

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE  
August 7, 2017**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday August 7, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council room of the Municipal Building at which time and place the following were present:

Mike McGraw	Mayor
Takella Motton	City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh	City Counselor
Tony Jones	Sergeant at Arms
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Grantham (Absent)	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	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 July 17, 2017 regular session minutes. Councilperson Cartee motion to approve, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Councilperson Cartee motion to approve the closed session minutes, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Abstain
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Councilperson Duckworth motion for approval of reports and bills, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

Rittenberry Yes

The next order of business was the presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications. McDowell & Middleton submitted a proposal of less than a 7% increase for their accounting services. The monthly fee would be \$2,565 and consultations would be \$45 to \$250 per hour depending on the experience level of staff involved. Councilperson Cartee motion for approval, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Mayor McGraw did a proclamation at the Library for John L. VanAusdall Jr. Mr. VanAusdall was an avid reader, President of the Board of Trustees of the Caruthersville Public Library, and graduate of Vanderbilt University and Harvard Law School. With his acts of kindness and philanthropic projects within the City of Caruthersville, August 7, 2017 is hereby proclaimed John L. VanAusdall Jr. Month. A proclamation and key to the City was given to Sister Darlene Presley for her years of service here in the community. August 6, 2017 is declared Sister Darlene Presley Day in the City of Caruthersville. Sister Darlene has worked tirelessly in the community offering financial education with a hand up rather than a hand out. Sister Darlene has been called to the office of President of the Home Missionary Order of Glenmary Sisters.

Mayor's report; The Park Board met on August 3, 2017 there have been 10 applications submitted with a closing date of August 11, 2017. Thomas Guest resigned from the Park Board upon submitting application. Charles Davis, President of the Board will not be participating in the application process with his nephew submission of application. The next meetings are August 9th and 17<sup>th</sup> 2017, and applicants will be interviewed alphabetically. Mr. Rosen expressed to the Mayor concerning the Wal Mart building of business prospects looking for more populated areas, which limits his ability to attract a box business such as Kroger. The City hired Dowdy & Dejourneet Land Surveying and Ward & Reeves to assist the City in establishing a ROW for Brantley Lane. Letters have been sent to property owners on south of Brantley Lane. With the alleys being considered not to be treated no differently than the streets, the Mayor recommends using grinded asphalt in the alleys for low maintenance. Malden gets the product from ASA Asphalt to keep their alleys in good shape.

Pyramid Roofing submitted a quote of \$93,665 for re-roofing the area surrounding the pool at the Diane Sayre Recreation Center. Mayor McGraw will be submitting a claim to MOPERM for the roof. The City is encouraging residents to sign up to receive texts or calls alerting to emergencies. To receive the Emergency Alerting & Notification System alerts from the Public Safety Department, text 63830 to 888777 or go to [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).

Police & Fire report; The Police & Fire Committee met at 4:30 p.m. just before the Council Meeting. Information has been received from Mitzi Dell for a block grant available for \$9,999 for basic law enforcement equipment. The Committee has spoken to Chief Tony Jones about acquiring body cams for the officers, and he will be looking into the endeavor. The deadline for the grant is September

6, 2017. Councilperson Hood recommended the purchase of two vehicles out of Asset Forfeiture for the Police Department. The cost would be \$55,648 for both vehicles with trade-ins. Councilperson Hood motion for approval second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

The Police department is also requesting to hire Matthew Vincent as patrolman at level D on the salary schedule. He has 1 year of experience as an officer and military experience as Security Forces, he will undergo the normal six month probationary period. Councilperson Hood motion for the request for hire, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Chief Tony Jones stated that Asset Forfeiture would be releasing additional funding for a little over \$162,000 in the near future. Chief Charlie Jones reported fire calls as follows: 7/19/17; Plastic container was set on fire underneath a boat on Carleton, 7/20/17; Structure fire in kitchen on County Rd. 536, 7/25/17; RV on fire on State Hwy D, 7/26/17; Fire alarm sounding at E. 18<sup>th</sup> St., 7/28/17; Three foot pole set on fire at French Park, 7/31/17; Fire alarm sounding at E. 18<sup>th</sup> St., 8/2/17; Structure fire at East Haven, 8/5/17; Gas order from generator turned off valve, 8/5/17; Grass fire in median on I-55, 8/6/17; vehicle accident on I-55, 8/7/17; Structure fire with moderate damage to attic on County Rd. 362. The training for the month of July was vehicle extrication, 17 members were in attendance. There have been 105 subscribers to the Rural Fire Subscription, down by 20. The Fire department will be hosting a Tanker Roll Over Course on August 19, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Area firefighters have registered for the course, sponsored by the Missouri Emergency Response Commission.

Operation Healthy Delta will provide free medical assistance to area residents at no cost on September 13<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Eastwood Memorial UMC at 512 Ward from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day. Lifblood will have a blood drive September 30, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on the United Methodist Church parking lot. There was also talk about reinstating the ordinance that withholds 25% of insurance proceeds when there's structure damage beyond repair.

Terry Rushing reported on the day to day operations of picking up of limbs and debris. The department fixed several street breaks, fixed a sidewalk on Grand from a water main break, and cut tall weeds with the use of community service workers. Portions of the former Lee Mart and Tiger Hut were boarded up due to hazardous conditions of falling glass and collapsing walls. Work has been started on Walker, and there's a change order for paving a portion of Locust and Madison. The storm drain which is budgeted for came in at \$120,075 for the West 19<sup>th</sup> St. Drain Project, and the sewer repair for E. 19<sup>th</sup> St. that's tied in is \$38,950. The total lowest bid for both projects was \$159,025 from G&C. The

manhole on E. 19<sup>th</sup> St. has fallen about one and half feet. Councilperson Bullington motion to have the sewer repair to come out of Sewer Extension and the Drainage Project has been budgeted to come out of Sales Tax. Councilperson Duckworth second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Abstain
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

There was oversight of a drain crossing W. 19<sup>th</sup> St. which needs to be taken care of during the Drainage Project. The change order will be \$4,930. Councilperson Cartee motion for approval, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Abstain
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Acknowledgements were given for the assistance of the clearing of ditches, the manicuring of the parks for the weekend, and the water repair at Trinity. Councilperson Rodgers made mention that the French Park is the only park in Pemiscot County that is ADA compliant.

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller received the revised letter imposing fines to the abate and nuisance notification. Citations will be issued this week for those that didn't abate their nuisance. Ms. Fuller has been stressing the \$130 fine that would be imposed if nuisances weren't abated. She's also looking to partner with Terry Rushing with getting wild trees off some of the City's properties. Russ Riggs has offered his services by loaning a 60 inch cut lawn mower. Counselor Dorroh will draft an agreement so that Riggs wouldn't be liable for any mishaps with the use of his equipment.

Budget report; Councilperson Bullington reported that there are concerns about the budget that need to be addressed as follows:

1. Need to be careful of deficit spending in the Sales Tax Fund, Sewer Extension, and Sales Tax Capital Improvement Funds; they should be used for major emergencies.
2. The Sanitation, Sewer and Water aren't generating enough revenues to cover expenditures, may have to consider an increase in fees.
3. Look at what expenses can be eliminated or trimmed, the phone bill for example.
4. Economic Development and Community Revitalization may be able to be combined to offset expenses.
5. Tourism revenues have to be recouped.

Councilperson Bullington motion to make amendment to the salary schedule to eliminate the National Rural Water Certification. Participants would either lose money or gain too much, which wouldn't support the City's budget. Councilperson Duckworth second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	No	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

There was discussion as the determining factors as to when full and part time workers would get their raises. Councilperson Cartee motion for full time employees to get raises if they've been employed for 6 months. Councilperson Merideth second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodges	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Councilperson Duckworth motion for part time employees to be employed for a year before they get a raise, second by Councilperson Rittenberry which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Teresa Tidwell reported that the election will be occurring tomorrow at the Library. On August 21, 2017 there will be an eclipse luncheon on the back grounds of the library. Everyone is encouraged to bring their lunch, lawn chair, or blanket to observe the eclipse from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. The summer reading program was a success and has ended. The HVAC has been installed and the Historical Society Room has air, which it has been without for about year and a half. Acknowledgement was given to the Bootheel Community Theater being accommodated by the Library for their performances.

Paul Shaw reported the department had done a water tap at 11<sup>th</sup> and Davis, fixed a leak at USDA, fixed a meter leak at Trinity, installed 12 boxes for water at the river front, fixed a water leak at 14<sup>th</sup> and Walker and put in new water tap, put in a meter box a CRI building, put in 3 copper setters, fixed service line at E. 9<sup>th</sup> and Brown, and removed debris from drainage pipe coming from the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Master Meter will be here the last week of the month for training on the new system that was purchased last year.

Councilperson Bullington introduced some budget amendments that Doug McDowell had provided for the Council to vote on. Councilperson Cartee motion for the approval, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

New business; Councilperson Cartee thanked all the departments that helped for the events this weekend. The St. Jude Rodeo will not be participating this year, and the Chamber is diligently working to bring more people in.

Business from the floor; Alan Brockman addressed the Council about him being able to go to the limb pile and get wood to make furniture. He stated that the Mayor had told him it would be a liability for the City if he was given permission to do so. Mr. Brockman expressed signing a waiver, and the possible permit violations for burning trees that could be for other uses. Counselor stated that state regulations didn't require for items to be removed, but would have to check on the permit.

Scott Fields was concern about his water bill, he asked for his services to be transferred, and they were cut off instead. He was then asked to pay \$114 to get his water turned back on, which he paid because he needed his water. Mr. Fields would like to get reimbursed for the \$114. Paul Shaw stated that he would have to pull up the information in the computer before he could give a definitive answer.

Charles Motton inquired of the Council option of eminent domain of the Wal Mart building in order to aggressively seek business. It was expressed that eminent domain was plausible but the City didn't want to invest money into a building that was being serviced free of charge by an investment group to get business into the building.

Introduction to bills; Counselor Dorroh introduced the readopting of an ordinance that is in place pursuant to the Missouri Ethics Commission with a correction in Section 2 subparagraph D for 10% instead of a colon. Councilperson Cartee motion for a first reading by title only, second by Councilperson Bullington as follows:

**BILL NO. 2017-9**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2017-9**

**AN ORDINANCE OF CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE TO DISCLOSE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS FOR CERTAIN OFFICIALS**

Councilperson Duckworth motion for the second reading, second by Councilperson Hood, the question is will bill No. 2017-9 pass and become known as Ordinance No. 2017-9, which resulted in the following vote on said question to wit:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Councilperson Bullington motion to go into closed session for the discussion of the sale of real estate, second by Councilperson Cartee with all in favor.

Upon returning from closed session and with no further business to come before the Councilperson Merideth motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Duckworth with all in favor.

ATTEST:

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

DRAFT