

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011
PUBLIC HEARING**

The Council of the City of Caruthersville met for a public hearing on Monday, September 19, 2011, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Room of the Municipal Building, at which time and place the following were present:

Baughn Merideth, James Mott, Barbara Pullam, Barbara Rodgers, Sheila Simpson, Sue Grantham, Diane Sayre, Melinda Scifres, Lawrence Dorroh, Chris Riggs, Michael Coleman, Terry Privett, Bob Lazenby, Jane Ellen Lazenby, Earnest Robinson, Charlie Jones, Wayne Smith, Paul Shaw, Chet Moyers, Nathan McClendon, Donald Jones, and Keith Davis

The purpose of the hearing was to receive input from the public regarding the 2011 proposed tax rate. The tax rates are set to produce the revenues which show to be required from the property tax. Each tax rate is determined by dividing the amount of revenue needed by the current assessed valuation. The result is multiplied by 100 so the tax will be expressed in cents per \$100 valuation. The proposed tax rate as set by the State Auditor's office was as follows:

ASSESSED VALUATION	TAX YEAR 2011	CURRENT TAX YEAR 2010	PRIOR
Real Estate		\$31,063,050	\$30,858,670
Personal Property		<u>\$10,735,539</u>	<u>\$10,385,445</u>
Total		\$41,798,589	\$41,244,115

The following tax rates are proposed:

	Amount of Property Tax Revenues Budgeted	Tax Rate Ceiling (Per \$100)
General Fund	\$ 266,507.81	\$.6376
Special Sewer Tax	90,661.14	.2169
Library Fund	41,798.59	.1000
Public Health	79,960.70	.1913
Cemetery Fund	<u>20899.30</u>	<u>.0500</u>
TOTAL	\$ 499,827.54	\$1.1958

Nathan McClendon appeared before the Council and stated that he understood the City is wanting to raise the tax rate \$1.90. Counselor Dorroh advised the state has set the tax rate at \$1.1958, and that is the maximum the tax rate could be. Mr. McClendon stated people on fixed incomes cannot afford more increases; the water and sewer rates have already been added.

When asked about the consequences of not raising the rate to the maximum, Counselor Dorroh stated if it is an assessment year, and the City accepts less than the rate ceiling, the state can recalculate future rates down to what is currently being collected. If you need additional revenues in the future, they will not be available.

Councilperson Simpson stated if the rate is set at the ceiling, the City is not better off if people can't pay the taxes. Mayor Sayre stated the calculation for this year is a little over \$59,000 in additional revenue from last year. The Mayor suggested the Council consider a .06¢ increase in the tax rate, all for the General Fund. The General Fund is the one that subsidizes all other departments. Councilperson Simpson stated that would be a lot right now.

After further discussion, Councilperson Simpson motioned the hearing close at 5:15, with Councilperson Mott seconding, and motion carried.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
SEPTEMBER 19, 2011**

The Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session in the Council Room in the Municipal Building on Monday, September 19, 2011, at 5:15 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
Merideth	Councilperson
Morgan (Absent)	Councilperson
Mott	Councilperson
Pullam	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Simpson	Councilperson
Grantham	Councilperson
Hood (Absent)	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 Merideth, seconded by Councilperson Grantham, the minutes, bill and reports were approved. The reports read as follows:

Elizabeth Hardesty, Bookkeeper for the Water Office, reported the following for August:

Water	\$ 88,704.25	Customers 2432
Sewer Use	24,069.99	
Garbage Fees	35,082.10	
Meter Serv.	774.07	
Mo. Spray	551.67	
Primacy Fee	713.18	
Sewer Bond	<u>11,139.65</u>	
Total	\$161,160.77	

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

Charlie Jones, Fire Chief, reported \$4,836 is salaries for August, and eleven fire calls.

Donna Brooks, City Collector, reported \$17,086.74 in taxes turned over to the City, with \$242.13 in Collector’s Commission, and \$12.80 in Clerk’s fees.

Keith Davis, Parks/Recreation Director, reported \$6,556.71 in admissions to the recreation center for August.

Christi Watkins, Court Clerk, reported \$7,406.55 in Fines collected, \$39.92 in JEF funds, \$39.91 in POST funds, and \$284.54 in CVC funds.

The next item of business to come before the Council was the report from the Police and Fire Committee. Councilperson Merideth reported the Committee had met to discuss the purchase of two new Dodge Chargers for the Police Department. The cars would be purchased from the company that had the state bid on the cars, and there are two in stock. The cost for both cars would be \$49,550.00, and would be paid from the Asset Forfeiture Account. After discussion, Councilperson Merideth motioned to purchase the cars, and pay for them from the Asset Forfeiture Account, with Councilperson Pullam seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Mott	Yes
Pullam	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Grantham	Yes

Paul Shaw, Water/Wastewater Manager, reported the crews have been fixing leaks at 5th and Ward, 12th and Ward, and 11th and Carleton. The Playground Road lift station and the Third and Eastwood station are now operational. Mr. Shaw then asked the Council to approve the adjustment report in the amount of \$5,631.59. Councilperson Simpson motioned to approve the report, with Councilperson Grantham seconding, and motion carried.

Mr. Shaw then reported the Water and Sewer Committee had met and discussed the adjustments made in the water department. The Committee is recommending that no adjustments be made in the future, effective October 1. After discussion, the Council agreed that there would be no adjustments, but would consider extenuating circumstances regarding leaks and adjustments. Councilperson Simpson then motioned to repeal section 700.040 of the Code of Ordinances but allowing customers to appeal to the Water and Sewer Committee to consider extenuating circumstances. Councilperson Mott seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Keith Davis, Parks/Recreation Director, reported a health fair would be held at the recreation center on Thursday, September 22, 2011. The Pee-Wee football league will continue with eight on eight football teams.

Wayne Smith, Chairman of the Park/Recreation Board, then appeared before the Council regarding a resolution that was adopted by the Board. The Park Board requested the Council approve the naming of the recreation center to the “Diane Sayre Recreation Center”, for all of the effort and hard work the Mayor has given to the City for the past 23 years. Councilperson Merideth motioned to approve the change of name for the recreation center, with Councilperson Rodgers seconding, and motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Pullam then advised the Animal Control Officer needed more cages for trapping animals. At the current time, the shelter has a list of people waiting to get cages to trap animals. She inquired if there was anything in the ordinance regarding the amount of cats and dogs people can have. Counselor Dorroh will look at other cities to see what they are doing to regulate the number of animals in a household.

The next item of business to come before the Council was the setting of the tax rate. Councilperson Rodgers motioned to set the tax rate the same as last year, which is \$1.0683. Councilperson Pullam seconded the motion, and motion carried unanimously.

After discussion, Councilperson Pullam offered and moved the approval of the following ordinance and the same was read for the first time:

BILL NO. 2011-5

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-5

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION AND LEVYING THE TAXES AND DECLARING THAT PURPOSE OF WHICH THE SAME SHALL AND SHOULD BE USED FOR THE YEAR 2011

(Copy on file in City Clerk's office)

After discussion, the unanimous consent of the Council is asked for a second reading of Bill No. 2011-5, which is granted and Bill No. 2011-5 is read the second time. The question before the Council now is shall Bill No. 2011-5 to be known as Ordinance No. 2011-5 pass and become law as read the seconding time, which resulted in the following vote on said question, to-wit:

Merideth	Yes	Mott	Yes
Pullam	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Grantham	Yes

Upon the Mayor declaring that Bill No. 2011-5 to be known as Ordinance No. 2011-5 is passed and approved by the Council, the Mayor did approve the bill and affix her signature and was attested by the City Clerk.

Councilperson Simpson then motioned to adjourn at 5:50 P.M., with Councilperson Pullam seconding, and motion carried.

The Council then reconvened into regular session at 5:55 p.m.

After discussion, Councilperson Pullam offered and moved the approval of the following ordinance; and the same was read for the first time:

BILL NO. 2011-6

ORDINANCE NO. 2011-6

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING §700.040 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE

After discussion the unanimous consent of the Council is asked for a second reading of Bill No. 2011-6 which is granted and Bill No. 2011-6 is read the second time. The question before the Council now is shall Bill No. 2011-6 to be known as Ordinance No. 2011-6 pass and become law as read the second time, which resulted in the following vote on said question, to-wit:

Merideth	Yes	Mott	Yes
Pullam	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Grantham	Yes

Upon the Mayor declaring that Bill No. 2011-6 to be known as ordinance No. 2011-6 is passed and approved by the Council, the Mayor did approve the bill and affix her signature and was attested by the City Clerk.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Simpson motioned the meeting adjourn, at 6:05 p.m., with Councilperson Mott seconding, and motion carried.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk