

# City of Carthage, Missouri

## CITY COUNCIL

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June 9, 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 Dininger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells. Council Members David Thorn and Susan Reddy were 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, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2026 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

During Citizen Participation, Jackie Boyer thanked all departments involved in the recent Kid's Fishing Day and that it was a successful 25th year.

Mitsy Welch spoke to the council about the recent issues she has had.

Darren Collier, President of the CWEP Board, was present to explain the rate increase they are asking for. The increase is just over 1% and they are budgeting to transfer around 1.5 million to the City for the transfer fee. He also said that they are going to try to have someone come to the council every quarter and give an update about what the utility is doing or has completed. He then gave an update on all the projects that CWEP had done over the past year.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met on June 8th at 5:30 pm. They discussed Resolution 2124 and the budget adjustment council bill. He also said the budget was up for first reading that evening. The next meeting is scheduled for July 13<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 postponed the discussion of making any changes to section 2-160 until the July 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 pm.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for June 15 at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Kang reported that the Public Services Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Topete reported that the Public Works Committee met June 2<sup>nd</sup>. They reviewed and approved a road easement agreement for the industrial park. This was a City to City easement transfer. Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison to approve the easement agreement and allow the Mayor to sign it. Motion carried. They discussed the loader rebuild project and approved the new invoice that was over the budgeted amount. This will go to the next budget meeting for an adjustment. They discussed and approved fee changes for some of the fees that Public Works charges. They were basing their numbers off 2018 information, and this will update it to 2025 information. This is part of the cost recovery efforts that are happening across the city to help with the revenues and better recouping money that is spent towards items and projects. There will be more changes coming in the future, but some involve code changes so they are not ready yet. The next meeting is scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mrs. Harrison for Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation, Mr. Wells for the Jasper County Commission, and Mrs. Kang for the Downtown Business Merchant's Association and Vision Carthage. Mr. Snow reported that he has been meeting with the Mayor and a few others to discuss changes to 2-160 and discussing making all department heads, and the administrator and clerk have contracts just so it is more uniformed across all of those positions.

Mayor Flanigan reported on attending the MBH Trust meeting where they approved a grant for the City for the purchase of an auto pulse for the fire department. He reported on the Planning and Zoning meeting, the Tree Board meeting which discussed dedicating 4 trees for America's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. He also attended the Chamber Banquet, Boots Block Party, Commissioners meeting, and a MoDOT stakeholders meeting. He also announced that David Armstrong has resigned from the Civil War Museum Board so he will be looking for a replacement. He also discussed the issue with the Courthouse roof repairs and renovations and how it will affect traffic and parking on the square, along with business traffic.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Topete reported that he attended the Fiesta en el Parque event at Carter Park and that it was a great event, but got cut short due to rain. He also reported on attending the Chamber Banquet and the Civil War Reenactment. Mrs. Harrison reported that she went by the Boots Block Party and Kid's Fishing Day and was glad to see all those in attendance, she also attended the Chamber Banquet which was a great time. Mr. West thanked the CWEP crews for their hard work. Mr. Perkins asked questions about a couple of budget items. Mr. Snow also attended the MBH Trust meeting, he also reported that Helen Hubbard had passed away the past Saturday at 106 years old. Mrs. Kang reported on attending a traffic meeting through the Harry S Truman Council, and a new interchange at Fidelity was

discussed and they are still pushing for the roundabout at Fir and Chapel road. She also thought the Boots block party was a great event. She thanked Mr. Bonine for the pool reports, and she also volunteered out at Kids Fishing Day. Mr. Wells attended the Civil War Reenactment and said there were a lot of people out there. He also asked Chad to look into some taxi complaints he received.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless explained what the re-plat that was on the agenda was for. He also reported that his street crews have been working to repair a sink hole on Main Street.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine thanked the CWEP crews for helping him try to figure out what exactly was wrong with the pool. He also thanked all the departments involved that helped with Kids Fishing Day.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that they got the brush truck back from getting striping and graphics and they will have it out at the Tractor Supply opening. He also reported on new hires starting for the department. He also thanked Dorothy, Jessica, Miranda, and Angie from City Hall and Parks for clean up the mess left by a renter at Memorial Hall and getting it ready for the Chamber banquet.

