

Regular Session
July 6, 2015

The Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session on Monday, July 6, 2015 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
Cheek	Councilperson
Fike	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Harmon	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	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 June 15, 2015 regular session minutes, motioned by Councilperson Rodgers, seconded by Councilperson Hood, and the motion carried unanimously. Councilperson Fike motioned to approve the June 29, 2015 special session minutes, along with closed session, second by Councilperson Cartee and carried with Councilperson Harmon abstaining.

The next order of business was the approval of reports and bills motioned by Councilperson Cartee, seconded by Councilperson Hood, and carried unanimously.

Under petitions, letters, and other communications was led off by P G Maners representing H. S. Smith Funeral Home. Councilperson Fike left the meeting. Rick Clark, representing H. S. Smith Funeral Home passed out information documenting their record keeping process of the cemetery. Marking of graves, marking off graves for monument companies to set stones, finding graves for out of town family members, meeting vault companies and getting them to their right location, and showing graves available for purchases. Maners request is that the funeral home be compensated for the record keeping, etc., he estimated that 40 to 50 hours a month is the time being spent on said record keeping. There were several members of the audience expressing support of the funeral home receiving some sort of compensation for the record keeping. Councilperson Bullington made motion for the Cemetery Board to take on the compensation matter, and

report to the Council their findings by the August 3, 2015 meeting, seconded by Councilperson Hood which resulted in the following vote:

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

Mayor McGraw received an engagement letter for services from McDowell & Middleton for the upcoming year of July 1 through June 30 of 2016. Councilperson Cartee motioned for the approval of the services, seconded by Bullington which resulted in the following vote:

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

Unfinished Business consisted of Councilperson Cartee requesting three weeks of vacation for the Court Clerk; the Mayor requested the same for the City Clerk. Councilperson Cartee made motion for three weeks of vacation for the Court Clerk along with three weeks of vacation for the City Clerk after the 90 day probation. Councilperson Hood seconded the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

Cheek	Abstain	Fike	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Harmon	No	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	No	Cartee	Yes

Counselor Dorroh made mention that at some point that policy would either have to be abided by or an amendment to the policy would have to take place in the future. It had been aforementioned that the Council would be meeting to discuss the personnel policy and possible amendments.

Police & Fire reported fire calls from June 17 through July 6, 2015. There was a smoke scare on June 17, 2015. Mutual aid response was sent out for a hazardous spill. On June 26, a lawn mower struck a natural gas line, June 29 a vacant shed was on fire, June 30 overturn dump truck, and there was a skillet left unattended while cooking at Midtown. There are 93 new fire subscription renewals to date. Charlie Jones reported the Emergency Operation Plan had been updated, with not a lot of additions statewide. The new tanker is expected to be delivered by the middle of August. Tony Jones reported that over a 60 hour period during July 4, 2015, 106 calls had been dispatched and only a few citations issued after warnings about fireworks.

water & sewer reported that Eric King, Loss Prevention Consultant findings upon his visit resulted in no recommendations being required. The Department of Natural

Resources visit was also satisfactory; there were neither compliance issues nor unsatisfactory features. Due to a recent revision in water quality criteria adopted by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency it could affect the facility compliance status in the future.

Code Enforcement report consisted of the daily operations of mowing. Bids were taken on a backhoe. Fabric Caterpillar bid was \$94,083.59 and Erb John Deere had two bids one for \$88,871.00 for a standard backhoe, and \$91,948.00 for a heavy duty backhoe. After reviewing the specs, Rushing will be making a recommendation, and the Council will decide which fund it will be taken out of and look at lease options.

Park & Recreation would like to thank the residents, local businesses, police, Lady Luck, and the American Legion for their hospitality to the bike riders that were here recently. Davis will be conducting pee wee football sign ups, and the fifteen under baseball team will skip district and go directly to state July 16, 2015. Councilperson Harmon requested Davis to take to the Park Board an inquiry of opening the Recreation Center back up on Sundays.

The Mayor is encouraging a new revenue line item for donations, will be seeking donations from private entities.

The Library Board voted on discounting fees for people that have a Caruthersville address but live somewhere else, they would pay \$10 a year instead of the \$20 a year.

The Safety Glass was installed at the Water office and the City Collector office at a cost of \$19,900.00 taken out of the Sales Tax Fund. The Riverfront project had checks issued in the amount of \$4,778.76 for labor and \$3,494.00 for the flagpole. Asa Asphalt received \$95,243.11 for the Airport Project. Mosquito Control spraying is continuing, and the Nursing Home requested for their area to get sprayed. The Street Sweeper is back in operation and will eventually attend to every street in the city that has a curb. Mers Goodwill has people placed at the Library, Waste Water Treatment Plant, and the Police Department. The Mayor made mention of seeking contributions for a downtown green area to remedy the situation of the cleanup of the lot on Ward. The Council stands firm on the business owner cleaning up his property in the meantime.

From the floor, Lillie Smith wanted to know why property owners weren't being held accountable for the maintenance of their property. Dorroh made mention of the Right of Entry being in affect after the notice was sent out, which could take from seven to ten days upon receipt. Rushing explained that once the notices have been sent out that

he has to make sure whether or not the property owner has complied. The whole process is time consuming with all the properties to contend with.

Dorthea Cagle reported that on 13th and Hickory the grass was so tall that you couldn't see the stop sign, the same on 14th and Hickory. Ella Coleman reported tall johnson grass on the front side of Dudley. Freddie Mae Hurd stated that a lot of the issues that residents are dealing with have the same property owner, and wanted to know why they weren't being held accountable. The residents that attended the meeting were in support of Rushing getting the aide he needed to tackle the maintenance issues in the city.

Tony Jones reported that alleys from E 11th and Walker to Davis and Franklin needed to be cleaned up; it's a safety issue and a potential haven for crime. Ella Coleman wanted to know if the leash law was in effect, Dorroh assured her that it was, at that she need to report incidents to the police or animal control officer.

The Budget Meeting was productive, the department heads will be meeting with the Finance Committee and prioritizing their needs and wants. Posting of the Finance Committee Meeting will occur once the final figures are tabulated.

Councilperson Harmon requested that department heads give their reports to the Clerk to put in their packets and not to present them at the time of the meeting.

Councilperson Bullington made motion to go into closed session in pursuant of hiring and firing of employees protected by law, seconded by Councilperson Cartee which resulted in the following vote:

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

After reconvening from the Closed Session and with no further business Councilperson Rodgers motioned to close, seconded by Councilperson Fike and the motion carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST: