

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
June 18, 2018**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday June 18, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council room of the Municipal Building at which time and place the following were present:

Sue Grantham	Mayor
Takella Motton	City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh	City Counselor
Tony Jones	Sergeant at Arms
Bullington	Councilperson
Lyons (Absent)	Councilperson
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Grable	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth (Absent)	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth (Absent)	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 4, 2018 regular session minutes. Councilperson Bullington motion to approve, second by Councilperson Hood with all in favor.

Councilperson Bullington motion for approval of the June 11, 2018 special session minutes, second by Councilperson Rittenberry with all in favor.

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

Presentation of Petitions, Letters, and other Communications; Mayor Grantham received a letter from Earl Bullington congratulating the Mayor and Council for conducting a very professional meeting with Cedric Kyles and Allen Warren. The reception following the meeting was also impressive to Cedric and Allen of the citizenry.

Unfinished business; A budget amendment is needed out of the Sales Tax Capital Improvement Fund for the Municipal Court Building VRV A/C the total amount being \$6,303. Councilperson Bullington motion for the expenditure, second by Councilperson Grable, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes		

Police report; Chief Tony Jones reported that the insurance company didn't want to put a new engine in the flooded out Tahoe, but wanted to put in a used one. The check has come in minus the deductible with it being \$4,440.48. The trade in value to Don Brown would be \$10,140.48, and budgeted for 2018-2019 out of Asset Forfeiture at \$25,000 for a Tahoe. Councilperson Bullington motion for approval, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes		

Chief Jones made mention of the heavy law enforcement in town Thursday June 14, 2018. The DEA, ATF, Highway Patrol, and Homeland Security were here in town combating drugs. Large shipments of methamphetamine are continually trying to get into the community.

Fire report; Councilperson Hood reported fire calls from May 26, 2018 through Jun 18, 2018 as follows: 5/26/18; Liberty Utilities contacted for gas riser being struck by a vehicle on Rufus, 5/26/18; Gas leak at the rear of structure on Highland, 6/5/18; Liberty Utilities contacted for gas leak in kitchen on Rufus, 6/5/18; Lift assist for Medic One at Riverview apartments, 6/14/18; Grass fire on Rt. DD, 6/14/18; Vehicle fire a total loss on County Rd. 362, 6/16/18; Structure fire with moderate damage on Walker.

The Water and Fire departments will be flushing fire hydrants Monday June 25, 2018 during the day and evening hours between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The Fire department will be hosting the Missouri Child Identification Program free of charge July 21, 2018 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The participants have to be between the ages of 11-21, which are statistically susceptible to becoming missing. The program consists of five major components: digital photographs, digital fingerprints, child information and emergency contacts, dental bite impression and two laminated ID cards. All the information is given to the parent or guardian on a mini CD computer disk. On June 29, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Fire department will be at HR Block and Americas Cash Advance offering safety awareness and the Red Cross will be providing smoke alarm detectors. The shelter signs will be constructed Tuesday June 19, 2018 at the Middle and Elementary schools, the signs will tell you where to go and the lights will be flashing when the shelters are open.

Street & Sanitation report; Terry Rushing reported on the normal everyday pickup of limbs and debris. A sink hole at the 1000 block of Collins turned out to be a broken force main, which was repaired. The house on Carroll has been removed with a little more of cleanup to be done. It's time to start spraying for mosquitos. Mr. Rushing wants to use the same chemical as last year which is \$1,925 per drum, with ordering 4 drums and shipping and handling the cost will be \$8,134.60. The Sanitation budget is for \$8,500 for mosquito spray. Councilperson motion for approval, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers			

Councilperson Rittenberry inquired of the card reader at the airport, and Mr. Rushing stated that the machine is obsolete and another one would have to be ordered, and worked in the budget.

