

CARUTHERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
MAY 18, 2015

The Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session on Monday, May 18, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, at which time and place the following were present:

Mike McGraw		Mayor
Takella Motton		City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh		City Counselor
Tony Jones		Sergeant at Arms
Harmon		Councilperson
Rodgers		Councilperson
Bullington	(Absent)	Councilperson
Cartee		Councilperson
Cheek		Councilperson
Fike	(Absent)	Councilperson
Hood		Councilperson
Merideth		Councilperson

The number of members necessary to consider a quorum being present, the Mayor called the meeting to order and announced the meeting was in session for the transaction of business.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes from open session, motioned by Councilperson Harmon, seconded by Councilperson Cartee, and carried. Approval of Reports and Bills, motioned by Councilperson Hood, seconded by Councilperson Cartee, and carried. The T-Hanger Lease Agreement was tabled for a later date until the Airport Board had a chance to review. The approval of Pat Ferrell as City Treasurer effective on May 20, 2015, was motioned by Councilperson Cartee seconded by Harmon, and carried. There wasn't any unfinished business to discuss.

The next order of business was the department head reports. There were four fire calls between May 6 and May 18, 2015. On May 6, 2015 there was a structure fire at Taven Apt. 304 with mutual aid from Kennett, Hayti, and Portageville. On May 13, 2015 there was a fire alarm at 910 Laurant set off by salesmen testing, there was also a sound of alarm at 325 South Ward. May 18, 2015 Taven Apartments had a gasoline rupture. The Police Dept. reported that Hopper is on reserve status, and recommended to fill their last position with Dustin Fitzwater as patrolman. He has two years of law enforcement experience and will be on a six month probation period. Councilperson Cartee motioned for the hiring of Fitzwater, seconded by Councilperson Harmon which resulted in the following vote, to wit:

Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Cartee	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes

Water and Sewer reported that the motors have been repaired and are fully operational. There's meter money left to buy the last of the meters which would cost \$17,500, with \$17,098 being available the remaining \$402 could be amended to the budget from the Sales Tax Fund. Councilperson Harmon motioned to get the remaining cost from the Sales Tax Fund, seconded by Hood, and carried. Councilperson Rodgers wanted to know how the meters were holding up, if there were any problems. Shaw stated the new meters were more accurate than the old that it was possible to know the minute and hour how much water has been used. Councilperson Rodgers wanted to know if there had been any breakdowns. Shaw responded by saying of the 1300 sent only four had to be sent back. We are actually budgeted to get 100 more meters and will still need under a 1000 more spread out in a five year period.

Street and Code Enforcement continuing working on clean up, mowing several lots under the county trustee, and mowing the rest of the Right A Ways. Several of the bulbs were replaced in the decorated lights downtown and repaired old lights that they received calls on. One building permit, 509 E.14th St. is ready to be issued, one room and carport addition. Had a complaint of tall grass at a vacant lot on Grande, and it has been cut. There was concern about an abandoned building on E. 13th St, it has been secured and boarded up. Teroy has a lot that needs to be cut, his mower is down and wanted to know if the City could cut the property and he pay for it. Counselor Dorroh stated that he would need to waive entry requirements and under the vacant ordinance he could pay immediately or get a tax bill. Rushing stated that the cost needed to include time and labor. Rodney William has several properties and was seen working on his tractor trying to get his properties mowed. Rushing stated that he talked to Tree companies and some contractors letting them know that they weren't allowed to haul debris to our site or pile construction materials on the side of the road. Contractors would need to rent a dumpster for their debris. As for as the Tree companies that don't have dump sites it was discussed consideration for a fee to be applied that was fair possibly in the future. Councilperson Cartee was concerned about the Brown Shoe ditch. Rushing stated that it has to dry up before anything could be done.

Park and Recreation reported on the status of the gym floor, the old floor has been ripped out and they were trying to dry out the floor with fans and blowers. Estimated time of completion is by June 16 in time for the bike riders that are coming into town.

Library reported a minor leak in the ceiling. Opening hours are changing, with Tuesdays being opened until 7:30 p.m., which will be their Friends and Family Night,

there will be games, etc. Sundays will be a kick off to the showing of movies, the first will be Unbroken from 1-4, movie time will be 1:30 p.m., admission is a library card. The library has a document from 1912 which states why we have a library in Caruthersville and who started it and why. The library will be looking at releasing this information to the newspaper.

