



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

July 21, 2026 - 5:30 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mariela Telles

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor David B. Flanigan

STAFF PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine, Deputy City Clerk Amy Taylor, City Administrator Traci Cox

Chair Beth Kang called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

2. Old Business

1. Approval of June 16th, 2026 minutes

ACTION: Motion to approve June 16, 2026 meeting minutes by Mr. 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 Richard Bonine at the Parks & Recreation office at 417-237-7035, or email r.bonine@carthagemo.gov.)

4. New Business

1. Consider and discuss Soles4Paws fundraiser in Municipal Park

Teresa Nixon discussed the upcoming Soles4Paws event, a pet-friendly running and walking event hosted by the Carthage Humane Society and the Joplin Roadrunners. The event is scheduled for September 26, 2026, at Carthage Municipal Park. Ms. Nixon requested permission to use Municipal Park from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for the event. She stated that no road closures will be required. The event will include both individual participants and participants accompanied by their dogs. Volunteers will be stationed throughout the event to provide directions and assist participants and attendees.

ACTION: Motion to forward Soles4Paws fundraiser to Council 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 pool assessment

Mr. Bonine informed the committee that a proposal had been received from Landmark Aquatic for preliminary aquatic design services related to the swimming pool at Municipal Park. He explained that the proposal includes an assessment of the existing electrical service at the pool and bathhouse to determine compliance with current electrical codes. The proposal also includes a report containing recommendations for electrical service renovations and aquatic facility upgrades necessary for renovation of the facility. Mr. Bonine noted that the results of the assessment could be utilized in pursuing grant funding opportunities to assist with future renovations and improvements to the aquatic facility. The cost of the aquatic design and electrical assessment is \$29,400. Ms. Cox noted that a previous budget adjustment of \$25,000 had been approved for pool assessment services; therefore, an additional \$4,400 would need to be requested to complete the assessment.

ACTION: Motion to approve the pool assessment by Mr. Topete
Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES: Beth Kang, Juan Topete, Jack Perkins, David Thorn
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

5. Staff Reports

1. Tourism, Public Information, and Civil War Museum reports

Ms. Little reported that \$15,821 had been invested in a targeted tourism marketing campaign designed to increase visitation to Carthage. The campaign costs were offset through a shared Missouri DMO Grant, from which the City received \$7,910, resulting in a net City investment of \$7,910. Ms. Little also provided an update on Experience History Weekend, which began in April. The event featured several activities, including the Boots Kickoff Party, the Carthage Stampede Rodeo, and the Battle of Carthage Reenactment, all aimed at promoting tourism and highlighting the community's historical and cultural attractions. Ms. Little reported that the Electrek American Solar Challenge will pass through Carthage on July 29–30. Participating solar-powered vehicles will be on display at Memorial Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on July 29 and at the Boots Court Visitor Center at 9:00 a.m. on July 30.

In the Public Information Report, Ms. Little reported that she maintained and updated the City website and created and distributed graphics for the City Council and various boards and committees. She also developed informational materials regarding the Short-Term Rental Regulations and provided updates and communications related to the June storm debris cleanup efforts. Additionally, Ms. Little shared information regarding community-wide events, created graphics and maps for the Red, White, & Boom celebration, and coordinated the Backyard Discovery Giveaway by creating an online entry form and utilizing the My Carthage mobile app to promote and administer the program.

In the Civil War Museum Report, Ms. Little reported that the museum experienced its highest sales month on record in June, generating more than \$1,600 in sales. She also noted that museum attendance reached an all-time high and that the museum welcomed visitors from 14 different countries.

2. Memorial Hall report

Mr. Bonine reported that Memorial Hall hosted a quinceañera and a birthday party during the previous weekend, resulting in a busy schedule for the facility. He also reported that the Memorial Hall caretaker had resigned and stated that efforts would begin to fill the vacant position. Mr. Bonine further announced that the new Parks Department Assistant Director, Roy Sawyer, is scheduled to begin employment the following Tuesday. In addition, he reported that interviews for the Parks Department administrative assistant position had been completed, a shortlist of candidates had been identified, and he anticipated filling the position within the week. Mr. Bonine noted that discussions had taken place regarding the installation of gates at the stairways leading to the upper floors of Memorial Hall. He stated that gates had apparently existed in the past but had been removed and disposed of. He indicated that staff would explore options for securing the stairways and restricting access to the upper floors when access is not needed.

3. Golf report

Mr. Bonine reported that golf staff reported that a total of 3,277 rounds were played in June 2026 with a total of \$132,926 in revenue. The driving range and concession operations remained significant revenue sources during the month. Increased usage of the driving range was attributed to its condition and maintenance, while concession sales benefited from expanded food and beverage offerings and increased demand during the hot weather. A total of five events were held in June, generating 385 rounds, with the remaining rounds consisting of public and member play. Staff also reported the sale of 32 new memberships, including family, household, junior, senior, and single memberships, in addition to revenue generated through monthly automatic membership withdrawals.

4. Parks report

Mr. Bonine reported that all limbs and debris resulting from the June storm had been removed. He also stated that Parks Department staff have continued maintaining the flowers throughout the community and on the Square and have kept up with mowing operations, noting that grass growth has slowed as rainfall has decreased.

6. Adjournment

ACTION:	Motion to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. by Mr. Topete; second by Mr. Perkins; Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES:	Beth Kang, Juan Topete, David Thorn, Jack Perkins
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None