

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
JULY 28, 2020

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in the City Hall Council Chambers at 6:30 P.M. with Mayor Dan Rife presiding. Fire Chief Roger Williams gave the invocation and Captain Bill Hawkins led the flag salute.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Alan Snow, Craig Diggs, Ed Barlow, Seth Thompson, Juan Topete, David Armstrong, Ceri Otero and Mike Daugherty. Council members Ray West and James Harrison were absent. City Administrator Tom Short and City Attorney Nate Dally were also present.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Captain Bill Hawkins, Fire Chief Roger Williams, Public Works Director Zeb Carney, Parks & Recreation Director Mark Peterson, and City Clerk Traci Cox.

Mr. Daugherty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020 Special Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

During Citizen's Participation Period: Mark Elliff, Carthage Chamber of Commerce, gave an update on how COVID has affected area businesses and reported on employment numbers from major employers in Carthage.

Mr. Snow reported the Budget Ways & Means Committee was between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for August 10.

Ms. Otero reported the Committee on Insurance/Audit and Claims met on this date and approved the claims.

Mr. Snow reported the Public Safety Committee met July 20. The 2020 Rallye in the Park event and run has been rescheduled for September 20 due to Covid. In response to citizen complaints, a study was conducted of the parking along the south side of Wiggins from Garrison to the middle of the block that has an alley on the north side of the road. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Daugherty, to restrict the parking about 170 feet from Garrison on the south side of Wiggins. Motion carried. Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to accept the EMPG grant in the amount of \$111,487.74 which covers the period of January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Motion carried.

Mr. Topete reported the Public Services Committee meeting scheduled for July 21 was cancelled due to lack of quorum. Mr. Topete made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to have a member of the COVID Task Force report on activities at council meetings. Motion carried.

Mr. Daugherty reported that the Public Works Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for August 4.

Special Committee and Board Liaison reports were given by Mr. Thompson for the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Mr. Diggs for the Kellogg Lake Board and Tree Board.

Mayor Rife reported on budget meetings with department heads and discussions with the Task Force to develop a plan for distribution of masks.

During Reports of Council Members, Mr. Barlow thanked Ms. Otero for creating the flyer for the Task Force, Mr. Daugherty commented on the Task Force not having any members that were doctors, Mr. Snow thanked the Public Works Department for installing sneeze guards in the council chambers, Mr. Topete discussed effects of COVID on the Hispanic community and noted that the numbers aren't a direct reflection of what is really happening in the Hispanic community.

City Attorney Nate Dally reported he had been working on updating the COVID Leave Policy and the municipal court has entered Phase III of reopening.

Fire Chief Roger Williams discussed plans for distribution of masks.

Public Works Director Zeb Carney reported masks will also be distributed at the Recycling Center and capital projects are being wrapped up.

Parks and Recreation Director Mark Peterson reported the Park Department, Memorial Hall and Civil War Museum will be going back to normal operations next week.

City Administrator Tom Short reported on the following: COVID briefings with department heads, Task Force meetings, discussions with the salary study consultant, Region M meeting, Economic Development work group meetings, budget meetings with department heads, and the city's webpage has been updated.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$2,642,153.27 against the following funds: General Revenue \$84,236.88, Public Health \$130,955.72, Civic Enhancement \$410.00, Public Safety Fund \$917.04, Parks/Stormwater \$137,950.50, Fire Protection \$391.99, Golf \$8,959.02, Capital Improvements \$7,151.50, Parks & Rec \$34.65, Public Facilities \$4,393.50, Payroll \$266,752.47, and Carthage Water & Electric \$2,000,000.00. Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

Under Old Business, C.B. 20-26 – An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an Agreement between the City of Carthage, Missouri and the Carthage Chamber of Commerce for services in the amount not to exceed \$113,000.00 was placed on second reading. Mr. Snow made a motion to table C.B. 20-26 until August 11. Mr. Snow withdrew his motion. Mr. Daugherty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barlow, to table C.B. 20-26 until August 11. Mr. Daugherty made a motion to amend his motion and bring C.B. 20-26 back for first reading on August 11. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Motion to table C.B. 20-26 until August 11 failed. C.B. 20-26 failed by a roll call vote of 1 yea and 7 nays. Aye: Daugherty. Nay: Armstrong, Barlow, Diggs, Otero, Snow, Thompson and Topete.

C.B. 20-35 – An Ordinance authorizing a special use permit for operation of a Daycare School as requested by Sabrina Lynch for 820 Howard Street, in the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Barlow, Daugherty, Diggs, Otero, Snow, Thompson and Topete. The council bill was approved and numbered 20-30.

C.B. 20-36 – An Ordinance authorizing a special use permit for operation of a Daycare Center as requested by Heather (McLemore) Stark 1701 S. Main St., in the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Barlow, Daugherty, Diggs, Otero, Snow, Thompson and Topete. The council bill was approved and numbered 20-31.

C.B. 20-37 – An Ordinance adopting the Annual Operating and Capital Budget of the Carthage Water & Electric Plant (CW&EP) and the Carthage Library for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 8 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Barlow, Daugherty, Diggs, Otero, Snow, Thompson and Topete. The council bill was approved and numbered 20-32.

Consider and Discuss Comprehensive Compensation and Classification Study. Ms. Otero made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to accept Option 1 with an implementation date of October 1, use reserves to fund the first year, and new hires to be placed on step Temporary B until employees are given another step increase. Mr. Diggs moved to amend Ms. Otero's motion to not use reserves to fund the salary study. Motion died for lack of second. Motion to accept Option 1 with an implementation date of October 1, use reserves to fund the first year, and new hires to be placed on step Temporary B until employees are given another step increase passed by a vote of 7-1.

Under New Business, C.B. 20-38 – An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Carthage Community Foundation, CWEP and Innovation Economy Partners for the Growth in the Regional Ozarks 3.0 Program for Carthage, Missouri was placed on first reading with no action taken.

During closing remarks, Mr. Snow pointed out he is not opposed to salary increases but opposed to not being fiscally responsible, Mr. Diggs noted the City has the opportunity to pay the employees what they deserve but council members need to be fiscally responsible, Mr. Barlow said he was thankful for the people who have handled finances in years past and that it was not the workers fault salaries had fallen behind and council will fix it, Mr. Armstrong noted that closing remarks should be bringing closure to business and discussions during this time shouldn't be related to agenda items.

Mr. Daugherty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Topete, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m..

Dan Rife, Mayor

Traci Cox, City Clerk