

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE  
May 7, 2012**

BE IT REMEMBERED the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session in the Council Room of the Municipal Building on Monday, May 7, 2012, at 5:00 p.m., at which time and place the following were present:

Diane Sayre	Mayor
Melinda Scifres	City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh	City Counselor
Tony Jones	Chief of Police
Pullam	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Simpson	Councilperson
Grantham	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Morgan	Councilperson
Mott	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 to come before the Council was the approval of the minutes of the last meeting. Upon motion duly made by Councilperson Mott, seconded by Councilperson Grantham, the minutes were approved as presented.

The next order of business to come before the Council was the approval of payment of the bills. Upon motion duly made by Councilperson Merideth, seconded by Councilperson Grantham, the bills were unanimously approved for payment.

Mayor Sayre then welcomed the American Government and AP Government classes of Jana Merideth's to the Council meeting. It was hoped the class gets a glimpse of what the Council does to represent the citizens of the community.

Councilperson Morgan reported the fire department had four fire calls from April 19 to May 7. All three pumper trucks had been serviced and successfully passed the ISO certification. The committee had reviewed the budget with the Police Department. Tony Jones had reviewed the budget with the committee and presented wage adjustments for the policemen. Terry Rushing, Operations Supervisor, present the Council with the wage adjustment, and stated the purpose of the adjustment is to bring the department up to the standard of the neighboring cities. The Committee is recommending the hourly wage chart be approved. Mayor Sayre stated a lot of time has been spent on this. Tony Jones took four adjacent departments and made an average of the wages for the departments. The department is trying to move from a salaries position to an hourly wage. The hourly wages will range

from \$11.40 to \$17.54 based on number of years of service. Councilperson Morgan motioned to approve the hourly wage chart, with Councilperson Pullam seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Pullam	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Morgan	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Mott	Yes

Councilperson Morgan then reported recommendations for stipends for the Police Officers with rank, as follows:

Assistant Chief of Police	\$5,000
Captain	\$3,500
Lieutenant	\$3,000
Lt./Chief Investigator	\$3,000
Sergeant	\$2,500
Corporal	\$1,000

Councilperson Mott motioned to approve the stipends, with Councilperson Rodgers seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Pullam	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Morgan	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Mott	Yes

Police Chief Tony Jones stated new officers would be on probation for six months, and starting pay would be \$24,000. After a successful probationary period the officer would be increased to \$25,000 per year. Councilperson Rodgers motioned to approve the recommendation, with Councilperson Merideth seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Pullam	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Morgan	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Mott	Yes

The next item to come before the Council was the Fire Department salary. Fire Chief Jones stated the engineers are working approximately 192 hours every four weeks. If they work over 212 hours, anything over that is considered time and one-half. A wage has been set up for the engineers as follows: a new hire would receive \$10.00 per hour, and the hourly wage would be capped at 30 years with a maximum of \$15.40 per hour, and is based on the number of years of service. After discussion, Councilperson Morgan motioned to approve the recommendations as stated, with Councilperson Hood seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Pullam	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Morgan	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Mott	Yes

The per-call has one change and that deals with the amount of training the firefighter has certified, and the number of years of service. A chart was submitted to the council for the per-call training. Councilperson Merideth motioned to approve the per call rate, with Councilperson Simpson seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Pullam	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Morgan	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Mott	Yes

A stipend was also designed for the officers of the department, as follows: Fire Chief - \$5,000; Assistant Chief - \$2,500; Captain - \$1,800; Lieutenant - \$1,200; Emergency Management Director - \$2,500. Councilperson Morgan motioned the stipends be approved as recommended, with Councilperson Hood seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Pullam	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Morgan	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Mott	Yes

Captain Coleman of the Police Department was then asked to explain the presentation for the equipment purchased with asset forfeiture funds. Captain Coleman stated the City is fortunate to have the asset forfeiture money. These funds enabled the department to purchase a camera system and recording devices to survey high crime areas. The equipment is being used, and is in operation. The Police appreciate the fact that they were able to get the equipment.

Mayor Sayre then asked the Water and Sewer Committee to meet briefly after the meeting.

Councilperson Merideth reported the street crews have been cleaning up areas of the city, such as the right-of-way across from the nursing home. The mosquito sprayer has been calibrated, and is ready to be placed into operation.

Terry Rushing reported he is still working on all the houses that he has had under inspection in the past. He is, also, still working on letters for grass.

Terry Rushing then reported funds are remaining in the sales tax budget for the Playground Road. There is approximately \$7,300, and the recreation center needs to purchase a lift in the amount of \$5,500. The lift would be an ADA portable lift for the pool. After discussion, Councilperson Rodgers motioned to approve the purchase of the lift, with Councilperson Merideth seconding, and motion carried.

Terry Rushing then reported in the infrastructure fund \$140,000 was budgeted for the Bushey Avenue Project, with the contract being let for \$56,000. The Council had previously agreed to earmark \$14,280 for the tennis court parking lot (\$14,280), Patch East 20<sup>th</sup> (\$7,400), Patch Ward Ave. (\$1,700). Mr. Rushing stated there were adequate funds to purchase air paks for the fire department. After discussion, Councilperson Rodgers motioned to approve the purchase, with Councilperson Morgan seconding.

