

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE**  
**January 20, 2026**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Tuesday, January 20, 2026, in the Council room of the Municipal Building at which time and place the following were present:

Takella Motton	City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh	City Counselor
Sue Grantham	Mayor
Jeremy Darnell	Sergeant at Arms
Hood	Councilperson
Spence	Councilperson
Robinson	Councilperson
Glass	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Lyons	Councilperson
Fales	Councilperson
Grable	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 January 5, 2026. Councilperson Hood motion for approval, second by Councilperson Robinson with all in favor.

Councilperson Bullington motion for the approval of the closed session minutes of January 5, 2026. Councilperson Robinson second the motion, with all in favor.

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

Next on the agenda were the bid recommendations for the Recreation Center roof and HVAC. A2H recommended Strickland Roofing CO Inc. for the roof sections A & B in the amount of \$677,684.00. The other bid was from Pyramid Roofing in the amount of \$740,772.00. The recommendation for the HVAC for the center gym was for Buffington Brothers in the amount of \$153,000.00. The other bid was from Associated Sheet Metal in the amount of \$189,923.00. Councilperson Grable motion for approval of the recommendations provided by A2H. Councilperson Fales second the motion, with all in favor. Councilperson Bullington made mention that for contingency purposes, and to give some relief for the Sales Tax Capital Improvement Fund; the Pickle Ball project could be thrown in, and still be under what was originally talked about for financing.

Neil Branham, with L J Hart & CO presented to the Council a financial opportunity of \$1,140,000 Lease Certificates of Participation Series 2026 (Fifteen Year Maturity/Level Payments). In so doing the local banks will be contacted to seek for purchasing a part of the certificates. Mr. Branham gave an outline of the debt service schedule, went over the City's debt analysis, and the Sales Tax fund in which the debt would be repaid. Mayor Grantham entertained a motion for authorizing L J Hart to proceed

with the drafting of the Public Hearing Notice, and Resolution for the funding of the project. Councilperson Spence made the motion, second by Councilperson Hood, with all in favor.

Police report; Chief Jerry Hudgens distributed an agreement for the Council to sign off on so that the Police department can seek grant funding.

Human report; Karol Wilcox facilities yearend report is as follows: The Shelter handled 748 animals, Adopted out 518, Sent to Rescue 38, Returned to Owner 45, Euthanized 48, and responded to 799 calls. So far in 2026, 23 animals were taken in, Adopted out 14, Returned one to owner, and have worked seven neglect/abuses cases. With the winter storm approaching, they're expecting an influx of calls, and Matt is the only one that lives in town; staffing may be low. The Shelter has received their 2026 license renewal, and are preparing for an inspection at any time. A new landline will be added with a new number that will improve service, being able to receive more calls. The Shelter's 20<sup>th</sup> annual 5 K is scheduled for April 25, 2026. There have been 61 calls for service this month; mostly wellbeing checks and dog at large.

Fire report; Lynn Moss reported eight calls as follows: 1/3/26; False alarm on Bushey, 1/6/26; Cooking set off smoke alarm on East 15<sup>th</sup> St. 1/7/26; Vehicle fire on County Rd 534, 1/13/26; Grass fire on Hwy 164, 1/14/26; Alarm set off due to cooking, 1/16/26; Vehicle fire on Marlar Rd, 1/19/26; Vehicle fire on I55 Mile Marker 14, 1/20/26; Structure fire on State Hwy D. There will be a MODOT meeting January 20, 2026. Ricky Johnson will be at the Library January 22, 2026, and the department will be participating in the Career Advisory Committee meeting on January 23, 2026.

Public Works; Joey Helwig January 2026 report is as follows: Personnel/An offer has been extended for an Utility Tech 1 position upon the drug screening, and background check completion. Austin McCaig is attending CDL training, and Mason Fite is scheduled for a Water Treatment certification exam. Safety/Training covered Hazard Communication and Safety Data Sheets; which covered explaining symbols, and proper handling of chemicals, and personal protective equipment used while doing so. Operations by Numbers/Gallons of Wastewater Treated 36.7MG, Gallons of Water Produced 10,994, Water Leaks Repaired 6, Service Orders Completed 145, Meter Change Outs 47, Line Locates 78, and GPS Points 30.

Water Treatment/All the monthly monitoring reports met state requirements. The Industrial Water Plant was started back up, but Sunday, December 11, 2026 the air compressor went out, and the Plant was shut back down. The compressor has since been rebuilt, and will be installed this week. Waste Water Treatment/Monthly and quarterly discharge monitoring reports were submitted with all being within parameters. The INF structure was cleaned of rags and debris, with the grit classifier being locked up and full of rags and debris, which was pulled and sent to the shop. The INF auger has been checked and is operational, but needs rubber gaskets that seals the mesh basket to concrete enabling debris to pass and catch in the bar screen. Rotor 1 has been repaired and back in service, Clarifier 1 and 2 were non operable, but Clarifier 1 has since been drained and running while Clarifier 2 has some electrical problems.

Water Distribution/Six bacteriological samples were collected, and passed. Repaired four leaks, and replaced one service line and tap. There were also two new taps made at the Industrial plant. Sewer Collections/One pump was pulled from the Casino lift station that was bound with rags and debris

and the pump needs to be rebuilt. A sewer tap was done at Industrial, and Parkview. There were also 20 service orders for sewer with two rod outs. The Repair Expenses were over budget by \$7,276.00, and the Chemical Expenses were under budget by \$2,752.00.

Code Enforcement; Barry Gilmore reported that a pump had went down from the Casino lift station, and it would cost \$26,308.93 to repair it. There's \$25,000.00 setting in the Waste Water Construction account that's dormant, which could be used for the bulk of it. Councilperson Fales motion for approval, second by Councilperson Grable, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Spence	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Absent
Fales	Yes	Grable	Yes

The new snow plow is set up to go, and the old one will be ready in the event of bad weather. The demolition on East 4<sup>th</sup> St. is done. There's one on East 13<sup>th</sup> St. that needs to come down, and actively looking for something to pair it with to reduce cost. The tree removal project will begin soon. There are four street breaks on the repair list; West 10<sup>th</sup>, Jefferson, Walker, and Parkview. The rotors on the oxidation ditch are complete, and the augers and clarifiers are being looked at to get resolved. Mr. Gilmore, Joey Helwig, and John Chittenden met at the Industrial plant. Chittenden advice was to replace the compressor. There's also a problem with some pipes in the pipe gallery at the 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Plant, and the leaking pipe cannot be fixed without using the Industrial plant.

A meeting was held with the Water office and Alliance to go over several procedures in order to work more efficiently. Rodgers Hydrant has been here to flush hydrants, and should be completed in a couple of days. A Planning & Zoning Committee meeting will be set up for the second and third week of February to discuss zoning request changes. There were 105 digital registers sent back to Master Meter for warranty replacement, and once the bad ones are replaced it will save time during reading the meters. Changes will be made at the Armory; currently 50 tables and over 100 chairs are missing. The policy will be amended on how renters are required to account for the property that they use.

Recreation report; Lamonte Bell turnover report is as follows: Intake \$8,151.60 Auto Draft \$122.00 Interest \$0.80 Total \$8,274.00 Expenses/Merchant Fee \$266.28 Checks \$190.00 Total \$456.28 December Turnover \$7,818.12. Councilperson Bullington made mention that the Park Board and the Recreation Committee had met, and it was a productive meeting. The Parks Committee will oversee all the youth programs whether it's at the Recreation Center or at the parks. Councilperson attended a webinar along with Rita Jones. There's a modular specifically for Parks & Recreation that tracks membership, scheduling and signups for any of the programs or events. You will be able to pay online or at the Recreation Center. Tyler will be sending a quote for the modular.

Library report; Tacara Sullivan report is as follows: 1/6/26; The overhead lights were replace in Baxter Auditorium, 1/9/26; Over 50 were in attendance for the America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presentation, 1/22/26; Ricky Johnson will be giving a presentation, 1/27/26; "Four Seasons Make a Year" storytime and coloring activity.

City Collector; Paige Gillock turnover for the month of December is as follows: Total Real Estate

\$289,366.34 Total Personal \$77,605.46 Total Tax \$370,481.25 Miscellaneous Tax \$5,497.86 Fees  
\$187.95 Total Overall \$376,167.06.

Budget/Finance report; Rita Jones report is as follows: Continuing to work with Tyler Technologies with the new software system. In the process of building the payroll side of the software, continuing to pay bills weekly, paying taxes online, making deposits for the Recreational Center, and keeping a record of the memberships that are purchased. Will be attending a demonstration on a software made for Parks & Recreation centers; a modular offered by Tyler.

New Business; Councilperson Fales reported that Allens Lawn Care had contacted her wanting to put in a bid for the City mowing. Counselor Dorroh will have to look at the provisions of the contract. Michael Lewis has volunteered his labor to restore the bottom half of the water tower; it will cost \$28,000.00 for the restoration itself. The account has a little over \$20,000.00, so \$8,000.00 more dollars will have to be raised. Councilperson Bullington made motion to authorize Mr. Lewis to restore the water tower. Councilperson Fales second the motion, with all in favor.

Business From the Floor; James Elliott addressed the Council about the zoning change that had taken place to allow him to have a double wide at the property of Kelly & 20<sup>th</sup> St. Mr. Elliott wants his home to face 20<sup>th</sup> St., which violates the ordinance concerning the measurements for placement. With the property being a corner lot he would have to have the trailer face Kelly Dr. in order to stay within the guidelines of the ordinance. Mr. Elliott does not want the expense of moving the gas lines, poles, or the cutting down of a tree. Also, the trailer itself would look better facing 20<sup>th</sup> St. in his opinion. Counselor Dorroh stated that the Board of Adjustment could be an avenue to go, in which they would have to vote to allow for the variance. Another option would be change the ordinance itself, which would have to go before Planning & Zoning, or do both.

Mark Harmon, Commander for the VFW made a plea to the City to make the Armory their home base. They would like to use one of the rooms, and in turn they would keep the Armory clean, and help with the rentals. Also, there would be a police presence with some of the members being law enforcement. Counselor Dorroh stated that VFW would have to have their own insurance for any personal property, and sign an agreement with the City. Councilperson Fales motion for approval for the VFW to be housed in the Armory. Councilperson Hood second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Spence	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Fales	Yes	Grable	Yes

ATTEST:

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Mayor

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City Clerk

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