City Administrator Traci Cox also thanked those who helped with Memorial Hall and said that it was a team effort and we try to help where we can. If one looks good, we all look good. She reported that earlier in the evening was the last meeting for Brian Schmidt and Gary Cole on the Library Board and that their knowledge and expertise will be missed. She thanked the YMCA for opening their doors to help provide an alternative for people since the Municipal Pool is closed for the season. She gave some numbers on how many attendees have been at the Central Park pool and visited the YMCA facility since opening day. She also told the council members to be expecting an email about the Friendship Dinner with the CRM as a thank you to helping with Marian Days.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$2,344,012.99 against the following funds: General Revenue \$144,676.64, Public Health \$190,243.81, Lodging \$8,920.69, Parks/Stormwater \$54,658.60, Fire Protection \$83,489.44, Golf \$10,695.42, Capital Improvements \$8,369.50, Use Tax \$4,711.58, Library \$55,000.00 Payroll \$283,247.31, and Carthage Water & Electric \$1,500,000.00. Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kang, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, 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 second reading followed by a roll call vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Ron Wells. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-38.

Under New Business C.B. 26-39 -- An Ordinance authorizing utility rate changes for electric, water, and wastewater services as requested by the Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-40 -- An Ordinance adopting the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for the Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027 was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Ms. Cox gave some highlights on the budget for next year and addressed the deficit in the budget and that everyone is working on different items to address the imbalance moving forward. These items include cost recovery changes, looking at the fire district payments, and policies being changed. She reported on the significant personnel costs and that everyone gets a COLA of 2.7% on July 1 and then for January 1, there is going to be a longevity alignment to help spread out the 80 full-time employees who are all on step 1 in the salary scale. There will be a mid-year review of the budget with hopes that revenues come in stronger than predicted.

C.B. 26-41 -- An Ordinance accepting the First Re-plat of Creekside Subdivision Lots 42, 43 and 44, as submitted by Own, Inc., generally located at Chapel Road and Marble Avenue, in the City of Carthage, Missouri, was placed on first reading with no action taken.

C.B. 26-42 — An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating Budget and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 for specified funds (General Fund, Public Safety Fund, Golf Fund, and Capital Improvement Tax Fund) was placed on first reading with no action taken.

During Mayor's Appointments, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve the Mayor's Appointment of Mariela Telles as Ward 2 Council Member until April 2027. Motion carried.

City Clerk Miranda Deal administered the Oath of Office to Mariela Telles.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the Mayor's standing committee appointments which added Mariela to the Public Safety and Public Services Committees. Motion carried.

Under Resolutions, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve Resolution 2123 -- A Resolution approving the recommendation of the McCune-Brooks Regional Hospital Trust for the distribution of funds in the amount of \$62,000.00 from the restricted trust fund to the City of Carthage. Resolution 2123 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Ron Wells.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve Resolution 2124 -- A Resolution authorizing a supplemental budget adjustment to the Golf Fund Capital

Outlay for ash tree removal and replacement at the golf course. Resolution 2124 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Ron Wells.

During closing comments, the Mayor expressed his appreciation for the council supporting his nomination of Mariela. He also addressed budget issues and changes to be made moving forward. He asked for everyone to support small businesses, especially during the renovations of the courthouse. Many from Council welcomed Mariela. Ms. Telles said she is grateful to be the first Hispanic woman to serve on Council and looks forward to serving. Mr. Snow reported that there will be special work sessions for the Council to discuss budgeting priorities moving forward since next year for the budget, they will be using a priority based budgeting approach to capital projects.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to close the meeting according to Section 610.021 (1), the agenda includes the possibility of a vote to close part of the meeting to discuss legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys, followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Ron Wells. Motion carried at 8:20 pm.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:41 p.m. followed by a roll call 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes - Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Ron Wells. Motion carried.

Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.