

# City of Carthage, Missouri

## CITY COUNCIL

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May 26, 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. 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 was also present. City Administrator Traci Cox was absent.

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. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2026 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Cochran Engineering was present to discuss the new sidewalk project around the square and answer questions from the Council. Ms. Kang suggested they attend the Downtown Merchant's Alliance meeting to discuss with them as well.

There was no participation during Citizen's Participation.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. They heard the CWEP budget and continued on the perfection of the City budget. The CWEP budget includes an average of 1.2% increase for residential services. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8<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. They discussed changes to section 2-160 again and voted to have the changes reviewed by the City Attorney. The next meeting is scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

Mr. Thorn reported that the Public Safety Committee met on May 18<sup>th</sup>. They reviewed a speed issue that was brought to them for the speed limit in Rollins Creek. That was forwarded to the Public Works Committee. They approved road closures for the annual block party on Belle Air. Mr. Thorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve the closure of Belle Air from Grand to the cul-de-sac, this includes the intersection of Belle Air and Clinton and Belle Air and Fulton, on July 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6-8 pm. Motion carried. They discussed Kids Fishing Day. Mr. Thorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete to approve the closure of the road around Kellogg Lake on June 6<sup>th</sup> during the event.

Motion carried. They were also asked by Melissa Little about closing Chestnut for Food truck Friday events. The committee on a compromise on the road closure. Mr. Thorn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to close the west bound side of Chestnut between Lyon and Garrison on the dates of Food Truck Friday from 10 am-9 pm to allow for cruise in/car show. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15 at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Kang reported that the Public Services Committee met on May 19<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the Jasper County Youth Fair. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to allow for overnight camping from July 11-18<sup>th</sup> in Municipal Park for the exhibitors to care for the animals for the fair. Motion carried. They discussed the summer concerts in Central Park. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to allow the use of Central Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June, July, and August for the Concerts in the Park. Motion carried. They also discussed Kids Fishing Day and the stocking of the lake. Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close the lake to public fishing from May 31 – June 6<sup>th</sup> after the event is over, and to allow the use of the park for the event. Motion carried. The new agreement with the YMCA is on the agenda as an emergency council bill. They did open the wading pool over the weekend and the new agreement allows residents to visit the YMCA location and use some of the facilities there during the summer for a reduced rate. The lime scooter discussion failed to make it out of committee. There were also discussions on playground structures for Fair Acres and Municipal Park. The next meeting is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Topete reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Perkins for the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Board, Mr. Snow for the McCune Brooks Trust, Ms. Reddy for the Boots Court Visitors Center, and Ms. Kang for Vision Carthage.

Mayor Flanigan reported that budget work continues. The pool is getting close to having a diagnosis on the issues that will need to be fixed. He reported that there will start to be bi-weekly reports sent to council members on the code enforcement efforts and what they have accomplished. He also attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at Park Cemetery over the weekend. He is also still looking for someone to fill the ward 2 vacancy.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Topete discussed some of the other details on the new YMCA agreement. Ms. Harrison mentioned the sharp corners on the square that were redone last year and asked if there was a way to smooth them out. Mr. Perkins talked about Lime scooters and an SEC filing about them. Mr. Snow reported that CWEP has started a CARES fund to help those who need assistance paying their bills. Customers can choose to round up or donate to the fund to help it get started. Those who need assistance will still have to go through Economic Security in Joplin and then they will let CWEP know what accounts to credit. These funds are separate from any other funds that CWEP has and the Tower-to-Tower 5K proceeds went into this

account to get it started. He also talked about how he was upset that the scooters died at the committee level and that even though some may disagree with it, he thinks it would have been worth sending to council to make the decision as a while. Mr. Wells said that the citizens should appreciate the small increase that CWEP is asking for because other utilities are asking for 20% increases.

Police Chief Chad Dininger reported that 3 officers have been injured lately and so he has some on light duty.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that there were some discussions on the operations at Station 2 over the weekend and he made a post on social media explaining things. When there are not enough on shift to cover both stations safely, efforts are consolidated to station 1. There is no reduction in services, they are just ran out of station 1 when there are not enough to safely operate two fire stations. The baby box has sensors that will alert all services immediately and so there would never be a baby in the box unattended more than a couple of minutes even if someone isn't at station 2. He also reported that the brush truck will be striped soon and put into service.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless reported on the code enforcement reports, mosquito spraying, and the agreement with Union Pacific for the Oak Street Bridge.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine reported on the YMCA wading pool agreement, and the little league games have been postponed lately due to the rain.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$851,633.50, against the following funds: General Revenue \$66,976.74, Public Health \$354.22, Lodging \$3,375.42, Public Safety \$7,394.42, Parks/Stormwater \$2,728.00, Fire Protection \$26,140.00, Golf \$50,504.81, Capital Improvements \$299,103.76, Parks and Recreation \$56.33, Use Tax \$6,000.00, Public Facilities Bond \$18,400.00, and Payroll \$370,599.80. Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to amend the agenda to include the discussion of lime scooters under old business. Motion carried with 8 yeas and 1 nay. Mr. Wells casted the nay vote.

