

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
December 5, 2016**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday, December 5, 2016 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
Merideth	Councilperson
Harmon	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	Councilperson
Cheek	Councilperson
Hood	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 November 21, 2016 minutes. Councilperson Harmon motion for approval, second by Councilperson Merideth which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Yes

Councilperson Merideth motion to approve the reports and bills, second by Councilperson Duckworth which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Yes

The next order of business was presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications. The City received a letter from Doug Mitchell stating his appreciation for Bo who works for the avionics shop at the airport. Bo came in on a Saturday and assisted Mr. Mitchell with purchasing fuel and lining him up with a courtesy car. There was also a letter from Richard Lee concerned about the possibility of not being in compliance with the Waste Water plant's permit as they were in August and September. Richard Lee stated that John Chittenden wanted to get a sludge device to check the depth of sludge in the oxidation ditch, and to reseed the ditch with sludge from another plant. Richard Lee disagrees with

the approach. He feels time should be spent adding a diffuser to the system to increase the dissolved oxygen and to help keep the ammonia levels in check. Richard Lee has talked to two different engineers and they both agree that the oxidation ditch is starving for oxygen. Mr. Lee states that the process of sludge prematurely dying is causing to have to waste more frequently which in turn is filling the digesters prematurely, and they will eventually run out of space to store the wasted sludge. He will also be addressing his concerns with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Councilperson Harmon recommended having John Chittenden to come before the Council and propose a recommendation for late winter early spring to do what is necessary to satisfy the situation. The Mayor will be contacting John Chittenden to see when he could come before the Council with a recommendation.

The July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 audit has been completed, and will post on the website. Vonda Davis with Smith & Davis CPA's will present the audit two weeks from today. The Council will also be provided with a copy of the letter for release of the audit.

Mayor's report; Mitzi Dell and John Chittenden are optimistic that the revised proposal will be accepted for the Marlar Loop. The two yards that are on E. 10th St. that were left in poor condition during the connecting of the sewer should be taken care of this week if the weather holds. There's a potential tenant that's interested in acquiring the Walmart building if the City can provide sales tax abatement for 3 years, property tax abatement for 3 years, and a cash incentive. Counselor Dorroh stated that sales tax abatement is highly unlikely, there's no statutory authority for support. A sales tax can be utilized for an additional tax; a new taxing district can be imposed in a particular location that can be used through a contract in a blighted area. Property tax abatement can be structured through the chapter 353 Redevelopment Corporation for 3 years through a contract in lieu of payments for 7 years. The cash payment is not an option, there's no statutory authority for a city to give a flat cash payment to an entity.

Councilperson Cartee mentioned that maybe presenting potential tenants options with other buildings besides the Walmart building for economic development. Councilperson Cartee also asked if there had been any discussion with other cities of similar nature that we're seeking economic development. Counselor Dorroh stated that he had talked with Tom Cunningham from St. Louis County, and his firm specializes in programs that offer incentives for economic development, and that he would be a good source to contact. Mayor McGraw assured the Council that once the different committees had something to report or hit any roadblocks that they would be addressing the Council. The Mayor also stated that he and Counselor would be drafting a letter to the aforementioned party that wanted the incentives as to what could and could not take place regarding the incentives.

Police & Fire report; Councilperson reported that there would be a police and fire committee meeting Monday, December 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. The committee also recommends the hiring of Rodney Jackson at the base salary probationary period as housing patrolman. Jackson served 4 years in the military, and is currently attending the police academy and will graduate December 16, 2016 Councilperson Harmon motion for approval, second by Councilperson Cartee, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes

Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Absent	Hood	Yes

Councilperson Cartee asked Counselor Dorroh if he would write up a part time position for the animal shelter to train for when Rick Moyers retire. There were 5 fire calls between November 24, 2016 through December 5, 2016 as follows: 11/24/16, Fire alarm sounding due to cooking on Walker; 11/29/2016, Smoke scare due to cooking on Beckwith; 12/01/16, Construction crew struck gas meter at Taven Apts.; 12/1/2016, Fire alarm sounding at Southgate Living Center; 12/13/2016, Semi-tractor trailer tuck on fire on I-55. Chief Charlie Jones would like to remind everyone to check their earthquake kits and supplies, especially with the recent tremors. You can also get information on SEMA’s Earthquake Preparedness web page, at sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake_preparedness.

Water & Sewer report; Paul Shaw recommends the wrapping of your outside pipes with the freezing temperatures that are approaching. He also asked for approval of Vandevanter Engineering proposal for 2 flygt pumps in the amount of \$8,710.00 excluding freight and installation, which has been budgeted for. Councilperson Harmon motion for approval second by Councilperson Cartee, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Absent	Hood	Yes

Street & Sanitation report; Terry Rushing reported that they have been conducting their normal duties, and put up wreaths. The reflectivity signage has 2 proposals; G & C’s \$4,950 and Barco’s \$5,397.50. The signage has been budgeted for out of Sales Tax, and Councilperson Duckworth motion for approval. Councilperson Merideth second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Absent	Hood	Yes

Park & Recreation; Keith Davis reported that the kickball signups have been completed and the season is off to its start. Basketball signups will start within a week, and Davis thanked the Water department for wrapping the water mains and shutting the water off at the sports complex.

Collector report; for the month of November Rebecca Morgan renewed 82 licenses, and collected \$92,948.17, which included current taxes and licenses.

Library report; Teresa Tidwell reported that last week was the first of the Christmas story time, and the guest reader was Ms. Mary Ellen Lazenby. This week Ms. Mary Beth Woods Johnson will be the guest reader. Invitation is open to everyone.

Business from the floor; Doug McDowell stated that it would probably be beneficial to know the purpose of the committees, what authority they have in representing the City, and who they report to.

The Mayor stated that he calls the committees or they call him, and he reports to the Council. The Mayor stated that economically Walmart by far is the most pressing situation, and the other issues we have dealt with for decades, but they are important. Councilperson Duckworth stated that currently he and Christina Williams are going around to small businesses to help with promoting growth , and connecting with the chamber to get them involved.

Charles Motton talked about the City investigating the possibility of eminent domain in regards to the Walmart building. Charles wanted to know the city's policy for alcohol being served in a public hall less than 100 yards from a school zone. Counselor Dorroh stated that the sale of alcohol is prohibited with 100 yards, but a consumption permit can be granted. If they don't have a consumption permit they would be in violation, and it cannot be granted within that distance of a school zone. Charles mentioned a letter that was supposed to be sent in July to B & H stating the conditions and consequences of not upholding the conditions of the ordinance. Counselor stated that he would follow up, and see what could take place with the issue. Charles inquired about the surveillance cameras in the City and what constituted a high crime area, and if the zones are available to be known like other cities. Counselor Dorroh stated that there was limited access to the zones and not all police officers had access to the camera system. Chief Tony Jones stated that the cameras are used to solve crimes, and that the cameras were not in any particular area. The cameras are positioned all over the town, and are not used to invade privacy. Jerry Hudgens stated that cameras are at points of entry into the city in high traffic areas. Routes used in and out of town are what are being targeted not residential areas. Charles mentioned drug testing Council same as the city employees and other businesses. Charles asked if the police were aware of liquor stores selling loose cigarettes and repackaging liquor for sales. Chief Jones stated that Chris Callen was investigating the matter.

Councilperson Merideth inquired about the Code Enforcement position. Applications have been submitted and the application process has ended. Mayor McGraw will be reviewing the applications to make a recommendation for hiring.

Councilperson Rodgers was concerned about the City being ADA compliant. She mentioned how the government is conducting drive by lawsuits toward cities for being noncompliant. Councilperson Bullington mentioned that there are companies that can do assessments to see if you are in compliance with the American Disability Act. Counselor Dorroh suggested contacting the city engineer for a self-evaluation.

With no further business to come before the Council Councilperson Harmon motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Rodgers, with all in favor.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk

DRAFT