

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE  
JULY 18, 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, July 18, 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
Pullam	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Simpson	Councilperson
Grantham (Absent)	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Morgan (Absent)	Councilperson
Mott	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 Mott, seconded by Councilperson Hood, the minutes, bills, and reports were approved unanimously. The amount of bills paid from the General Fund was \$116,987.95, while \$26,430.86 was paid from the Water & Sewer Operation and Maintenance. The reports read as follows:

Charlie Jones, Fire Chief, reported \$8,482.00 in salaries for June, with twenty calls.

Melinda Scifres, City Clerk, reported securities pledged at the banks for deposits of the City as follows: First State Bank \$2,125,000; Focus Bank - \$2,021,899.47; Bank Star - \$583,400.

Donna Brooks, City Collector, reported \$9,646.25 in turnover to the Treasurer, with \$54.39 in Collector's Commission, and \$4.30 in Clerk's fees.

Keith Davis, Parks/Recreation Director, reported \$8,847.19 in admissions to the recreation center for June.

Christi Watkins, Court Clerk, reported \$8,901.91 in fines collected, with \$336.67 in CVC funds; \$47.22 in POST funds; and \$47.21 in JEF funds.

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

Water	\$ 43,044.16	City Gallons 535,038
Sewer	18,259.36	Customers 2425
Garbage	34,723.07	
Meter Service	856.97	
Mo. Spray	610.62	
Primacy Fee	164.81	
Sewer Ser.	45.55	
Sewer Bond	<u>11,827.46</u>	
TOTAL	\$109,532.46	

Mayor Sayre then requested Joey Ledford be appointed to serve the unexpired term of Martha Stevens on the Housing Authority Board. Councilperson Pullam motioned to approve the appointment, with Councilperson Simpson seconding, and motion carried.

The next item of business to come before the Council was the contract with Branum’s Solid Waste Disposal. Mr. Branum is requesting a \$1 per resident per month increase in the garbage rate, with a 15% increase in the commercial rate, and a \$1 increase if the price of diesel exceeds \$4. The Council requested clarification of the holidays the service will not pick up garbage. Also, if the price of diesel goes under \$4, the \$1 increase for fuel will come back off the rate. The condition of the property where he houses his equipment was another concern, and the liquid that is left in front of the homes when the truck is compacted has a foul odor; the driver needs to spray the liquid to neutralize it. The Mayor will meet with Mr. Branum to discuss these matters. Councilperson Merideth motioned to approve the contract once the items have been addressed as requested by the Council, with Councilperson Rodgers seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote, to-wit:

Pullam	No	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Simpson	No	Mott	Yes

Charlie Jones, Fire Chief then reported from July 8 through July 18 the fire department has answered five fire calls, and he has performed four inspections.

Councilperson Hood motioned to approve the adjustment report in the amount of \$879.58, with Councilperson Simpson seconding, and motion carried.

Keith Davis, Parks/Recreation Director, reported the 9-10 year old league that played in the district tournament came in second. The 11-12 year old league was invited to the state tournament. This was an honor to attend the state tournament.

Terry Rushing, Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer, then reviewed his report with the Council. He advised the City is ready to move forward with the next step on the property at 900 Carleton to raze the building. Counselor Dorroh advised the initial cost will be charged to the City,

and a tax bill would be made to the owner for the cost. It will be treated as any tax statement, and failure to pay can result in selling the property for back taxes. Mayor Sayre advised the project will have to be bid since the structure is too large for City crews to handle. Counselor Dorroh reported the project will not be subject to prevailing wage since it is not a public project. Mr. Rushing reported he has sent out many nuisance letters, and several properties allowed time period will expire in six days. Twelve yards have been cut, with six of those being done by the City. He is, also, still working on the fuel system at the airport.

Mr. Rushing then reported on a neglected piece of property on Poplar. He has been working on this property since May. Several things have hindered the progress, but a letter has now been sent to the owner, and the lien holder. There are six days remaining before the City can send a contractor in to mow the property. Luther Jackson, a resident of that area, was present and advised the lot held so much debris, he was afraid that items could be thrown onto his lot doing damage. Mayor Sayre advised the contractor will walk the lot prior to mowing to remove items. Mr. Jackson reported the prior resident of the home had removed his privacy fence, and had removed it from the property before he left. He had contacted him regarding the fence, and it was supposed to be returned the next day. However, when it was not returned, he tried to contact him again and his phone was disconnected. Mr. Rushing reported he will contact the lien holder by letter to ask for their assistance in keeping the lot clean, and the condition of the house.

Councilperson Rodgers thanked Mr. Rushing for getting the lots on Hickory cleaned up, and the lot across from Ms. Spicer. However, there are more lots that need to be cut.

Police Chief Riggs reported he called the school about the intersection on West Sixteenth. The temporary stop sign that was placed at that intersection has been removed. Councilperson Merideth will check with the engineer to see if there is a solution to the problem.

Councilperson Mott then motioned to hold closed session to discuss legal action, litigation, purchase or sale of real estate, documents related to negotiated contracts, and records which are protected from disclosure by law. Councilperson Simpson seconded the motion, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Pullam	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Mott	Yes

The next item of discussion to come before the Council was discussion to encourage the formation of a Fire Protection District for residents outside the city limits.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Pullam motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m., with Councilperson Simpson seconding, and motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Mayor

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City Clerk