

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE**  
**August 20, 2018**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday August 20, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council room of the Municipal Building at which time and place the following were present:

Sue Grantham	Mayor
Takella Motton	City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh	City Counselor
Tony Jones	Sergeant at Arms
Grable	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Lyons	Councilperson
Rittenberry	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 the regular session minutes of August, 6, 2018 Councilperson Merideth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Hood, with all in favor.

Councilperson Rodgers motion for approval of the special session minutes of August 13, 2018 second by Councilperson Merideth, with all in favor.

Councilperson Hood motion for approval of reports and bills, second by Councilperson Lyons, with all in favor.

Charles Davis with the St. Francis Levee District announced that the Mississippi River Commission and Memphis Core of Engineers made it official that a new flood wall will be constructed in the City of Caruthersville. It has been 4 years in the making in which the Mississippi River Commission, Memphis Core of Engineers, Senator Blunt, and Congressman Smith have been instrumental in getting the construction of the wall underway. Tentatively, June 2020 is the startup date, and it will take 3 to 5 years to construct. Mayor Grantham stated that Mr. Davis was also instrumental with his persistence.

The City received two letters from the USDA asking the City as owner of farmland to examine data that has been submitted on base acreage as to whether it's complete and accurate. Counselor Dorroh will be meeting with USDA concerning the reallocation of base acres for the new program.

Fire report; Fire calls from August 7, 2018 through August 20, 2018 are as follows: 8/7/18; Debris from an old church was set on fire on State Hwy D, 8/7/18; Smoke odor on Ward no detection, 8/8/18; Shed afire with moderate damage on West 8<sup>th</sup>, 8/10/18; Fire alarm sounding on Truman,

8/13/18; Fire alarm sounding on Grand, 8/15/18; Fire alarm sounding at Cotton warehouse, 8/15/18; Mobile home afire a total loss on State Hwy Z, 8/15/18; Small grass fire on side of road on I55, 8/17/18; Extrication requested on the west outer road at the Micola overpass. There have been 94 fire calls to date compared to 76 in 2017. Chief Charlie Jones had a request for \$3,000 for furniture that had to be replaced in the fire department. Councilperson Bullington motion for approval of the furniture and will be putting it in the budget, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Abstain	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes	Bullington	Yes
Lyons	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported that she had sent out a few letters, and is continuing with the door hangers, which have proved to be effective. Ms. Fuller will have a court appearance Thursday August 23, 2018, and will be waiting on another court appearance for another property. There will also be two more citations given for a couple more properties. The quote that was given for the mowing of the vacant lots was too high, but the bush hog is back in operation, and the mowing of the properties should be caught up by the end of the week. Councilperson Rodgers complimented the City and Code Enforcement Officer on getting the trailer moved on Adams which was dangerous for the kids, and when the grass is cut down it would look decent. Councilperson Bullington inquired about advertising some of the City properties, and selling them off rather than maintaining the properties. Counselor Dorroh stated that the current policy is to sell to the neighboring property owners at an agreed price and then but out for bid if they weren't interested. There was mentioned adopting a policy whereas someone that has maintained a property for a year would be able to get the property. Also taking a look at what has been done in the past by property owners maintaining City lots could also be considered. Ms. Fuller will construct a list of the City's properties and present to the Council.

Water & Sewer report; Paul Shaw reported that Mooreland Drive was finished. In the past two weeks 3 taps have been done, and the department has changed out two 1958 hydrants for new ones. The sludge hauling has been done, and awaiting for the Tower Company to pick up.

Park & Recreation; Wes Deere reported that the pee wee flag football signups are going on. Jamie Jones is aiding with the tackle football grades 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be a meet and interest meeting at Kiwanas field Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. to see how many sign up and turn out. There will also be a meeting with members of the towns of Portageville, New Madrid, Kennett, and Hayti that the pee wee football will be playing.

Library report; Teresa Tidwell reported that the Summer Food program served over 1,500 lunches, and the Library gave out 1,200 in snacks after the reading programs. Ms. Tidwell encourages everyone to donate when they catch something on sale. It was mentioned that the USDA may have a program that the Library may be able to tap into.

Budget report; Councilperson Bullington requested that everyone go through the budget that was presented, and to look for any discrepancies. Councilperson Bullington look to have the budget completed by the next meeting.

Insurance report; Councilperson Rittenberry recommended that the City drop the reinsurance from the previous healthcare provider. The claims are dwindling down, and the City has gone an extra month than what was suggested to make sure all claims were covered. Councilperson Bullington motion to cancel the reinsurance effective August 31, 2018, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes	Bullington	Yes
Lyons	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes

Randy Guest implemented Nixle last year, and the idea was to have some way of getting information out to the public due to past tornadic events, flooding, and recently with the storm shelters letting the public know when they are open. There are not enough people signed up for the emergency alerting and notification system. In order to continue with the system more people will have to register, and you do so by texting 63830 to 888777 or go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) enter 63830 then press go, click signup then add your info. Mr. Guest pointed out that the system can not only be used for emergencies, but any essential information that you would want to get out to the public. For example the Police department has an anonymous tip Facebook page, and that information can be applied. Nixle rebroadcasts any weather or heat advisories that have been broadcasted. Mr. Guest stated that he would increase the number of people that are able to send out messages. The emergency system is very important; the tornado shelters cannot be open for 8 hours for watches. The emergency response team wants to be able to alert the public a couple of hours before a storm hits, and Nixle is the way to make it happen. Mayor Grantham encourages everyone to tell everyone they know about Nixle and sign up so that the City can continue to keep it. Mr. Guest also pointed out that he had messages applied about the baseball league that the parents could access, which is a different data base from the general base for emergencies. Councilperson Bullington pointed out that a lot of elderly people that didn't text or needed assistance in signing up perhaps could do so through the Library so they could receive calls on their landline.

The interfacing of the City Collector's software has started today by putting in the delinquent taxes. The process itself is pretty straight forward, but it's time consuming. It will not link if a person has more than one delinquency; they all have to be done on a separate page. Ordinarily the taxes are keyed in and the system makes the delinquencies, but this a back door approach.

Jana Merideth reported Colin Wallenkamp of the Mississippi Rivers and Towns Initiative has been in contact and is researching different avenues of what's out there for the City to apply for. Daniel Tappana, Economic Development Project Manager shared a list of avenues for grants that was given to the Department heads and the Mayor. The Missouri Economic Development Council is having a meeting in Cape Girardeau, MO October 17 through the 19, 2018, and they strongly encourage attendance. Jason Smith is working out a time to come and visit and the Economic Advisory will meet Tuesday August 21, 2018 at 5:30 at City Hall.

Introduction of Bills; Councilperson Duckworth motion for the first reading of an ordinance for an election of a bond issue for the water and waste water improvements in the November 1, 2018 election, second by Councilperson Hood as follows:

**BILL NO. 2018-05**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-05**

**AN ORDINANCE CALLING A BOND ELECTION IN THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS IN CONNCTION THEREWITH.**

**PROPOSITION**

**Shall the City of Caruthersville, Missouri, issue its combined waterworks and sewerage system revenue bonds in the amount of Eight Million Dollars (\$8,000,000) for the purpose of extending and improving the City’s existing combined waterworks and sewerage system, the cost of operation and maintenance of said system and the principal of and interest on said revenue bonds to be payable solely from the revenues derived by the City from the operation of its combined waterworks and sewerage system, including all future extensions and improvements thereto?**

Councilperson Duckworth motion for the second reading by title only, second by Councilperson Lyons, the question is will Bill No. 2018-05 pass and become known as Ordinance No. 2018-05, which resulted in the following vote on said question to wit:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes	Bullington	Yes
Lyons	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes

Councilperson Lyons motion for the first reading of an amendment to the economic sales tax ordinance to reflect what was submitted for the election by title only, second by Councilperson Hood as follows:

**BILL NO. 2018-06**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-06**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2018-04 OF THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI , IMPOSING A SALES TAX FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL TO THE QUALIFIED VOERS OF THE CITY FOR THEIR APPROVAL AT A SPECIAL ELECTION CALLED AND TO BE HELD IN THE CITY ON AUGUST 7, 2018.**

Councilperson Bullington motion for the second reading, second by Councilperson Lyons, the question is will Bill No. 2018-06 pass and become known as Ordinance No. 2018-06, which resulted in the following vote on said question to wit:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes	Bullington	Yes
Lyons	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes

The next bill was for the vote that was passed to increase the rates on sewer and sanitation. Councilperson Grable motion for the first reading, second by Councilperson Bullington as follows:

**BILL NO. 2018-07**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-07**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 230.054 AND SECTION 700.030 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE TO AMEND THE USE FEES FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND WASTEWATER SERVICE**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI, as follows:

Section 1. Section 230.054 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Caruthersville adopted in Ordinance 2016-04 and subsequently amended by Ordinance No. 2016-09 shall be, and hereby is, amended to increase the monthly service fee for residential and light commercial solid waste collection from \$11.00 to \$15.00.

Section 2. Subparagraph G of Section 700.030 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Caruthersville shall be, and hereby is, amended as follows:

G. Sewerage Rates. The following rates and charges for the use and services of the sewerage system of the City of Caruthersville shall be based on the amount of water received each month by each premises for the City waterworks system, as determined by water meter readings. The following user charges are hereby established for the sewage system, to wit:

<b>Gallons of Water Consumed:</b>	<b>User Use Charge</b>
First 2,000 gallons or less, per month . . . . .	\$11.00
For each additional 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons per month	\$ 2.50

Section 3. The rates adopted herein shall become effective as of October 1, 2018.

Section 4. All provisions of Chapter 230 and Chapter 700 of the Code not amended herein shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. This ordinance shall be effective from and after its passage and approval.

READ TWO TIMES, PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of August, 2018.

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Sue Grantham, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Takella Motton, City Clerk

Councilperson Bullington motion for the second reading by title only, second by Councilperson Grable, the question is will Bill No. 2018-07 pass and become known as Ordinance No. 2018-07, which resulted in the following vote on said question to wit:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes	Bullington	Yes
Lyons	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes

Councilperson Rittenberry motion to go into closed session for the purpose of real estate, second by Councilperson Lyons, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes	Bullington	Yes
Lyons	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes

Upon returning from closed session, Councilperson Duckworth motion to change the meeting from Monday September 3, 2018 to Tuesday September 4, 2018, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes	Bullington	Yes
Lyons	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes

Randy Guest alerted the Council to get the word out that if you don't google the company's name exactly like it is at the bottom of the water bill, it will take you to a different site. You will be able to pay your bill, but they will hold your money from 10 to 15 days drawing interest before they release the funds. There have been instances when the customer's water has been shut off because of it.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Hood motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Duckworth, with all in favor, the meeting adjourning at 6:33 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

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Mayor