Under Old Business, C.B. 26-25 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Carthage Chamber of Commerce for Specified Services, from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027, 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 26-32.

C.B. 26-26 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Contract between the City of Carthage and the Carthage Over 60 Center for services in the amount not to exceed \$23,000.00 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 26-33.

C.B. 26-34 -- An Ordinance accepting the final plat of South Rollins Creek, as submitted by J Builders LLC, generally located at the NE corner of Fairview and Buena Vista, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 1 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, David Thorn, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. Nays: Jack Perkins. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-34.

C.B. 26-35 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 25-251 of the Code of Ordinance of the City of Carthage, Missouri, to add Subsection (19) Short-Term Rentals as a Special Use with Regulatory Standards 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 26-35.

Discussion of Lime Scooter – Mr. Topete explained that the geofence when the Lime Scooters originally came to the City was a very limited amount of space for the scooters to operate. He would like to get the Council's opinion on getting them back as long as Lime comes back and says they can do this original map again with the exception of not including Kellogg Lake and blocking off the square this time.

There was a lot of discussion on enforcement of the age limit, how to get the fencing correct to keep them out of places that citizens do not want, questions about the risks of injuries and who is responsible for what. Mr. Perkins read a filing from the SEC on the risks of the scooters, Mr. Wells made it clear that he was against them regardless. Ms. Reddy asked questions about the map and geofencing. It was explained that the geofencing works within a few feet of the boundaries and that the scooters do stop working once they go into a no riding zone.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, that pending that Lime could do the map and take off Kellogg Lake and the Square, Mr. Bonine could proceed in negotiating a contract for the scooters for 2026. Motion failed by a vote of 4-5. Ayes: Topete, Harrison, Snow, and Kang. Nays: West, Perkins, Thorn, Wells, and Reddy.

Under New Business, C.B. 26-36 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to exercise the buy-back option on property located in Myers Park that was previously sold to TIA Investments, LLC, for the amount of \$130,000.00 was placed on first reading.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to forward Council Bill 26-36 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 26-36 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to exercise the buy-back option on property located in Myers Park that was previously sold to TIA Investments, LLC, for the amount of \$130,000.00 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 26-36.

C.B. 26-37 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Fair Acres Family YMCA, Inc. for management of the Wading Pool and to allow patrons to utilize certain amenities of the Fair Acres Family YMCA at a reduced cost for the 2026 season in the amount of \$35,000.00 in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading.

Ms. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to forward Council Bill 26-37 to second reading due to its emergency status. Motion carried.

C.B. 26-37 -- An Emergency Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Fair Acres Family YMCA, Inc. for management of the Wading Pool and to allow patrons to utilize certain amenities of the Fair Acres Family YMCA at a reduced cost for the 2026 season in the amount of \$35,000.00 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 26-37.

C.B. 26-38 -- An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company for the plan review of the Oak Street Bridge in the amount of \$25,000.00, in the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

During closing comments, Mayor Flanigan reported that there will be updates on the pool as soon as there is something known, and he is still looking for ward 2 candidates and he has been presented a few names of those who may be interested. Mr. Topete appreciated the discussion over the lime scooters and is disappointed in the result. Ms. Harrison agreed with Mr. Topete and believes that the council represents everyone of all income levels and that needs to be considered. She is also happy that the YMCA is working with the City even though the main pool is closed. Mr. Perkins asked a few questions about the diagnosis of the pool. Mr. Snow mentioned the Red, White and Boom event. He believes that the lime scooters should have made it out of committee for the full council to discuss like they did this evening. Ms. Kang appreciated the discussions on the scooters as well, and believes that there are still going to be issues that were discussed due to people owning the same types of stuff personally. She also thanked Chief Martin for his explanation on Station 2 operations. Ms. Reddy expressed that she was back and forth on the scooters but believes that there are going to be problems with privately owned equipment and that the city shouldn't be contributing to the problem.

Ms. Reddy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, 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 8:10 p.m.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:33 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. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.