Mr. Rushing then reported there were adequate funds to purchase police vest (\$6,500) in the remaining funds from the Bushey Avenue project. Councilperson Merideth motioned to approve the purchase, with Councilperson Grantham seconding, and motion carried.

Mr. Rushing reported he needed to connect the generator at the armory, since it would be used in case of a disaster. The cost of the installation of the generator would be \$6,500, and funds remained in the Infrastructure in the Bushey Avenue project. Upon motion duly made by Councilperson Pullam, seconded by Councilperson Merideth, the Council unanimously agreed to allow the installation of the generator.

Mr. Rushing then requested the Council allow painting of the Third Street Water Plant in the amount of \$4,500 from the remaining Bushey Avenue project funds. Councilperson Mott motioned to approve the painting, with Councilperson Pullam seconding, and motion carried.

Mr. Rushing then requested an electric gate be placed at the Industrial Park Water Plant at a cost of \$4,800 from the remaining Bushey Avenue funds. Councilperson Pullam motioned to approve the gate at the water plant, with Councilperson Simpson seconding, and motion carried.

Jana Merideth then thanked the Council for allowing the Government classes to attend the Council meeting. This year she has some of the largest classes she has had in a long time.

Chief of Police Tony Jones reported he is sending five police officers to Washington, D.C. for the Law Enforcement Memorial. The officers will leave on Saturday, and return on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Officers attending the ceremony for Caruthersville's fallen officer – Evan Burns – will be Michael Coleman, Richard Altice, James Beaver, Andy Thrasher, and Chris Callen.

Fire Chief Charlie Jones presented the Council with an update to insert into the Emergency Management Plan. He then asked the Council to sign the promulgation statement, and the Council agreed.

Upon the Mayor presenting the following recommendations for appointment, Councilperson Rodgers motioned to approve, with Councilperson Hood seconding, and motion carried. The appointments were approved as follows:

### **CITY OFFICIALS 2012**

Paul Shaw, Water/Wastewater Manager  
Donald Jones, Wastewater Plant Superintendent

James Lane, Water Distribution/wastewater Collection Chief  
 Charlie Jones, Fire Chief  
 Terry Rushing, Operations Supervisor; Building Inspector/Code Enforcement  
 John Chittenden, City Engineer  
 Keith Davis, Parks/Recreation Director  
 Christi Watkins, Court Clerk  
 City Counselor, Lawrence Dorroh  
 Elizabeth Hardesty, Water Department Bookkeeper  
 Melinda Scifres, City Clerk  
 Lawrence Dorroh, Prosecuting Attorney

Library Board (3 years)

Karen Clayton  
 Brenda Collins

Recreation Board (3 Years)

Jamie Young  
 J. J. Bullington  
 Wayne Smith  
 Trina Hollomon

Planning and Zoning (4 yrs.)

Pat Cagle  
 Sheila Simpson, Ex-Officio

Board of Adjustment (5 years)

Harlyn Crayne

Tree Board (3 years)

Sandra Cook

Housing Authority (4 yrs.)

Karen Hartung

Cemetery Board (1 yr.)

Kathryn Parkinson  
 Polly Lunceford  
 Nancy Luber  
 Elizabeth Cutler

Airport Board 1 yr.)

Glen Haynes  
 Jack Tipton  
 Dick Reade  
 Denny Callen  
 Baughn Merideth, Ex officio

Mayor Sayre then asked the Council to approve the Council Committees. Councilperson Rodgers motioned to approve, with Councilperson Grantham seconding, and motion carried. The committees were approved as follows:

**COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**Finance**

Johnny Hood 757-7561  
 Sue Grantham 333-4272  
 James Mott 333-4912  
 Sheila Simpson 333-9898

**Fire & Police**

Frank Morgan 333-3000  
 Barbara Rodgers 333-1670  
 Barbara Pullam 333-0426  
 Baughn Merideth 333-1973 or 4196/359-4196

**Street & Alley**

Baughn Merideth 333-4196/359-4186  
Frank Morgan 333-1128  
James Mott 333-4912  
Barbara Rodgers 333-1670

**Water & Sewer**

Johnny Hood 757-7561  
James Mott 333-4912  
Sue Grantham 333-4272  
Sheila Simpson 922-9292

**Insurance Committee**

Baughn Merideth  
Sheila Simpson  
Barbara Pullam  
Barbara Rodgers

Councilperson Merideth then nominated Frank Morgan as Mayor Pro Tem, with Councilperson Grantham seconding, and motion carried. Councilperson Merideth then motioned nomination cease and Councilperson Morgan be declared Mayor Pro Tem by acclamation. Councilperson Grantham seconded the motion, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Pullam	Yes	Hood	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Simpson	Yes	Morgan	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Mott	Yes

The next item of discussion was the maintenance contract for Little Prairie Cemetery. Councilperson Simpson feels the \$700 is too high. Mayor Sayre reported it has been at that price for quite some time. After discussion, Councilperson Merideth motioned to table the matter until next meeting, with Councilperson Morgan seconding, and motion carried.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Mott motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m., with Councilperson Grantham seconding, and motion carried.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk