



City of Carthage, Missouri  
**PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

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June 16, 2026 - 5:30 PM  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor David B. Flanigan

**STAFF PRESENT:** Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine, Administrative Assistant Dorothy Weber, City Administrator Traci Cox, Tourism Director Melissa Little

Chair Beth Kang called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

**2. Old Business**

1. Approval of May 19th, 2026 minutes.

**ACTION:** Motion to Approve May 19, 2026 Minutes by Juan Topete  
Motion Passed with a 5:0

**AYES:** Juan Topete, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Jack Perkins, Mariela Telles

**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](mailto:a.judd@carthagemo.gov).)

Sally Stuart with Vision Carthage invited the Council Members to the Vision Carthage Soirée to present the Carthage in Bloom awards to the winners in their wards. Sally also expressed her desire to be a part of the planning for Kiddieland. She feels that the park needs equipment for toddlers. Mr. Topete asked Sally to please send him info. The Vision Carthage Soirée is on June 27th in Central Park. Mr. Topete agreed with Sally on the toddler equipment.

1. \*Amended Citizen Participation to Allow Hispanic Connection to speak\*

The Hispanic Connection will be having a celebration on Sept 26, 2026 from 11:00 am to 11:00 pm. The celebration will include a live band, cultural dancers from around the country, food trucks and a car show. The Hispanic Connection explained that this celebration is on its 6th year and that it helps connect the community. Each year 3,000-8,000 people attend. Mrs. Kang asked how the event was funded and the Hispanic Connection stated that it was funded by

sponsors.

**ACTION:** Motion to allow the Hispanic Connection to use Central Park on Sept 26, 2026 from 11:00 am until 11:00 PM by Juan Topete  
Motion passed with a 5:0

**AYES:** Beth Kang, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Juan Topete, Mariela Telles

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

#### 4. New Business

1. Consider and discuss Carthage High School Softball Hudl camera. Stephanie Ray and Dustin Perkins of Carthage High School spoke to the committee about the Hudl Program. They stated that all of the schools use the program for recording and breaking down player stats. They explained that they would be able to record the practice and games. Each athlete will have a Hudl account for messages and betterment. It can also be used for scouting purposes. Schools cannot request film from other schools without the Hudl account. Mr. Perkins broke down the placement and installation costs. He stated that it can be done in-house and at no cost. The videos would be owned by Carthage High School. The videos will be encrypted, and the cameras will only run when recording. Mrs. Kang asked if the school will have the athletes sign releases. Mr. Perkins stated that they will. Mr. Jack Perkins asked if the videos could be shared via the internet and Mr. Dustin Perkins said that they could be.

**ACTION:** Motion to forward Carthage High School Hudl Camera to Council by Juan Topete  
Motion passed with a 5:0

**AYES:** Mariela Telles, Juan Topete, David Thorn, Beth Kang, Jack Perkins

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

Mr Topete made a motion to amend the agenda to go back to citizen participation.

**ACTION:** Motion to amend the agenda to go back to citizen participation by Juan Topete  
Motion passed with 5:0

**AYES:** Mariela Telles, Juan Topete, Beth Kang, Jack Perkins, David Thorn

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

2. Consider and discuss Goldchella event in Central Park.  
Goldchella is a community event for the Golden Retrievers that have been adopted from this organization. The event will take place on July 11, 2026 from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm in Central Park. The dogs will be on leashes. The organizers did not show up to speak about this event so there was no estimate for how many dogs will show up. The Committee assumed 100 or less. Mr. Topete asked about safety concerns and wants to verify safety precautions. Mrs. Telles wants to make the YMCA aware of the event. Ms. Cox stated that she wanted Mr. Bonine to verify the information before the next Council meeting.

**ACTION:** Motion to approve Goldchella event on July 11, 2026 from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm in Central Park pending Chief Diningers safety recommendations.

Motion passed with 5:0

**AYES:** David Thorn, Beth Kang, Jack Perkins, Mariela Telles, Juan Topete

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

3. Consider and discuss Sudstock 2026 in Municipal Park.  
Jen Black, the director of The Alliance, stated that Sudstock will be held on June 27th 2026 in Municipal Park. She stated that the event will be from 12:00 pm until 3:00 pm with set up starting at 8:00 am. Ms. Black stated that the PD is involved in the event. Mr. Topete asked if anything has changed since last year and Ms. Black stated that this year there will be a rain wall and a 10x10 tent full of foam. Ms. Black stated that Sudstock is a free event with the purpose of prevention awareness. Mrs. Kang asked about prior attendance and Ms. Black stated that it's usually 1,000 - 2,000.

**ACTION:** Motion to allow Sudstock in Municipal Park on June 27th, 2026 from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm

Motion passed with 5:0

**AYES:** Juan Topete, Mariela Telles, Jack Perkins, David Thorn, Beth Kang

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

4. Consider and discuss playground proposals.  
Mr. Bonine stated that two different consultants submitted bids for the project. Mrs. Kang asked Mr. Bonine to explain where the funding is coming from. Mr. Bonine stated that the funding is coming from the MBH grant and that \$150,000.00 total has been allocated for two parks. Ms. Cox stated that Playcore and Burke are the two bidders. She explained that both bids were similar but Playcore has one structure that is for smaller children. The Committee discussed incorporating something for the smaller children and that something could be added for toddlers and older kids. The Committee discussed not using pea gravel and that only rubberized material should be allowed. Mr. Perkins stated that he does not want a playground at the YMCA. Ms. Cox stated that the YMCA

equipment is not for public use and that this equipment would-be used for the sideline siblings. It would give the siblings something to do during games at Fair Acres. Mr. Perkins suggested flipping the size of the structures at the parks. Ms. Cox suggested tabling this and having further discussions.

**ACTION:** Motion to table playground proposals until new proposals with pea gravel replaced and toddler inclusions by Juan Topete

Motion passed with 5:0

**AYES:** Beth Kang, Mariela Telles, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

5. Consider and discuss job descriptions for Administrative Assistant and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director.

Mr. Bonine stated that currently there isn't a position for assistant parks director and that they've been adding duties to the admin assistant position. Mr. Perkins asked why they couldn't combine the positions. Mr. Bonine stated that the admin assistant would move to Memorial Hall and that the assistant parks and rec position has been in the works for a couple of years. Currently Parks is the only department without an assistant director. The addition of this position will allow the Parks director to stay on top of projects. Mayor Flanigan stated that Mr. Bonine has no back up. Mrs. Kang spoke about how important Parks and Rec is. Mrs. Cox stated that Mr. Bonines position is spread too thin. Mrs. Kang asked about janitorial support and Mrs. Cox stated that those talks are going on internally.

**ACTION:** Motion to forward job descriptions to CIAC by Juan Topete  
Motion passed with 5:0

**AYES:** Juan Topete, Mariela Telles, Beth Kang, David Thorn, Jack Perkins

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

6. Consider and discuss RFP for Tourism.

Mayor Flanigan stated that the City has been soft shoeing tourism for years and that the City has been benefiting from outlaying entities. Mayor Flanigan stated that no one is coming to Carthage because of Carthage and that the lodging tax is flat. He stated that there are no large industries coming in. Mayor Flanigan stated that he wants an increase in lodging tax, sales tax and revenue on the square and to accomplish that, the City needs to do something differently. Mayor Flanigan would like to hire tourism experts that can build a portfolio and that currently no one employed by the City of Carthage is capable of drawing in external tax dollars. Mr. Perkins asked how does the City find the appropriate

people. Ms. Cox stated that their office would have to be in Carthage and that the City would have to come up with funding. Mr. Perkins asked Mrs. Little what she can do and Mrs. Little stated that she is limited by budget. Mrs. Little stated that Civil War sales tax revenue has increased. She then spoke about her efforts and about website visits. Ms. Cox stated that the lodging tax will increase as prices increase and that she would like to see more communication with area hotels. Mr. Topete stated that a lot of work needs to be done and suggested using AI to find gaps in the plan. Mrs. Telles asked if the City had a table at Hispanic Connection. Mayor Flanigan stated that he wants to reach people across the country. Mrs. Kang stated that she wants a common vision and suggested that it may be a situational thing but that the City needs someone to unify and that she wasn't discrediting anyone. Mr. Perkins stated that he didn't like the no trespassing sign at the train station.

**ACTION:** Motion to forward Tourism RFP to Council by David Thorn  
Motion passed with 4:1  
**AYES:** David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Beth Kang, Mariela Telles  
**NOES:** Juan Topete  
**ABSTAIN:** None

## 5. Staff Reports

1. Tourism and Public Information Office report.  
Mrs. Little stated that Civil War Museum visitors and sales have increased. She stated that the pedestrian kiosks need updated and then explained the updates. Mrs. Little is working with Josiah Bayless on the way finding signs. Mrs. Kang asked about the number of kiosks. Mrs. Little stated that there are 8. Mrs. Kang asked how soon they would be updated and Mrs. Little stated as soon as possible. Mrs. Little spoke about the visitor guides, marketing for the Civil War Reenactment and Red, White and Boom promotion. Mrs. Little stated that the FTF was the best attended in two years. She then stated that she is working with Red Oak. Mrs. Kang asked what Tourism was doing to work with local merchants and Mrs. Little stated that it's her job to work with Carthage as a whole. Mrs. Kang suggested that she go to the downtown revitalization meetings.
2. Golf report.  
Mr. Bonine stated that profits in May 2024 were 58,000, May 2025 were 106,000 and May 2026 were 139,000. Mr. Bonine stated that trees were down at the golf course from the storm over the weekend. The golf course is still operational. Mr. Bonine said that it would all be cleaned up by the following weekend. Mr. Perkins congratulated Mr. Bonine on his employees and stated that the Senior Scramble event was a success.
3. Memorial Hall report.  
Mr. Bonine stated the Memorial Hall revenue is down and that the air conditioning went out in the basement. He stated that he will know by the end of the week when it will be operational.
4. Parks report.

Mr. Bonine stated that they were still cleaning the parks up from the storm and that they hooked the water up to the community garden. Ms. Cox asked about the revisions to Memorial Halls rental fees. Mr. Bonine stated that it was in the works. Ms. Cox stated that she wants the revisions by the next Committee meeting. Mrs. Kang thanked everyone.

## 6. Adjournment

<b>ACTION:</b>	Motion to Adjourn at 7:13 PM bt David Thorn
	Motion passed with 5:0
<b>AYES:</b>	Jack Perkins, Beth Kang, Mariela Telles, Juan Topete, David Thorn
<b>NOES:</b>	None
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	None