The Mayor's report introduced Sullivan's online ordinances that could be codified and viewed on the web site. The cost would be \$1,195.00, with an additional \$18.00 per page for any addition to the ordinances since September of 2102. Councilperson Harmon motioned for the purchase of the product and update of the code, seconded by Councilperson Cartee which resulted in the following vote:

Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Cartee	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes

The city's minimum wage is currently \$7.50 same as the federal, the state's minimum wage is \$7.65. The Mayor recommended that any city employee making \$7.50/hr. should be bumped up to \$7.65/hr. We have posters up stating that \$7.65 as of January 1, 2015 is the minimum wage. The Mayor also stated that supplemental checks need to be issued with an additional \$.15 from January 1, 2015 until present. Councilperson Rodgers made a motion for the \$7.65 minimum wage along with the supplemental check of \$.15 since January 1, 2015, seconded by Councilperson Hood which resulted in the following vote:

Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Cartee	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes

The glass is in the process of being removed from all the offices that were in question and the cabinet will be installed May 20, 2015. The safety glass will be installed at a later date after a bid has been accepted. G. W. Gilmore, the Riverfront contractor, will be pulling items to the City Maintenance Yard. The Mayor mentioned a possible allocation for a clean-up, which was tabled to be discussed in closed session.

From the floor Kevin Anderson expressed his confusion of the building permit guidelines. He was under the impression that since he didn't have to pay for a permit that in essence he didn't need one and was free to build a shed anywhere on the property. Anderson stated Rushing road by and took pictures, but didn't let him know until later that the shed would have to be moved from the front of the yard to the back. Anderson

requested that the City pay him for the materials that cost \$200 as reimbursement of him having to relocate the shed. Councilperson Cheek stated that the issue should be the zoning not the permit itself. Councilperson Harmon wanted to know if there were any guidelines for the building permit. Counselor Lawrence stated that building permits have to be displayed whether you pay or not, but some things are exempt such as sheds. With the ICC, a shed being in the front yard would be in violation of the zoning ordinances. The Mayor stated that it must be made clear that even if you don't have to pay for a building permit that one still has to be displayed so that it wouldn't be misleading. He proposed that the City make motion to pay or not pay for the reimbursement of \$200. Councilperson Hood stated in the future we should make sure we do our due diligence to make sure a citizen understand city codes. Councilperson Rodgers stated that some things are blighted in our community. You may see structures that are in violation but a person may think its ok because it's all around them. Councilperson Cartee made a motion that Anderson be reimbursed for the \$200, seconded by Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Cartee	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes

The Taven fire had inadequate water flow, which need to be addressed in the new budget. There's an issue with the size of the pipe and the design. Shaw stated there is a 4 inch hydrant that cuts through the property and goes to a 3 inch line; the one that is not hooked up is an 8 inch line further down by Gayosa. The Ladder Truck was very helpful. Hayti will acquire the old one from the Conservation Dept. and Kennett will acquire a new one. The Mutual Aid Agreement worked very well, Hayti had two tankers and one pumper with Kennett's Ladder Truck. Charlie stated that there have been 4 major fires on the books for Taven since 1990. Councilperson Harmon suggested that the budget need to be considered for water improvements. The Mayor stated there's a need to increase the flow and repair major breaks with more production per minute. Councilperson Harmon suggested that Water, Sewer, and Fire departments get together and prioritize what need to be done and present their findings to the Council to work on getting it financed for the next budget. Councilperson Rodgers voiced concern with Ward 1 loss of water, and hoped they didn't get left out in the process.

Christy Mercer stated that the USDA has a 20/20 program that states that if a population has a poverty level of 20% or higher, Caruthersville being at 35%; they could qualify for grant money for big projects dealing with infrastructure. Christy stated she would email the City with more details.

The Mayor suggested that the City decline Vector Disease proposal, we have already gone through a large part of the time of their abatement program. We do have a truck with \$7500 collected for mosquito control.

The Safe School Sidewalk Program is an 80/20 match that's in the highway bill for \$240,000. The City would apply in the fall and designate where you want the sidewalks, and you have to be within 2 miles of the school. The Summer Food Program has the same sites and employees from last year. The Mayor mentioned that he would be visiting the sites from time to time.

Counselor Dorroh stated he was working on couple of bills, one was parental responsibilities and looking into an ordinance regarding sagging pants. Councilperson Cartee made a motion for closed session, seconded by Councilperson Harmon, which resulted in the following vote:

Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Cartee	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes

After reconvening into regular session, Counselor Dorroh stated a motion needed to be made to grant the extension of the contractor, G.W. Gilmore to complete the project without any default during the period up until June 30, 2015; which would be subject to MODOT consenting to the approval. Councilperson Harmon motioned, seconded by Councilperson Cheek, which resulted in the following vote:


Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Cartee	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes

Sergeant at Arms Tony stated that in regards to the sagging pants, the Supreme Court ruled on incorporating it with indecent exposure.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Harmon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 p.m., with Councilperson Merideth seconding, and the motion carried unanimously.


Mayor

ATTEST:


City Clerk