



City of Carthage, Missouri

BUDGET WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

September 9, 2026 - 5:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

MEMBERS PRESENT: Juan Topete, Beth Kang, Ron Wells, David Thorn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alan Snow

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS: Mayor David B. Flanigan

STAFF PRESENT: City Administrator Traci Cox and Administrative Assistant Dorothy Weber were present and took the minutes of the meeting.

Vice Chair Juan Topete called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

2. Old Business

1. Approve Aug 10, 2026 Minutes

ACTION: Motion to approve Aug 10, 2026 minutes by David Thorn
Motion passed with a 4:0

AYES: Beth Kang, David Thorn, Juan Topete, Ron Wells

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

3. Citizens Participation

(Citizens wishing to speak should notify Department Head or Committee Chair in advance)

4. New Business

1. Consider and Discuss Oak St Bridge Funding Options

Ms. Cox stated that the cost to fix the Oak St bridge will be 2.2 million. The City has one million dollars from the county road tax and she proposed that the remaining 1.2 million be paid out of the City's capital improvement fund. Ms. Cox explained that originally the City thought that the bridge would qualify for a certain grant but recently found out that it was not eligible. She stated that the City is going to apply for a different grant, but applications do not open up until June 2027. Mrs. Kang asked about priorities for the Capital Improvement fund and Ms. Cox stated that right now the bridges are the priority. Mr. Wells asked if the design of the Oak St bridge will change and Mayor Flanigan stated that it needs to be brought up to code. Currently, there is no estimated start time for

construction as it is determined by the railroad.

ACTION: Motion to allow funding for the Oak St Bridge to come from Capital Improvement by David Thorn
Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES: Beth Kang, David Thorn, Juan Topete, Ron Wells
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

2. Staff Reports

Ms. Cox gave the year-end fiscal report of revenues and expenses. Mr. Topete requested that Department Heads start reporting on their line item overages at Council and the corrective action that they're going to take to fix it. Mr. Topete then asked for a list of full-time employees per department and would like to track trends by seasons to see what the busy/non-busy times of year are. Mr. Topete asked for a list of individuals that have received overtime for the last two to three years to see if there is a trend. The Committee discussed combining the two playground projects into one project.

ACTION: Motion to combine two playground projects into one by Ron Wells
Motion failed with a 2:2
AYES: Ron Wells, David Thorn
NOES: Juan Topete, Beth Kang
ABSTAIN: None

Ms. Cox reported that IT had been working with PD to get their new routers installed. The IT grant portal has not opened yet but IT will continue checking. Ms. Cox then reported on possibly making a citywide policy to ban the use of ChatGPT because it is an open forum. IT sent out an email asking if any department heads were interested in Co-pilot. Ms. Cox then stated that IT has been working with Stronghold to get the City's servers updated.

5. Adjournment

ACTION:	Motion to Adjourn at 6:39 by Ron Wells
	Motion passed with a 4:0
AYES:	Ron Wells, David Thorn, Juan Topete, Beth Kang
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None