Park & Recreation report; Wes Deere reported that there was a baseball tournament Saturday and Sunday with the Caruthersville All Stars which consist of the youth league. Mr. Deere asks that the residents support the team. Last Saturday there was a swim meet with participants from Kennett, Dyersburg, Blytheville, and Cape Girardeau. Open swim is from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and you must wear bathing suits and swim trunks, no athletic shorts. One of the parking lights got hit, which will cost \$4,000 to \$5,000 to replace the pillar, pole, and light. Once Terry Rushing gets the estimate and the police report it will be sent in to the insurance company. The installation of the new playground equipment is being installed at French and England Parks.

Library report; Teresa Tidwell reported that the summer reading program was ongoing and the Mayor had come to visit. Ms. Tidwell will be attending the ALA Libraries Transforming Communities Pre Conference, and looking forward to bringing back ideas to the community.

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported sending out 17 letters, and got a bid on 3 properties to abate the nuisance, and the City abated the nuisance on 4 of the properties in which letters were sent out. There are a couple of properties on 8th and 11th St. in which the backyards are a breeding ground for snakes and are hazardous for nearby residents. It will be pricey for the City to take on abating the nuisance but it's needed. Ms. Fuller corresponded with a lot of residents letting them know that the City would no longer be picking up loose debris. Terry Rushing stated as long as the debris can fit into the blue totes it will be picked up, but larger items will have to be taken to the roll off at the Maintenance yard by the resident. If an additional tote is needed, contact should be made with Terry Rushing. Cardboard boxes can be taken to the box trailer at the Maintenance yard. Sonya Fuller also stated that concessions can be made for the elderly and handicapped. Chief Charlie Jones stated that Mr. Rushing's limb pile had burnt clean and good, and there were no complaints. The burn permit is in effect until August 4, 2018, in which there will be another one done within that timeframe.

Water & Sewer report; Paul Shaw reported that a pipe on 15th and Adams had been cleaned out and put back in service. A transformer blew out at the Water Plant, and is being powered by a generator; everything should be up and running by this evening.

Budget report; The Finance Committee met May 16, 2018 and John Chittenden, City Engineer attended and presented a list of improvements that are needed in the Water & Sewer departments. To finance the endeavor the following would need to take place: raise sewer rates, pass a half cent economic development sales tax, pass a revenue bond issue, and look at reallocating a portion of the current sewer surcharge for the waste water bond debt towards the improvements if possible. The Finance Committee met on June 5, 2018, and the purpose of that meeting was to familiarize everyone with all the City funds. There was a review of the funds revenues and expenditures, and review of the salary schedule for each department. The next Finance Committee was on June 13, 2018 and at that meeting members were assigned to each department to work on the 2018-2019 budget. There was also discussion for the need for a joint committee of the Finance and Water committees. Paul Shaw will be setting up a meeting with John Chittenden.

The improvements to the water/waste water system would be done in phases. The project cost for sewer phase 1 in 2019 would be \$3,360,000, and the work includes the following: sewer evaluation disinfection system, replace aeration system, sewer plant standby power, scada system,

stairs and walkway with handrailing, cleanout of aeration channel. Sludge application vehicle, boom truck, and vacuum truck. Sewer phase 2 in 2024 would be \$2,940,000, and the work includes the following: inflow source correction, sewer main repairs, and force main replacement. Water phase 1 2019 would be \$300,000, and the task would be to restore plant 1 to manual operation with one water well. Water phase 2 in 2024 would be \$950,000 the task being to add a second well and restore to automatic operation. Between 2019-2022 lift stations would be replaced as follows: 12th and Ward for \$260,000, old Water Plant for \$240,000, and Taven Apartments for \$220,000. The total expenses for all improvements would be \$8,270,000.

The Current City debt is as follows: Waste Water bond yearly payment from sewer surcharge into the WW bond fund is \$64,896, Public Safety Building debt comes out of 3 sources yearly, CMFI Sales Tax Capital Improvement \$20,586.60, USDA loan payment Sales Tax Capital Improvement \$87,450, and the Debt Reserve Fund transfers from Sales Tax Capital Improvement \$8,745. There will be someone checking on how much has to be build up for the Public Safety Debt Reserve Fund. Someone will also check into at what point the sewer surcharge can be stopped or pay it off with the fund balance. With the interest rate being at 7.130% maybe the loan can be refinanced or paid off early at First State Bank.

Counselor Dorroh will be checking on the grant that was received for the Exchange Building, and whether or not the funds are still available. The Council is confident that the budget can be turned around with monitoring and managing the finances of the City. After further discussion the committee voted to make the following recommendations: approve software for the City Collector with the additional personnel being eliminated, being compliant with the Fair Labor Standards Law, monitor over time, make sure cleaning hours are equitable for each building and get quotes from SG 360 or any other business for all City buildings, get all cell numbers of employees that need access to a city paid phone, eliminate cable connections where cable is not necessary, make sure bills are submitted on time, and all request of expenditures not budgeted be presented to the Finance committee. Rebecca Morgan, City Collector stated that the reason she would need additional personnel was that all delinquent taxes would have to be input manually before the current taxes could be paid. The software will only add the current taxes, and Ms. Morgan would need help for the first year. Councilperson Bullington stated that Ms. Morgan could have a discussion with the Mayor and if the Mayor felt that it was something needed then she could bring it before the budget. Previously there had been a motion to table the software proposal, and Councilperson Hood motion to take it off the table, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes		

Councilperson Bullington motion to approve the purchase of the software, second by Councilperson Rittenberry, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes		

Insurance report; Councilperson Rittenberry reported that the renewal quote for workmen’s compensation with Missouri Employers Mutual is \$65,523 compared to last year which was \$82,627. The City will also be receiving a dividend check in the next few days for \$4,300 for being loss free and having safety measures in place. Councilperson Rittenberry made motion to approve the renewal quote from Missouri Employers Mutual for workmen’s compensation, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes		

New business; Jana Merideth , Economic Advisory Committee leader reported that they would be meeting quarterly with the first meeting being Tuesday June 26, 2018 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The first thing they want to take on is the half cent economic sales tax to get out the vote to make it happen. Terry Rushing approached Ms. Merideth with the idea of the Helen Schultz Garden Club taking on refurbishing the Welcome signs and putting one up on South Ward. Ms. Merideth consulted with the Mayor and decided on forming the Believe in Caruthersville Beautification Committee. They have been talking to businesses about sponsoring a sign by the year. If the committee is through the City then it’s already tax exempt, which would be a separate account from the other City accounts, and subject to audits as the other accounts. Councilperson Rodgers motion for approval to open the separate City account for the Believe in Caruthersville Committee, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes		

Councilperson Bullington made mention that the signs to the entrances of the City would make a statement, and that pushing to get properties cleaned up would be of vital importance in attracting new businesses to the area. Sonya Fuller is off to a good start, but all the wheels would have to be in motion.

Business from the floor; Ann Jefferies gave an update of the GED program as to meeting with David Fullhart and Eleanor Taylor about the situation. Ms. Jefferies has established a Go Fund link on her Facebook page. Ms. Jefferies reiterated what Eleanor Taylor had stated about funding going to urban and large populated areas, and that Ms. Taylor was servicing 3 counties. The problem is that funding for current curriculum is virtually nonexistent; donations can be made through the PIN office or Ms. Jefferies Go Fund link on her Facebook page. Checks can be made out to the PIN office with the memo being for the GED program; as of now \$340 has been collected, and will be turned in to the PIN office in July for the next session.

Steve Motton was concerned about the razor wire located on 15th and Adams. He has observed kids playing around in the area and fear that someone is going to get hurt. With the Summer Food program going on and kids being by themselves, they take short cuts. Sonya Fuller stated that putting up an orange caution fence would alert that there’s danger. Terry Rushing stated that he would be talking with the property owner about the razor wire that is down and at the top of the

fence. Counselor Dorroh will be contacting Ed Reeves as to where the Brownsfield process stands concerning McCoy's Salvage Yard. With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Grable motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Hood, with all in favor, the meeting adjourning at 6:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk

DRAFT