

CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
August 15, 2011

BE IT REMEMBERED the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session in the Council Room in the Municipal Building on Monday, August 15, 2011, at 5:00 p.m., at which time and place the following were present:

Diane Sayre	Mayor
Melinda Scifres	City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh	City Counselor
Chris Riggs	Chief of Police
Simpson	Councilperson
Grantham	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Morgan	Councilperson
Mott	Councilperson
Pullam (Absent)	Councilperson
Rodgers	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 to come before the Council was the approval of the minutes, bills, and reports. Upon motion duly made by Councilperson Hood, seconded by Councilperson Rodgers, the minutes, bills, and reports were approved unanimously. The reports read as follows:

Donna Brooks, City Collector, reported \$9,594.50 in taxes collected with \$91.31 in Collector's commission, and \$6.50 in Clerk's fee.

Charlie Jones, Fire Chief, reported \$3,900.00 in salaries for July, with eight fire calls.

Keith Davis, Parks/Recreation Director, reported \$8,560.36 in admissions to the recreation center for July.

Melinda Scifres, City Clerk, reported securities pledged for deposits at the banks as follows: First State Bank - \$2,125,000; Focus Bank - \$2,021,899.47; Bank Star - \$583,400.00.

Christi Watkins, Municipal Court Clerk, reported \$4,543.89 in fines collected with \$29.91 in JEF funds, \$29.91 in POST funds, and \$213.25 in CVC funds.

Paula VanDeWaal, Bookkeeper for the Water Department, reported the following collections for July:

Water	\$ 81,512.59	City Gallons	189,815
Sewer	23,492.36	Customers	2,425
Garbage	33,507.35		
Meter Serv.	832.30		
Mo. Spray	588.57		
Primacy Fee	6,958.39		
Sew. Ser.	1,641.86		
Sew. Bond	<u>11,431.36</u>		
TOTAL	\$159,964.78		

The next item of business to come before the Council was the bids for the clean-up of the area on the land side of the sea wall. One bid was received for the project from Riggs Law and Landscape in the amount of \$4,675.00 without sod, and an additional \$2100.00 with sod. After discussion, Councilperson Rodgers motioned to approve the bid in the amount of \$4,675 contingent upon FEMA participation, with Councilperson Grantham seconding, and motion carried unanimously.

The next item to come before the Council was the bids for the excavation and repair of sewer failures at Ward in front of the courthouse, and at 20th and Chaffin. Three bids were received as follows:

G & C Contracting of Perryville	\$35,000
Gater Construction of Sikeston	\$43,000
Robertson, Inc., Poplar Bluff	\$87,300

The engineer recommended the bid from G & C Contracting of Perryville in the amount of \$35,000. With engineering fees the total project budget would be \$43,600. Mayor Sayre reported this project is being submitted to FEMA for reimbursement. After discussion, Councilperson Grantham motioned to approve the low bid from G & C Contracting, with Councilperson Merideth seconding, and motion carried.

The next item of business to come before the Council was the proposal for accounting services from McDowell & Middleton. The firm is asking the renewal be considered for \$1900 per moth, plus the cost of checks. In addition, consultations exceeding two hours per month will be billed at our standard hourly rates of \$45-\$160 per hour, depending upon the experience level of the staff involved. After consideration, Councilperson Mott motioned to approve the proposal, with Councilperson Simpson seconding, and motion carried.

Mayor Sayre advised the Council the engineer is redesigning the intersection of Sixteenth and Ward, and more information will be supplied at a later date.

Councilperson Morgan reported the Fire department had three calls during the last two weeks, and had collected \$1,100 for the MDA telethon during their Boot Block. Councilperson Rodgers

thanked the Police Department for their participation during the Washington Alumni ceremony on August 6.

Councilperson Hood then motioned to approve the adjustment report for the Water Department in the amount of \$6,553.87 for July, with Councilperson Merideth seconding, and motion carried. Councilperson Hood then reported Elizabeth Hardesty is now employed to take Paula Van De Waal's place in the water office.

Councilperson Merideth reported the mosquito spray is continuing. Also, the alleys are being checked and cleaned, and crews are using a weed eater on the vacant lots.

Keith Davis, Parks/Recreation Director, presented a drawing and cost estimates for the equipment for a skate park to the council. With the concrete and fencing included in the pricing, the cost will be approximately \$50,000. The equipment is movable and expandable for future growth.

Mayor Sayre reported she had driven around with the Code Enforcement Officer this morning. She is considering a different strategy to get some of the overgrown lots cut. She will report at a later date on this matter.

Charles Cain then appeared before the Council to advise them the Career Center will be closing at the end of August in Caruthersville. He asked the Council to write letters to keep the office open. At this time, people will be able to go to Kennett to a Career Center, but at the end of December, the one in Kennett will close, and people will have to drive to Sikeston to a Career Center. Jane Ellen Lazenby who is on the Board for the Career Center advised this was a decision made on the state level, and they are standing their ground on the decision.

Mr. Cain then recommended the Council place a stop light at 16th and Edwards instead of making the street a one-way street. Mayor Sayre advised the engineer is looking at other ways to correct the problem at the intersection, but the cost of a light would be a large factor for the intersection.

At this time, John Ferguson, Economic Developer, appeared before the Council to ask the "Strategic Plan" be adopted as part of the DREAM Initiative. Mr. Ferguson reported that as part of the DREAM Initiative, the City has received almost \$900,000 in funds. By adopting the Strategic Plan, the City will be able to get on track to fund future projects. Mayor Sayre made a few suggestions for corrections to the Plan as designed. After discussion, Councilperson Rodgers motioned to adopt the plan, with Councilperson Simpson seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Simpson	Yes	Morgan	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Mott	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
	Rodgers	Yes	

Mayor Sayre then advised the Council the current Building Commissioner is James Rushing, who is the brother of the Code Enforcement Officer. She feels this would be a conflict, and

asked the Council to approve the appointment of John Ferguson as Building Commissioner. After discussion, Councilperson Merideth motioned to approve the appointment, with Councilperson Hood seconding, and motion carried.

The Council was then asked to approve changing the date of the next meeting to Tuesday, September 6, due to the Labor Day holiday. Councilperson Hood motioned to approve the change in date, with Councilperson Grantham seconding, and motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Mott motioned the meeting adjourn at 5:30 p.m., with Councilperson Hood seconding, and motion carried.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk