## CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE January 18, 2018

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Thursday January 18, 2018 at 6:00 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
Grantham	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth (Absent)	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee (Absent)	Councilperson
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Hood (Absent)	Councilperson
Merideth	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 January 2, 2018 regular session minutes. Councilperson Merideth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Rittenberry, which resulted in the vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

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

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

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

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

Under presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications; Melinda Scifres sent a letter

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thanking the Mayor and City Council for allowing her to train her successor. Ms. Scifres' contract has been completed, and is looking forward to full retirement.

Mayor's report; Mr. Rosen has made contact with a Nevada (state) investor concerning the Wal Mart building. Save A Lot closed its' doors January 10, 2018. Mayor McGraw made the landlord aware of a possible contact regarding possible locations. Mayor McGraw has filed a report with Delta Regional Authority concerning the Exchange Building. Counselor Dorroh made mention that the Arts Council wanting to meet before entering into a contract. Counselor asked if the Arts Council would get with him to schedule a time for a meeting. The airport courtesy car is on hold; one of the police vehicles for the City of Portageville is out of commission. They will be having a meeting, and will advise the Mayor as to what will take place with the 2006 Crown Victoria. Demolition of the Carnell property is on standby due to inclement weather. The Marlar Project has easements with minor adjustments before proceeding to improve water suppression at the Nursing home. Water & Associates are working on an engineering study for Mooreland Drive.

Because of the drainage situation on East 19<sup>th</sup> St. to East 20<sup>th</sup> St. consideration for adding onto the G & C contract would be \$7,790. The drainage on Belle Avenue south of East 9<sup>th</sup> St. can be corrected by adding to the contract \$6, 150 for the work. John Chittenden advises cutting the street and filling with gravel, and pave this summer with asphalt. By eliminating the asphalt for now it would decrease the drainage work to \$6,750 and \$4,710 respectively. Councilperson Bullington motion to do the work without the concrete and pave this summer, second by Councilperson Grantham, which resulted in the following vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

Mayor McGraw wrote a proclamation proclaiming January 21 through January 27, 2018 as "School Board Recognition Week" in the name of Caruthersville School District #18 and encourages the community to recognize Caruthersville School District #18 Board of Education for its commitment in providing our students with the finest possible education. Special thanks to the City of Hayti and Mayor Lisa Green for providing an extra salt spreader truck with a snow plow. Terry Rushing stated that they had some issues with the truck, and wasn't able to use it. Presidents Day will be February 19, 2018, and the Mayor asked for the meeting to be moved to Tuesday, February 20, 2018. Councilperson Rodgers motion to move the meeting, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

Police report; Chief Tony Jones reported that the uniform reporting to the State has been submitted and the results compared to previous years will be received shortly. All the officers have completed the 48 hours of continuing education which is for every 3 years; plus an additional 24 hours of Community Education that the state has added on.

Street & Sanitation/Building Inspector; Terry Rushing asked for approval of a change order for the Malar Project for the hydrants for the Nursing home and Taven apartments in the amount of \$47,880, the City's portion being \$11,012, which is still within the budget. Councilperson Bullington motion for approval, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

Code Enforcement; No letters have gone out in the past week because of the inclement weather. The letters that were sent out previously will have until March to abate the nuisance. Ms. Fuller has provided clerical aide to the City Collector and City Clerk upon request. The additional Mers Goodwill volunteer has started working with Street & Sanitation. Terry Rushing has assisted with and is checking on a house on Kelly Drive.

Parks & Recreation/Armory; Basketball season starts in 2 weeks. A full time position for Assistant Parks & Recreation Director has been advertised in the paper. Anyone interested in the position can pick up an application at City Hall, and will need to turn the application in at City Hall. The Recreation Center can be called for any additional information about the position.

Budget/Finance; Councilperson Bullington provided a list of budget amendments from July to the present. Councilperson Bullington will go through the list to see exactly what has been approved, and will have the budget to reflect the changes by the next meeting. There was a request for the Department heads or anyone else to look over the list to see if anything has been missed.

Library; Teresa Tidwell presented a new gadget that's called a play away that can be use with an auxiliary cable if you don't have a CD player in your car. Camden library provided the gadget free of charge, which retails for \$100, and the Library received 40.

Water & Sewer; Paul Shaw reported that a company had come in last week to complete the SCADA project that was budgeted for last year. There's a lot more alarms on the system with everything that goes on with the Water Plant. The department had to turn off water for a lot of residents with busted pipes. There was a lot of over time because of major leaks within the City. There were only 4 adjustments that need approval.

Insurance Committee; The committee met on January 9, 2018, which was not posted within a 24 hour period, which makes the meeting invalid, no action was taken at the meeting. The meeting can be reposted and another meeting takes place; the Council can act on any action with the committee being an advisory committee if they choose to do so. Councilperson Rittenberry recommends that the City bid out the health insurance to see if the City could possibly get better rates with agencies in town. The City's' payment of employee benefits that are currently being paid at right at a 100 percent, will be hard pressed to continue in the long run. Councilperson Rittenberry motion to seek out bids for the Healthcare insurance, second by Councilperson Grantham, which resulted in the following vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes

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## Merideth

Yes

Councilperson Bullington asked if Councilperson Rittenberry would be working with Counselor Dorroh with the proposals. Counselor Dorroh stated that specialized advice may have to be considered with the City being self-insured in sorting through the issues that comes with those types of policies.

Councilperson Bullington discussed videotaping the meetings, and look at getting estimates. The microphones could also be looked at, all done in a professional matter and put up on the website in a timely manner. Councilperson Bullington made a motion to seek bids to get the necessary equipment to properly record the meetings, second by Councilperson Grantham, which resulted in the following vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

Business from the floor; Tony Jones stated that he had talked to Tara Gardner about the blue signs on the highway that advertise for food, gas, etc. Ms. Gardner wanted to know who to contact about the signs. It was mentioned that MODOT would be the agency to contact about the signs. Charles Motton made mention that if the City was going to provide the microphones that he could install software that would provide a separate channel for each microphone thereby providing precise feedback for the minutes. Counselor Dorroh stated that making sure that there was appropriate licensing for the use of the software would need to take place. Rhonda Price made mention that there has been a lot of questions about the tax statements, which are printed by the County Clerk. Ms. Price talked about the software, which would make the City Collector's job so much easier. Ms. Price stated that the software program was definitely needed, and the job could be handled by one person. Ms. Price will be giving the City the contact information for the software.

Jerry Johnson had questions about the Carnell property as to why he wasn't allowed to purchase the property. He stated that he had taken care of the property ever since he had lived next to the property, and wanted to remodel the house. Counselor Dorroh stated that the City had on ownership interest in the property, and that a public hearing had taken place regarding the property. There was an action through the City to abate the nuisance, with the tearing down of the house, and the City is moving forward with the order from the Building Inspector to demolish the structure. There were questions as to whether or not it could be remodeled. Counselor stated that there were some biological hazards with the house. Mayor McGraw talked with the Department of Natural Resources, and they gave instructions as to how the handle the demolition. Junior Hosler stated that the Mayor had taken upon himself to destroy property that he uses to make a living. June Barnett stated that charges had been brought against the Mayor for burglary and breaking and entering by entering their residence without permission. Mayor McGraw stated that he had no comment. State Representative Andrew McDaniel came to see local government in action. He wanted the citizens to know that he was available for any assistance that they may need help with, and left cards for the residents. Councilperson Rodgers apologized for the allegations brought be Hosler and Barnett, and she told them that they could contact her for assistance with their homeless situation. Robert Travis, a local pastor also stated that he could

aid with their situation. Mr. Travis made mention that he wanted to better serve the community, and would hope that leadership would take place for this area. Christina Williams asked the Mayor if he knew when all the random things that the Council had been asking for were going to be available for the Council. Mayor McGraw stated that some of the information had been provided in the Council packets. Ms. Williams inquired of a copy of the terms of the settlement agreement regarding Erica Grady, and asked if the Council had been provided with a copy. After much discussion as to who had a copy of the agreement and who didn't, Counselor Dorroh will be providing a copy of the agreement to the custodian of the records, the City Clerk. Councilperson Bullington had questions about the contract with MODOT as to whether the City was obligated or bound to the contract. Mayor McGraw stated that it was not a binding contract that it was simply stating that the City didn't comply. Doug McDowell asked about the timeframe of the sunshine law for request of information, Counselor stated that it was 72 hours.

Howard Prater asked about the procedure of the tear down of the house on the Carnell property. He wanted to know if the person tearing down the structure had to be certified with the property being a hazard. Counselor Dorroh stated that he would check on the hazardous conditions before demolition of the structure.

There was discussion of a use tax of one and half percent for the April ballot, and the cost if it was done on the August ballot. There was discussion about looking at Kennett and Steele before imposing the tax. Counselor stated that it had been put on the ballot years ago. Amazon has announced that they were going to pay the use tax which has driven the issue. The Council will revisit the use tax at a later date.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Merideth motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Grantham, with all in favor, the meeting adjourning at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk