

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE  
SPECIAL EMERGENCY SESSION  
APRIL 28, 2011**

BE IT REMEMBERED the Council of the City of Caruthersville met for a special emergency session in the Council Room of the Municipal Building on Thursday, April 28, 2011, at 2:00 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	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Morgan	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 purpose of the meeting was to discuss emergency planning in regards to flood control. Mayor Sayre reported the river stage is projected to be the highest in the history. Counselor Dorroh then explained some of the issues the City is facing.

Counselor Dorroh explained to the Council that the Mayor is declaring a State of Emergency. This will allow the City to react during a state of emergency, and is in the best interest during the current events. Also, the City will have a curfew on the levee and flood wall and levee district right-of-way. The curfew will come into effect at 6:00 p.m. on Friday. Counselor Dorroh then read the declaration of curfew as follows:

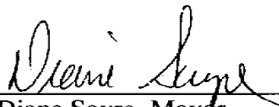
**Declaration of Emergency Curfew**

**SECTION 1. Findings.** I have determined that a State of Emergency exists in the City of Caruthersville, Missouri resulting from the flooding of the Mississippi River and that a state of emergency continues to exist. The Mississippi River is currently forecast to reach a record flood stage of 48 feet. The Caruthersville flood wall is designed to protect the City from catastrophic flooding at this level. As such, the integrity of the floodwall and levee system must be maintained. I further find that the least restrictive means of securing the floodwall and levee system within the City is the establishment of a curfew within the right-of-way for such levee and floodwall.

**SECTION 2. Curfew.** Pursuant to Ordinance 2006-5 of the City of Caruthersville, I do hereby impose and extend an emergency curfew at all times during the continuation of the state of emergency of all land within right-of-way of the St. Francis Levee District levee system and flood wall within the City of Caruthersville. No unauthorized vehicular or pedestrian traffic or usage shall be permitted upon such right-of-way during the continuation of this curfew. Violation of this curfew carries a maximum penalty of \$500.00 and 90 days imprisonment. This curfew shall extend until such time as I make a determination that the safety of individuals and their personal property exposed by the flooding conditions of the Mississippi River has expired.

**SECTION 3.** This declaration shall become effective ~~immediately~~ *6:00 p.m. Friday April 29, 2011*.

Declared this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011.

  
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Diane Sayre, Mayor

Councilperson Pullam then motioned to authorize the Mayor to declare a curfew, with Councilperson Simpson seconding the motion, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote on said question:

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

Mayor Sayre then reported she is declaring a State of Emergency, and the following was read to the Council:

## MAYORAL DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River is currently forecast to crest above flood stage at 48.0 feet on the Caruthersville gauge; and

WHEREAS, the St. Francis Levee District levee system and floodwall are designed to contain the Mississippi River at a flood stage of 50.0 feet on the Caruthersville gauge, which should protect the City from catastrophic flooding based upon current forecasts; and

WHEREAS, limitations on vehicular and pedestrian access to the levee system and floodwall are necessary during the continuation of this emergency in order to maintain the integrity of such systems; and

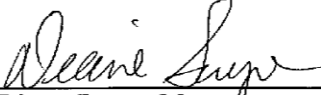
WHEREAS, seep water conditions are expected to be present in many areas of the City during the period that the river is at or above flood stage; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of contingency plans and protective measure are necessary to maintain the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Caruthersville while the river is at or above flood stage.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Diane Sayre, Mayor of the City of Caruthersville, Missouri do hereby declare a state of emergency to exist in the City, existing for the following reason: Mississippi River Flooding, and;

Furthermore, the period of emergency shall be limited to the time during which emergency conditions exist or are likely to exist in the City of Caruthersville.

Adopted this 28th day of April 2011.

  
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Diane Sayre, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Melinda Scifres, City Clerk

Mayor Sayre then informed the Council that the following press release would be given to the news media, and will read as follows:

FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN  
PRESS RELEASE

THIS IS MAYOR DIANE SAYRE AND I AM SPEAKING TO YOU REGARDING THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN AS IT RELATES TO THE RIVER CONDITIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME. AS YOU KNOW THE CITY IS FACING THE GREATEST FLOOD IN THE HISTORY OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

AS YOUR MAYOR, IT IS MY DUTY TO INFORM YOU THAT THERE IS THE POTENTIAL THREAT FOR FLOODING TO OCCUR IN THE CITY IF THE RIVER STAGE REACHES THE 50 FOOT LEVEL, WHICH IS THE MAXIMUM FLOOD LEVEL OUR SEAWALL WILL HOLD. WHILE CURRENT PROJECTIONS ARE NOT INDICATING THIS LEVEL, I AM HOWEVER, DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS I WILL BE ISSUING A CURFEW ORDER ON THE ST FRANCIS LEVEE DISTRICT RIGHT OF WAY, WHICH INCLUDES THE SEAWALL, PROHIBITING UNAUTHORIZED VEHICULAR OR PEDESTRIAN ENTRY AT ALL TIMES. THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD WILL BE MONITORING FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS CURFEW.

THE MOST RECENT CARUTHERSVILLE RIVER STAGE PROJECTION FROM THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IS THAT THE RIVER SHOULD CREST AT 48 FEET ON SATURDAY, MAY 7. NO MANDATORY EVACUATION IS ANTICIPATED AT THIS RIVER STAGE LEVEL.

WITH THIS MOST RECENT PREDICTION, ALL RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BEGIN MAKING PREPARATIONS TO SECURE THEIR PROPERTY IN THE EVENT A FLOOD LEVEL SHOULD EXCEED THIS LEVEL AND POTENTIALLY REACH THE 50 FOOT LEVEL HERE. FURTHERMORE, RESIDENTS SHOULD MAKE PLANS FOR THEIR OWN FAMILIES' SAFETY AND CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT EVACUATION IN THE EVENT THE FLOOD LEVEL SHOULD REACH THE 50 FOOT LEVEL MAY BE NECESSARY, WHICH I WILL REPEAT IS THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF WATER OUR SEA WALL CAN HOLD BACK WITHOUT FLOODING THE CITY.

THIS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO YOU, NOT TO CAUSE PANIC, FEAR, OR UNNECESSARY BURDEN ON YOU, THE RESIDENTS OF CARUTHERSVILLE. HOWEVER, AS MAYOR, I AM PROVIDING YOU WITH THE MOST FACTUAL AND PRESSING INFORMATION WE HAVE AVAILABLE TO GIVE YOU ADEQUATE TIME FOR PREPARATION TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUR FAMILY AND PROPERTY. YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS.

A MANDATORY EVACUATION IS NOT BEING ORDERED. I REPEAT A MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDER IS NOT BEING ISSUED AT THIS TIME. I AM, HOWEVER, APPEALING TO YOU, THE RESIDENTS, TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS AND PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT YOUR PERSON AND POTENTIALLY SECURE YOUR PROPERTY IN THE EVENT FLOODING SHOULD OCCUR.

YOU SHOULD AND NEED TO KNOW THAT IF AND WHEN THE RIVER STAGE SHOULD REACH THE 50 FOOT LEVEL , THE SEAWALL WILL BE BREACHED BY OVERTOPPING AND FLOODING OF THE CITY WILL BE IMMINENT.

IN THIS EVENT , A MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDER OF FLOODING OF THE CITY WILL BE ISSUED AND YOU WILL NOT HAVE TIME TO DO ANYTHING BUT LEAVE.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP INFORMED OF THE DAILY RIVER STAGE LEVELS IN CARUTHERSVILLE AND CONTINUE TO PREPARE YOUR PLANS ACCORDINGLY.

DAILY RIVER STAGE INFORMATION WILL BE REPORTED ON THE LOCAL KCRV/KLOW RADIO STATIONS AS ONE WAY TO KEEP YOU INFORMED. ALSO THE CITY WILL POST THE RIVER STAGES ON VARIOUS BUSINESS SIGNS THROUGHOUT TOWN AS WELL.

YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT WE WILL CONTINUE, AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, TO WORK ON THE MANY DETAILS ASSOCIATED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF FLOODING CONDITIONS OCCURING IN THE CITY. YOU CAN KNOW THAT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT OUR FLOOD DISASTER PLAN IF SUCH CONDITIONS SHOULD DICTATE. YOU, AS RESIDENTS, SHOULD PROCEED TO IMPLEMENT YOUR INDIVIDUAL PLANS SO THAT YOU WILL BE PREPARED TO SEEK SAFETY IN THE EVENT A FLOODING CONDITION OCCURS.

Wade Mansfield of Grizzly Jig appeared before the Council and asked if the businesses would be allowed to sandbag around their businesses even if it is on City property. Mayor Sayre stated the City would be lenient in cases such as this, and businesses would be allowed to use City property.

Mayor Sayre stated the residents believe in God and prayer, and prayers can be answered. It is relevant to know that the City is prepared to deal with a lot of things, but your property and family is your responsibility. We will give you as much time as is available to us. You need to start planning for what possibly could occur. She asked all present to start watching business signs around town for the flood stage, and once it shows 50, you will want to evacuate. However, the Mayor stressed there is no evacuation at this time.

Councilperson Mott then asked what areas are designated as safe areas in case the residents need to leave. Mayor Sayre reported safe areas have not been confirmed at this time, but the engineer is looking at elevations, and others are seeking shelters. Most of the shelters will fall under the auspices of the Red Cross.

Councilperson Grantham then asked which direction would the residents travel in case of evacuation. Mayor Sayre stated the direction of travel has not been firmed up at this time. The City will have the assistance of the National Guard, and Highway Patrol for evacuation routes. All of these questions will be finalized soon.

Councilperson Rodgers then stated the Housing Authority has sent out letters asking their residents to conserve water so that it does not go through the sewer system. Mayor Sayre stated she was not aware of any such order, but will include the Housing Authority in the next meeting. Transportation has been secured through the school, and elderly residents or persons without transportation will have a way to the shelters once they are established.

Doug Boyd then asked if the flood wall had been pressure tested for 48 feet. Mayor Sayre reported the Corps has assured the City it could withstand the pressure of the water at 50 feet.

Councilperson Grantham then asked if the traffic on the river has been stopped. The Coast Guard has asked all river traffic to slow down through this area, and keep to the Tennessee side of the river.

Councilperson Pullam then inquired if anything had been done to help alleviate the water on the levee, such as blowing other parts. Mayor Sayre reported the Corps of Engineers is working on some areas that might alleviate some of the problem, but nothing has been done as of yet.

Doug Boyd then stated if the Caruthersville Ministerial Alliance can do anything, do not hesitate to let us know. Currently the churches are feeding the volunteers that have been filling and placing sandbags.

Mayor Sayre reported she has confidence that the residents know how to respond in time of crisis. This is a matter of personal responsibility to protect your family and property.

Councilperson Simpson asked if the sirens would be sounded to let people know of an evacuation. Mayor Sayre explained she did not feel that it would not be prudent, and might confuse people.

Mayor Sayre reported the City has plans in place regarding a staging area and emergency plans for the City staff and equipment. The Mayor will release any information regarding changes in the flood stage.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Rodgers motioned to adjourn at 2:50, with Councilperson Simpson seconding, and motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Mayor

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City Clerk