

City of Carthage, Missouri

CITY COUNCIL

AUGUST 25, 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 Training Officer Brian Calhoon gave the invocation. Police Chief Chad Dininger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Mariela Telles, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. Council Member David Thorn was absent. City Administrator Traci Cox was also present. City Attorney Jon Gold was absent

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 August 11, 2026 Council meeting. Motion carried.

During Citizen Participation, Jeff Meredith, CEDC Director gave a short presentation on the new Restore My Block program and gave information on how residents can apply for it.

Sally Stuart with Vision Carthage was present to give an update on what was done in Quarter 2 of the year. She also reported on the upcoming Restoration Carthage event and the new veteran banners going up for the rest of the year.

Mike Hole, member of the Carthage Fire Department, was present to read a collaborative statement from the members of the fire department regarding Council Bill 26-48 and how the changes would affect the employees.

Tom Bowen with the Fraternal Order of Police was present to discuss Council Bill 26-48 relating to the police officers. He asked for the City to keep having negotiations with the FOP until a decision is mutually agreed on.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways and Means Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for September 9th at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Wells reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this day and approved the claims. He updated the council that changes to 2-160 are still being

worked on and will return to committee once they are completed. The next meeting is scheduled for September 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee did not meet in August due to a lack of quorum. But there is an item that needs to go ahead and get council approval. The Ralleye in the Park event is scheduled for September 20th in Central Park. They have requested to close Main Street between Chestnut and 9th, Chestnut between Main and Lyon, and 9th Street between Main and Lyon and to allow cars to back into parking spaces from 7-3 on Sunday September 20th. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to close the roads and allow the cars to back into spaces on September 20th. Motion carried. The next meeting is scheduled for September 21st at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Kang reported that the Public Services Committee did not meet due to a lack of quorum. The meeting is being rescheduled for August 31st at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Topete reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for September 1st at 5:30 pm.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given Mr. Snow for MBH Trust, Ms. Telles for the Kellogg Lake Board, Mr. Perkins for CW&EP, and Mr. Wells for the Civil War Museum Board.

Mayor Flanigan reported on attending the CEDC and CWEP Board meetings, there was a partial bridge meeting with a few people and Will Kline from the state to discuss funding options for bridge replacements. He also met with the fire department and CW&EP regarding hydrant colors and there will be some ordinances in the future that address the issues.

During Remarks from Council Members, Mr. Topete reported that he recently visited Grand Rapids, Michigan and met some Vietnamese people who have been to Carthage for Marian Days in years past and they had nothing but wonderful things to say about Carthage. Mr. Snow addressed Council Bill 26-48 and gave some information about surrounding cities and how they address their overtime and call back policies and what the changes are that Carthage is making. Mrs. Kang reported that Vision Carthage is looking for volunteers for their Restoration Carthage workday. Mr. Wells reported that he has been receiving complaints from citizens about cars driving too fast down Maple near the intersection of Elk and asked Chief Dininger if there was extra patrol that could be done. He also addressed Council Bill 26-48 and how the city has a deficit budget and the changes being made would help the city save money rather start cutting employees to save the money.

Police Chief Chad Dininger reported that he has also been receiving a lot of complaints on Maple and Elk and thinks maybe looking into a stop sign would be a good idea. He also talked about Council Bill 26-48 and how it would affect his department.

Training Officer Brian Calhoon talked about how call back pay is an incentive to get guys to work on their days off. He also said they have been busy with grass fires lately.

Parks and Recreation Director Richard Bonine reported that his staff is getting fields ready for fall sports, the electrical engineers for the pool will be doing a site visit soon, and golf revenues are up compared to this time last year.

Public Works Director Josiah Bayless reported that the final plans for the sidewalk extension project are almost complete. He gave a code enforcement updates, and he also gave some background information on the Resolution that is on the agenda. It is for the city to be able to participate in the county hazard mitigation plan in the event of disasters. It helps get the city access to natural disaster funding from FEMA or SEMA.

City Administrator Traci Cox reported that she met with Josiah and Chuck Bryant and a representative to discuss the I-49-171 interchange they are trying to propose and they expressed that this is not something that Carthage wants and that it would divert all traffic around Carthage and affect the city and the industries that are located here. She met with the Downtown Revitalization Coalition and they did an inventory of the empty building on the square. The YMCA murder mystery is this Saturday. She also discussed the changes in Council Bill 26-48 and said that there was misinformation that was given out to the public and that these discussions started back in April during the budget process. There was a 30 day notice given to the FOP, HR met with Trent McMain to discuss the changes, the FOP gave the city a new contract to review which included the changes that are being proposed. She stated that the City is fortunate to have wonderful employees in all departments and hates hearing talks about employees being let go, and she would love to hear any options that the employees have to propose to help with the costs and avoid cutting staff.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$1,111,367.39, against the following funds: General Revenue \$289,835.64, Public Health \$2,060.83, Lodging \$95.76, Parks/Stormwater \$27,855.50, Golf \$23,785.90, Capital Improvements \$20,395.50, Parks and Recreation \$49.07, Use Tax \$750.00, Public Facilities Bond \$7,360.00, Library \$183,000.00, and Payroll \$556,179.19, Mr. Wells made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

A public hearing for the property tax rates proposed to be set by the City of Carthage was held. City Clerk Miranda Deal gave some information about the new valuations and the previous year valuations. There were no other participants.

Under Old Business, C.B. 26-45 -- An Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to accept State financial assistance in the amount of \$5,271.05, on behalf of the City of Carthage and to execute any contract(s) resulting from such application for any grants between the City of Carthage and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission providing for capital, operating, and/or marketing assistance, for Commission-approved transit projects was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Mariela Telles, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth

Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-45.

C.B. 26-46 -- An Ordinance amending the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the City of Carthage for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for Specified Funds (General Fund, Golf Fund, Capital Improvement Tax Fund, and South Economic Development Park Fund) was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Mariela Telles, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-46.

C.B. 26-47 -- An Ordinance levying general taxes upon real property located within the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri for the year 2026, for General Revenue purposes and other purposes, and fixing the rates thereof was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Mariela Telles, David Thorn, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 26-47.

C.B. 26-48 -- An Ordinance to amend Section 307 – Overtime and Section 308 – Compensatory Time of the Personnel Policy Manual of the City of Carthage, Missouri was placed on second reading. There was a lot of discussion regarding this council bill.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to postpone this agenda item until the September 8th City Council meeting so more discussions could be had on it. Motion carried by a vote of 7 yeas and 1 nays with Mr. Perkins casting the no vote. Council Bill was postponed.

There was no New Business.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Annie Golden to the Civil War Museum Board until December 2027. Motion carried.

Under Resolutions, Mrs. Kang made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve Resolution 2129 -- A Resolution of the City of Carthage adopting the Jasper County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. Resolution 2129 was adopted after a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Juan Topete, Robin Harrison, Mariela Telles, Jack Perkins, Alan Snow, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, and Susan Reddy.

During closing comments, the Mayor wanted to remind everyone that the FOP only represents some members of the police department, they don't represent police and fire. Mrs. Kang congratulated everyone on starting school this week. Mr. Snow said that he has always support the police and fire departments and sometimes council members have to make hard decisions for the whole city. Mr. Perkins said that all the policies from other cities were given but that doesn't mean anything because Carthage is their own city and can do their own thing. Mrs. Harrison said that not voting how someone

wants you to, doesn't mean you don't care. Mr. Topete said that they are all there because they all love Carthage and want to make it a better place.

Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.