

**PUBLIC HEARING
City of Caruthersville**

The City of Caruthersville held a Public Hearing Tuesday September 8, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Caruthersville Municipal Building to discuss the proposed tax rate to be set by the City of Caruthersville. The tax rates are set to produce the revenues which show to be required from the property tax. Each tax Rate is determined by dividing the amount of revenue needed by the current assessed valuation. The result is multiplied by 100 so tax will be expressed in cents per \$100 valuation as follows:

ASSESSED VALUATION	CURRENT TAX YEAR 2026	PRIOR TAX YEAR 2025
Real Estate	\$39,586,570	\$39,535,054
Personal Property	<u>\$13,322.089</u>	<u>\$12,828,795</u>
Total	\$52,908,659	\$52,263,849

The following tax rates are proposed:

	Amount of Property Tax Revenues Budgeted	Tax Rate Ceiling (Per \$100)
General Fund	\$ 312,372.72	\$.5904
Special Sewer Tax	105,923.14	.2002
Library Fund	47,300.34	.0894
Public Health	89,309.82	.1688
Cemetery Fund	<u>22,327.45</u>	<u>.0422</u>
TOTAL	\$ 577,233.47	\$ 1.0910

Counselor Dorroh ask if there were any questions concerning the proposed tax rate. With there not being any, the Public Hearing closed to go into the regular session.

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
September 8, 2026**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Tuesday September 8, 2026 in the Council room of the Municipal Building at which time and place the following were present:

Takella Motton
Lawrence Dorroh

City Clerk
City Counselor

Leighan Fales	Mayor
Jerry Hudgens/Corey Vaughn	Sergeant at Arms
Grable	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Spence (Absent)	Councilperson
Robinson	Councilperson
Glass	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Lyons	Councilperson
Hazel	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 August 17, 2026. Councilperson Hazel motion for approval, second by Councilperson Hood with all in favor

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

Mayor Fales made a recommendation for the appointment of Jacklyn Underwood in the City Collector's position upon the resignation of Paige Gillock. Councilperson Lyons motion for approval, second by Councilperson Hazel, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

Rhonda Bramlett and Tammy Marley with Oaks Nutrition Center were concerned about the citizenry that depend on the meals that are provided at the Housing Authority, and that are delivered outbound. The federal and state funding has been cut, which is based on the census rather than need. They average about 160 meals that are delivered which comprise of a five meal pack for the week. They wanted to know if the City good support the efforts of keeping the program going. Counselor Dorroh made mention of grant opportunities, and Councilperson Lyons will be looking at the budget to see what can be done.

Barbara Merideth and Lou Genia Counce with DAR presented a Proclamation for the 239th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America. The Proclamation proclaiming September 17, 2026 through September 23, 2026 as being constitution week. The ringing of the bell will occur at the riverfront September 17, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. They also presented a Proclamation for Patriot Day for the 25th anniversary of 911, which proclaims September 11, 2026 through October 11, 2026 as volunteering for your choice of activities. Ms. Merideth made mention of Wreaths Across America, and their taking on three more cemeteries. On October 3, 2026 DAR will be dedicating the "Liberty Tree" at the library.

Mayor Fales presented the new Armory rentals as being \$800.00 for the rental with a deposit of

\$250.00, and an additional \$100.00 for the kitchen. There was discussion of the deposit not being enough, especially with the last incident of damages incurred in which the deposit wasn't enough to cover. The surrounding communities charge \$800.00 or more for the rental of their facilities. Counselor Dorroh will be looking at the rental agreement for the Armory to make any changes, and address them at the next meeting.

The bid opening took place for the old fire house that took place September 3, 2026 at 3:00 p.m., the results are as follows: Faulkner Auto Sales \$51,000.00, Jess Cagle \$51,720.00, and Wes Pylate \$15,101.00. Councilperson Lyons motion to accept the highest bid for \$51,720.00, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

There has been a proposal to revamp the City's website to make it more accessible, user friendly, being able to pay City bills, and being compliant with state regulations. The cost to build the section for the City would cost \$9,500.00 with \$150.00 monthly for hosting. The Library section would be \$3,500.00 to build with a \$65.00 monthly hosting fee. Councilperson Bullington motion to accept the proposal, second by Councilperson Lyons, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

C A Walker Construction agreement with the City of Caruthersville for State Block Grant Project No. 25-081A-2 for the airport box hanger and taxi lanes, and the Notice to Proceed was up for a vote. Councilperson Bullington motion for approval, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

Police report; Chief Hudgens reported that the flock camera system was up and running, after getting approval of the Right of Ways controlled by MODOT. The policy and guidelines for the system will have to be established to be above board for recordings; all entrances within the City have the flock cameras. The Halloween parade will be on Friday instead of Saturday, with all the other events for Halloween.

Humane report; Karol Wilcox report consisted of requests for ordinance changes for dangerous animal designations to be inclusive of Dogo Argentina, Cane Corso, and Bull Mastiff. All of the dog would fall under the category of resembling a pit bull. There has been a serious attack by a Dogo Argentina in

the City. There are a lot of Cane Corso and Bull Mastiff in town, which are bigger than some humans. Ms. Wilcox would also like to see changes for tethering. At least 60 percent of wellness checks are dogs being tethered outside, mostly during inclement weather, or without food or water, and tangled. The Shelter sees a lot of leashes, ropes, and chains being used as tethers. Although this could be addressed under neglect/abuse it sometimes take a long time while the dog is left suffering.

The number of dogs allowed per household also needs to be addressed. There have been people with up to 40 dogs in their possession, and on any given day they go to a house with over 10 dogs. This falls back on the Shelter having to deal with the problem. Last but not least breeding has to be addressed. There are people who breed pit bulls with stronger dogs, cross breeding Chihuahuas with other dog to get designer breeds, selling puppies from \$15.00 to \$1,500.00. Some cities treat them as businesses with license and oversight. Again, the Shelter is left to deal with what they can't get rid of that are loosed and dumped.

Fire report; Chief Moss reported eight fire calls as follows: 8/14/26; Grass fire on I55, 8/18/26; Trash on fire at McCoy's Salvage, 8/19/26; Limb pile on fire on 10th & Truman, 8/21/26; Grass fire on I55 MM 806, 8/24/26; Vehicle fire on I55 MM 6.9, 8/26/26; False alarm on Greenwell Rd., 8/28/26; Grass fire on Levee, 8/30/26; Stove fire on 55 County Hwy. There will be a Floodplain Admin Workshop in Jefferson City September 8th and 9th 2026.

Public Works/Alliance; Pam Peeler, Director of the Water department, has been running reports for leak alerts, which shows critical, major, and minor leaks. In doing so, she has been placing door hangers on residences. One way of trying to make the Water department a kinder gentler experience.

Joey Helwig reported that the 3rd St. Water plant has a leak under the galley, which would be an emergency action costing \$10,500.00. Councilperson Lyons motion for approval to come out of the Water fund, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

Code Enforcement; Shawna Riggs report is as follows: Seasonal Mowing; Notices continue to be issued as needed, and follow up inspections are being conducted to verify that affected properties are brought into compliance. Condemnation & Demolition; Letters have been sent regarding five residential properties, and will be monitored with follow up as the process moves forward. There have been two individuals expressing interest in conducting demolition for the City. Trash & Junk; Ongoing contact is being maintained with property owners that have violations. Follow up will continue until issues are corrected. Business Property Maintenance; Attention continue to focus on businesses along the main loop, inclusive of Ward and Truman. Building on Ward Ave.; There have been negotiations discussed, hopefully this will be making some headway.

Parks & Recreation; The August turnover is as follows: Intake \$7,078.60 Auto Draft \$285.00 Interest \$1.49 Total \$7,365.09 Checks \$1,961.48 Turnover \$5,403.61. Doug White reported the

following: Continuing with housekeeping activities, entrance and office areas scheduled to be painted Sept/Oct., completed stucco repairs, seressco unit is working, and repairs are scheduled for the pressure actuator and fan motors, trash cans are being sandblasted and repainted, getting quotes to repair and replace signs at sport complex, getting quotes on weight room equipment with options to lease or purchase, HVAC electrical panel upgrade almost finalized, roof repairs almost done, gathering information for park equipment grant, quotes for miscellaneous bathroom dispensers are being finalized, adult basketball league is ongoing, youth volleyball practice has started, kickball signups have started, and youth football is ongoing.

Library report; Tacara Sullivan scheduled September events are as follows: 9/8/26; Career Exploration/Librarian which was done by Teresa Tidwell. 9/22/26; Storytime Hello Fall from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. 9/25/26; Wall of Distinction recognizing JJ Bullington, George Byers, Randy Crawford, Delbert DePriest, and Private Emzie Waddell. 9/26/26; Jess Walk scholarship fund awarded to deserving students in the community in lieu of the legacy of Jessica (Precious) Rose. 9/29/26; Empower Missouri Town Hall from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

City Collector; Paige Gillock turned in her letter of resignation, and her turnover is as follows: Real Estate Tax \$7,747.79 Personal Tax \$677.22 Interest/Penalty \$2,323.91 Publication \$1,650.00 Total Tax 12,398.92 Collectors Commission \$146.94 Business License/Other License Fees \$1,231.65 Total Overall Tax \$13,777.51 Assessment Fund \$31.68 Turnover \$13,598.89

Budget/Finance; Rita Jones reported that the Time & Attendance module was up and running, working on the budget with the installment of preliminary numbers, discovered a way to track memberships for the Recreation Center through software system, bank statements are completed through July, and in the process of completing August. Continue to pay federal and state taxes online. The following are checks written from different funds summary: Economic Development \$15,021.42 General Fund \$409,193.43 Sales Tax \$30,579.80 Water/Sewer \$133,228.36 Fund Summary \$588,023.01

Councilperson Lyons motion to go ahead with the next step level increase for the salary schedule. Councilperson Bullington second the motion, which resulted in the following:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

Counselor Dorroh introduced the following bills:

BILL NO. 2026-09

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND FIXING THE RATE OF TAXATION AND LEVYING THE TAXES AND DECLARING THAT PURPOSE OF WHICH THE SAME SHALL AND SHOULD BE USED FOR THE YEAR 2026

ORDINANCE 2026-09

Councilperson Lyons motion for the first reading by title only, second by Councilperson Bullington, with all in favor. Councilperson Lyons motion for the second reading, second by

Councilperson Robinson, with all in favor. Councilperson Robinson motion for passage of the bill, second by Councilperson Hazel, which resulted in the following vote:

BIL NO. 2026-10**ORDINANCE 2026-10****AN ORDINANCE OF CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI, TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE TO DISCLOSE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS FOR CERTAIN OFFICIALS**

Councilperson Lyons motion for the first reading by title only, second by Councilperson Glass, with all in favor. Councilperson Glass motion for the second reading, second by Councilperson Lyons, with all in favor. Councilperson Glass motion for the passage of the bill second by Councilperson Hazel, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

Counselor Dorroh introduced the following resolutions:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE AND COMPLIANCE WITH VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Councilperson Lyons motion for approval, second by Councilperson Hazel, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI STATING INTENT TO SEEK FUNDING THROUGH THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO PURSUE ACTIVITIES IN AN ATTEMPT TO SECURE FUNDING.

The City would dedicate \$309,200.00 cash and \$0 in-kind labor to be used in conjunction with CDBG funds for the project. Councilperson Lyons motion for approval, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

Councilperson Lyons motion to go into closed session for the purpose of real estate, litigation,

and personnel. The motion was second by Councilperson Glass, which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Robinson	Yes	Glass	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Hazel	Yes		

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor