

BUDGET WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020 5:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Snow, Ray West and Ed Barlow. Juan Topete was absent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Dan Rife, City Administrator Tom Short, City Clerk Traci Cox, Council Members Craig Diggs, Ceri Otero and David Armstrong, and citizen Abi Almandinger.

Mr. Snow called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

***NOTE:** All areas *“italic”* below were submitted to the Committee in a pre-meeting memo by Mr. Short.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Consideration and approval of minutes from previous meeting.**

Mr. Barlow made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13 Budget meeting. Motion carried 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Consider and discuss an Ordinance levying general taxes upon real property located within the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri for the Year 2020, for general revenue purposes and other purposes, and fixing the rates thereof.**

“By State Law, no later than September 1 of each year, the City Council has to set the property tax rate for the City and file the tax rate with Jasper County. These include the rates for the General Fund, Library, Parks & Recreation and Public Health. Tax rates are set annually by the City Council with assessment, billing, and collection administered by Jasper County. The State Auditor's Office and county officials assist local government officials in determining the data necessary to complete the tax rate computations. Taxing authorities are required to file final proposed tax rates and data supporting the proposed property tax rates with the county, using forms prescribed by the State Auditor. The counties submit the supporting data received to the State Auditor for review. The data is reviewed and a finding is returned to both the county and the taxing authority advising whether the proposed rates comply with Missouri law. Rate ceilings set the limit for the amount of taxes that can be levied. Each tax rate ceiling is determined annually and is adjusted to ensure revenue neutrality. The review of each tax rate ceiling is based on the assessed valuation for the entire political subdivision. The tax rate ceilings are determined based on the requirements of Section 137.073, RSMo, and Missouri Constitution, Article X, Section 22, commonly referred to as the Hancock Amendment, which limits taxation by the state and local governments. The levy amounts are the same as the current rates. Due to the timeliness of this item, it will be on the Council's agenda as a Public Hearing item and a Council Bill for the August 11, 2020 meeting.”

Mr. Snow reported the 2020 Assessed Valuation for the City of Carthage was received and the tax levy rates will remain unchanged if approved. Mr. West moved to approve the state recommended property tax rates. Motion carried.

2. Staff Reports.

*“Sales Tax Report, the August 2020 Sales Tax Report is included. General Fund Sales Tax (1%) receipts for August showed an increase of 12% from the same month last Fiscal Year. This amounted to approximately \$23,000 more than the same month last year. This is the second month of the fiscal year and the second month where receipts were higher than the previous year. Hopefully this trend will continue through the fiscal year. Overall, the City had budgeted an increase of 3.5% from the previous year’s budgeted amount. At this time, Sales Taxes are exceeding last year’s collections. Because of the budget situation and rolling the budget, the Incode financial/budget software is not capable of generating reports at this time. Therefore, **Unaudited July Budget Report (All Funds Revenue & Expense Report)** and the **Investment Report**, will not be available. **Economic Development Workgroup**, the Budget Committee Chairman will report on the meetings/status of the group regarding direction in moving the City forward with its Economic Development efforts. A reminder that Wendi Douglas is progressing on the **passive flooring restoration workshop at the Phelps House** through a grant between the City and DNR. A supplemental appropriation of funds for the Civic Enhancement Fund for a total amount of \$21,200 for a DNR Historic Preservation Fund Grants-In-Aid Flooring Restoration workshop to be provided by Carthage Historic Preservation was approved by the Council. The City agreed to be the grant recipient and act as manager of the grant. The objective of the grant is to provide Historic Preservation Fund money to State Historic Preservation Officers for the protection and conservation of state and local cultural and historic assets, and to assist them in executing their historic preservation programs and activities pursuant to 54 U.S.C. 300101 et. seq. (commonly known as the National Historic Preservation Act). **Revised Budget Hearings:** Included is the updated Budget (Schedule) Calendar. Budget Hearings with Departments are set for August 19, 2020 at 5:30 in the Council Chambers; a separate packet will be sent no later than August 14, 2020. Included is a report on the **Landfill Closure Fund** that was discussed previously for possible discussion regarding the FY 21 Budget.”*

Mr. Short reviewed sales tax revenues which have exceeded estimates and discussed the Budget calendar and the August 19 meeting with department heads to review departmental budgets. Mr. Snow discussed future arrangements with the Chamber of Commerce. Implementation of the salary study was discussed. Mr. Short reported a lump sum for increased salaries will be put into each department. The salary schedule will be re-evaluated each year for budgetary purposes.

3. **Other Business.** None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 6:02 P.M. on motion by Mr. Barlow

Respectfully submitted,
Traci Cox