mr. Thorn requested that YMCA Aquatics Center public usage be tracked. Mr. Topete requested signage be posted at the Municipal Pool, and Mr. Perkins stated that closure information should be widely advertised to the public.

ACTION: Motion to accept/approve item 4.5. by Jack Perkins;
Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

6. Consider and discuss Lime scooters.

Ms. Kang reported on discussions held during the Public Safety Committee meeting regarding scooter operations, public safety considerations, regulations, and enforcement. She stated that Councilman Snow had developed proposed geofencing parameters for review. Mr. Thorn asked Mr. Bonine whether he had received confirmation from Lime that the proposed alternative was feasible. Mr. Bonine stated that Lime would need to review the proposed parameters and roadway information before determining whether the request could be accommodated. Mr. Topete motioned to forward the Lime contract to the full Council for discussion of operations and geofenced operating areas. The motion failed.

ACTION: Motion to accept/approve item 4.6. by Juan Topete;
Motion failed with a 2:2
AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete
NOES: Jack Perkins, David Thorn
ABSTAIN: None

7. Consider and discuss playground proposals for Fair Acres Park and Municipal Park.

Mr. Bonine presented two playground proposals, including one from Playground Consultants for approximately \$187,000 and one from Play and Park Structures for approximately \$150,000. The proposals included two separate playground installations, one near the baseball fields at Fair Acres and one near Kiddieland at Municipal Park. Ms. Kang asked why new playground structures were being considered. Mr. Bonine explained that the projects align with recommendations from the Parks Master Plan as well as community feedback. He further stated that staff's priority would be the Municipal Park playground and noted that Fair Acres already has a playground structure near the softball complex. Mr. Perkins stated that it is inconvenient for parents to transport children to the current Municipal Park playground if they are utilizing facilities on the opposite side of the park. Mr. Topete stated that the playground near the softball complex experiences heavy usage and that an additional structure near the baseball fields would benefit the community. Mr. Thorn stated that both playgrounds would be ideal. Ms. Cox reported that approximately \$645,000 remained available in the McCune-Brooks Trust that could potentially be used to fund the project. Ms. Kang requested equipment diagrams, references, and confirmation regarding structural integrity. She also asked whether installation costs were included in the proposals, and Mr. Bonine confirmed that the quoted costs included the entire scope of the project. Mr. Bonine noted that both proposals were similar in scope. Ms. Cox stated that she would like to meet with Mr. Bonine and Ms. Kang to discuss the details further. No action was taken.

8. Consider and discuss pickleball and futsal courts for Municipal Park and Carter Park.

Mr. Bonine stated that staff recommended not proceeding with the pickleball and futsal court projects at this time as a cost-saving measure. Approximately \$100,000 had originally been budgeted for both projects, but proposal costs significantly exceeded the available budget. No action taken.

5. Staff Reports

1. Tourism and Public Information Office report.
Ms. Little presented the Tourism Report. She reported that visitor guides had been distributed and mailed throughout several states. Website traffic remained strong, and both the City app and tourism websites continued to be updated regularly. Performance metrics were reviewed, with significant interest shown in Marian Days activities. City events continue to be added to the website and app platforms. Ms. Little reported an increase in visitors to the Civil War Museum during April and anticipated even higher attendance in May due to visits from eighth-grade students. Donation deposits were also up. She reported that planning for the upcoming American Solar Challenge continues, with representatives scheduled to visit Carthage in early June to distribute promotional materials. Ms. Little advised that she would begin sending Council members regular emails regarding upcoming community events.
2. Memorial Hall report.
Ms. Judd presented the Memorial Hall Report and noted an increase in rental revenue compared to the previous year. She reported that several events were held in the auditorium during April, along with numerous private events in both the auditorium and lower level. Weekly Mahjong classes continue to maintain steady attendance. Ms. Judd also presented both the current Memorial Hall rental rates and a proposed rate increase for review. Ms. Kang requested a summary estimating the potential revenue increase associated with the proposed rates.
3. Golf report.
Mr. Kerbs presented the April Golf Course Report, noting that rounds played exceeded historical averages despite numerous rain days and periods of cart-path-only restrictions. Two events were held during April, including the first Senior Shamble. He reported that league play is now fully underway. Ms. Kang asked whether food and beverage revenue continues to increase, and Mr. Kerbs confirmed that it does. He reported that tournament organizers appreciated the golf course's ability to manage alcohol service and that the event proceeded smoothly. He added that the Rotary Tournament would be held the following Friday and would provide additional information regarding tournament operations. Mr. Perkins stated that he has been pleasantly surprised by golfers' willingness to purchase alcohol at the course and believes it has benefited golf course revenues. He also complimented the improvements and maintenance work performed throughout the course.
4. Parks report.
Mr. Bonine presented the Parks Maintenance Report. He noted that on the same day the golf course hosted a tournament, Municipal Park hosted a rabbit show, while Fair Acres hosted softball and baseball tournaments, creating a very busy day throughout the park system. He reported that Parks maintenance staff remain busy during this time of year, highlighting ongoing work at the Central

Park Wading Pool and repairs to a water issue affecting the Community Garden at Griggs Park. Mr. Bonine reported that the new golf course pump house has been installed and is operating well. He also advised that staff prepared the Central Park fountain, which was operational for the most recent Food Truck Friday. Mr. Thorn noted that the fountain historically contained goldfish and inquired whether they would be returned. Mr. Bonine stated that staff would explore the possibility.

6. Adjournment

Mr. Topete motioned to adjourn at 7:36 pm. The motion passed.

ACTION:	Motion to Adjourn at 07:36 PM by Juan Topete
	Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES:	Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None