City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

July 14, 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, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Susan Reddy. Council Member Ron Wells was 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 June 23, 2026 Council Meeting. Motion carried.

There were no citizens present for Citizens Participation.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee met July 13th in Council Chambers. The committee discussed a budget adjustment resolution for some end of year clean up items. The committee also started the discussions relating to priority based budgeting and how to get the process started. It is a fairly new thing for cities to do so there is not a lot of data to go off of. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10th at 5:30 pm.

Mrs. Harrison reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. They discussed changes to the parks administrative assistant position and the only change is to clarify that this position is responsible for preparing requisitions for both parks and golf departments. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow to approve the changes to the Parks Administrative Assistant job description. Motion carried. They also discussed changes to the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director job description. The job description was approved at the last meeting, but it was noticed that the salary grade was on the same grade as other employees the individual would be supervising so this position needed to be down a grade. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Reddy, to approve the salary change for the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director from a grade L to a grade M. Motion carried. The same issue was found with the Assistant Public Works Director, that position is on the same grade as employees that individual is supervising, so that grade needed changed to an M as well. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Mr.

Topete to approve the salary grade change for the Assistant Public Works Director from a grade L to a grade M and place the current employee on step 5 of grade M due to the years of service. Motion carried. There were staff updates regarding end of fiscal year and financial software upgrades coming up. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28th at 6 pm.

Mr. Thorn reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20th at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Kang reported that the Public Services Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21st at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Topete reported that the Public Works Committee met July 7th in Council Chambers. The committee approved a city to city easement to grant CW&EP an overhead electrical easement. They also heard from MBL regarding a phase II of the Myers Park Villas. They asked for the city to waive permit fees so they could possibly qualify for state tax credits. The committee approved to waive the building, plumbing, and electric permit fees. This is up for discussion with the council under new business. They also reviewed a list of 24 properties that have been deemed unfit for living. They wanted to make the list public with the hopes of investors buying them and renovating them. The committee heard from Mr. Bayless about the sale and purchase of a road grader. The current grader the department has is too big to be used efficiently throughout the city. They have found a county that would purchase the current grader for $190,000, and the company helping sell it, has a smaller grader that would be a better fit for the city's needs that they are selling for $129,000. This would make a profit of $61,000. Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the sale of the larger grader and the purchase of the smaller grader. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for August 4th at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Thorn for the Library Board, Mrs. Harrison for Planning, Zoning, and Historic Preservation, Mrs. Kang for Harry S Truman Coordinating Council and Vision Carthage, Mr. Snow for the ad-hoc committee responsible for discussing department head contracts.

Mayor Flanigan reported on the 4th of July events he attended at Municipal Park and the VFW the following weekend. He thought the Vision Carthage Soiree was well attended along with the recent Food Truck Friday event. He attended meetings for the levee district #1, an MML Mayor's meeting, and has been meeting with various people about a new MOU with the Fraternal Order of Police. He thanked Mr. Bonine and Mr. Bayless for their pool and code enforcement reports. He also mentioned that the bridge committee is still working on solving the various bridge issues in town.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mrs. Kang reported that the Belle Air Place Fourth of July parade was well attended by residents and their children. She recently attended the new Crosslines location ribbon cutting and encouraged people to go look at their new space, they have done a wonderful job. She also mentioned that the

Downtown Merchants Alliance is still meeting and promoting businesses on the square. She also reported that the painted Maple Leaf signs were featured on the news. Mr. Perkins talked about the bull that got loose on the 4th of July and tore up a part of the golf course. Mr. Topete reported that he attended the Vision Carthage Soiree event, Food Truck Friday, and the Red White and Boom Celebration.

Police Chief Chad Dininger reported that his department is getting ready for Marian Days in a couple of weeks.

Fire Chief Jason Martin reported that they are in the process of spending money on building renovations that he budgeted for in the new year. There was a roof leak that did a lot of interior damage so they are painting, replacing flooring and ceiling tiles and various other items that need attention. The new beds have been ordered and the department received the new auto pulse machine. All of the crews have to attend training at the beginning of August before the auto pulse can be put into use. They are working on the emergency action plan for Marian Days, they are also working with the ISO representatives to provide records to see about possibly getting the ISO rating lowered back down to a 3 from the 4 that it is currently at.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless reported that he attended the levee district meeting and they are in the process of trying to get that levee certified. He also spoke with some SEMA representatives and they have a contractor who is working on updating the flood plain map. The updates wouldn't go into effect until late 2027. Code efforts are still going on around town. He will also be attending a meeting at CW&EP meeting for the MODOT Stakeholders meeting regarding the i-49 corridor study .

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine reported the Fourth of July event went well even though it was very hot. The Youth Fair is going on this week and baseball and softball games and tournaments have slowed down. He thanked everyone involved for their help on the Fourth of July.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the July sales tax numbers came in at $264,638.72 which was 2.49% higher than the same month last year. The use tax came in at $118,345.10 which was 28.72% higher than the same month last year. She also thanked all the staff that worked or volunteered on the Fourth of July.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of $3,030,788.13 against the following funds: General Revenue $830,194.80, Public Health $8,185.74, Lodging $7,608.54, Public Safety $4,639.89, Parks/Stormwater $62,821.68, Fire Protection $9,292.05, Golf $33,938.21, Capital Improvements $7,157.50, Parks and Recreation $39.58, Use Tax $75.84, Public Facilities Bond $15,557.50, Library $85,000.00, Payroll $566,276.80, and Carthage Water & Electric $1,400,000.00. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 26-43 -- An Ordinance amending Section 10-2 – Open Burning, of the Carthage City Code, was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-43.

Under New Business, the Council considered and discussed a letter of support for The Villas at Myers Park II. Kim Lingle with MBL Development was present to discuss the project for the Myers Park Villas II. He asked the council for a letter of support waiving the building, plumbing, and electrical permit fees to help them get the application points needed for the state tax credits for this project. The objective of obtaining the tax credits is to be able to offer cheaper rent to senior citizens due to having a lower mortgage on the property. Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for this project. Motion carried.

Under Resolutions, Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to approve Resolution 2125 -- A Resolution authorizing a supplemental budget adjustment to the General Revenue Fund for the Fire Department Capital Outlay and Grant Revenue line item, Golf Fund for the Capital Outlay and Lease Proceeds line item, Capital Improvement Tax Fund for Transfer to Others line item, and to the South Economic Development Park Fund for Transfer from Others line item, for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Resolution 2125 was adopted after a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Susan Reddy.

During closing comments, Mr. Perkins talked about having conversations with Kathy Jo Loy and inviting her to the next CW&EP Board meeting. Mr. Snow encouraged everyone to attend the Jasper County Youth Fair to support the young FFA and 4-H kids who are showing their projects. Mrs. Kang congratulated those who won Garden in Bloom awards from Vision Carthage. Mr. Topete thanked all the staff for their hard work and thanked Mr. Bayless for his cost recovery efforts at Public Works. Mrs. Harrison thanked everyone involved with the Red, White and Boom event. Mr. West gave his resignation from the City Council due to moving to a different ward. His resignation is effective August 1. He also said that he believes right now is the best council and City department heads the city has ever had.

Mr. West made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, 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 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Susan Reddy. Motion carried at 7:42 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to return to the regular session of the Council Meeting at 8:35 p.m. followed by a roll call 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Ray West, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, and Susan Reddy. Motion carried.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.