

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE**  
**August 15, 2016**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday, August 15, 2016 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
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	Councilperson
Cheek	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Harmon	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 August 1, 2016 minutes. Councilperson Harmon motion for approval, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Abstain
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Abstain
Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes

Councilperson Cartee motion to approve the closed session minutes, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Abstain
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Abstain
Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes

Councilperson Cartee motion to approve the reports and bills, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

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

The next order of business was the presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications. There was a letter from DNR stating a triggered level assessment for the sample period ending June 30, 2016. After submission of the required documentation, the city's public water system is in compliance as of August 1, 2016. There was an email received from Nick Moss in regards to his meter readings. His meter is located a half block from his house on the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Cotton and there's water standing out from the curb to the edge of the road. Charlie Jones was told by the hydrant repairman that the leak is from the main not the hydrant itself, which occurred from someone hitting the hydrant. Paul Shaw reported that the determination of the leak would have to be conducted by Rural Water, and that he would be meeting with them next week, a determination will be at a later date.

Unfinished business; the Mayor reported that P G Manners , H S Smith Funeral Home would be back with the City in the marking, locating, and open/closing of graves. Councilperson Harmon made mention that there was a meeting that was cordial, and informative, and they made a decision to resume business between the City and H S Smith.

Mayor's report; the Mayor proposed switching Veterans Day instead of having Columbus Day as a paid holiday for the employees. Councilperson Harmon motion to amend the personnel manual as to having Veterans Day as a paid holiday instead of Columbus Day; Councilperson Duckworth second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Labor Day will occur on Monday, September 5, 2016, and the Mayor requested that the meeting would be changed to Tuesday, September 6, 2016 in observance of the holiday. Councilperson Duckworth motion for the change of the meeting, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

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

An ad has been placed in the newspaper in regards to the sealed bids for the surplus property, bids will be opened on Thursday, September 1, 2016. Bids are due for the HVAC at Diane Sayre Recreation Center August, 25, 2016 at 3:00 pm. The Brown Shoe ditch vegetation has grown tremendously. Jason Sampson will charge \$2,800 for the cleanup per day, which can't be started until the crop in the nearby field is out. Councilperson Cartee suggested starting working on the ditch in the fall so that it would be easier to maintain. The insertion valve for the water plant will occur on Thursday, August 18, 2016. There will be a \$25 fee instituted by Jerrie Davis for weekends and after hours for the airport courtesy car. The repair of the air conditioner and wiper blades was less than \$200. Mitzi Dell will be attending the Brownsfield grant workshop in Jefferson City.

Tony Jones reported that there are businesses that are in operation without a business license, and the Code Enforcement officer will be checking to see if the businesses have the license. The City Collector has a list of names that aren't in compliance, and the police will be issuing a summons to those that are non-compliant. The Humane officer hours has been changed to 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; and Saturday and Sundays 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. It will have to be an emergency, such as endangerment from an animal before the Humane officer would be called out after hours. Residents haven't been registering their dogs to get their dog tags for \$3. Since the announcement on August 12, 2016 about the fines, fifty dog tags have been issued. There will be city wide roadblocks between August the 15, 2016 and August 31, 2016 checking for city stickers; the fine can be up to \$500 for noncompliance. As of August 12, 2016, 536 city stickers have been issued, which are issued free of charge when you pay your personal city taxes on time.

Teresa Tidwell reported that the grant request for a new copier for the library was successful. Another grant is in the making that the state library is doing to digitize the Democrat Argus from 1895 through 1966 to be put on the internet. The state library wants surveys to be done as to the need for the service, which was passed out to the city officials.

Mayor McGraw discussed cemetery mapping that could be integrated into the current cemetery keeper program data base with GPS information. It would be possible to bring up a picture of the grave site on the web, and the cost of the program is less than \$13,000, with maintenance of \$500 yearly. The Mayor also discussed a resident being denied an occupancy permit for a daycare in a B2 zone. Counselor Dorroh stated that a personal service business could be construed as a daycare in the B2 zone. The Council concurred that the resident should be let known that they could operate a daycare in that particular zone. Also was mentioned, a resident in a C1 zone wanting a small building to sell candy, cookies, etc. , and they were also told that they couldn't have a business, which would look similar to the building on the side of Jiffy Jim's. Counselor Dorroh stated that as long as the building code was followed outlined in the ordinance that it would be allowed. If the Code Enforcement denies the applicant than there's an appeal process through the Planning and Zoning Adjustment Board.

Business from the floor; Dawn Jordan, PIN addressed the Council and audience in regards to their summer program initiative. The program utilized the Recreation Center, the High School, and the American Legion in support of the initiative. The purpose was to make the community unified; through partnership with the office of Probation and Parole, and residents the community garden was tended. The goal is to reduce obesity by 5 percent within the next five years. Teddy Check responding by saying Ms. Jordan was doing a great job in her position, and stated the need for volunteers.

Councilperson Hood made reference to improving the community by the Council being supportive and encouraging business. People shouldn't be discouraged in opening up businesses due to unnecessary roadblocks. Tony Jones echoed the need for businesses and industry in the city in providing jobs, bringing in revenue. Doug McDowell stated that he had being involved with Planning and Zoning, and talking with people looking at bringing business to the town. The number one drawback has been the attractiveness of entrances into the City. McDowell stated he has been on committees and in meetings for over 30 years and there hasn't been any progress. The comment has always been, from potential business, "you don't have much planning and zoning here in your town."

Councilperson Cartee stated that the Mayor and Council should work on marketing Caruthersville. He mentioned the city being a little more than an hour away from downtown Memphis, on the river, and close to everything. Tony Jones stated that everyone has to work together to be successful in making the City productive.

Charles Motton asked about the process of getting a city sticker. Tony Jones stated that a lot of people think that once they pay their county personal taxes that they're done. The county and city are two separate entities, and you have to pay your personal city taxes in order to get your city sticker at the City Collector's office at City Hall. Mr. Motton commended Chief Jones for having a sergeant at Jamie Jones academic initiative that's in place, in talking to kids about life altering choices. He also inquired of the function of the airport. Councilperson Cartee stated that is was for private planes, and that people fly in just for the GPS service that is provided. Charles Motton asked if it was legal to have electrical and barbwire fencing in a residential neighborhood, Counselor stated that it was not legal. There is an electrical fence on 10<sup>th</sup> and Cherry, and a barbwire fence on 11<sup>th</sup> and Walker. Mr. Motton stated that McCoy's was a nightmare, and that the two trailers are caving in the ground where there was a water leak that the City had fixed. Councilperson Bullington stated that if successful with the Brownsfield grant process, and entry onto the property, that maybe McCoy's could be dealt with.

Jamie Jones asked the question if anybody knew what goes on at 18<sup>th</sup> St. where his facility is located. He mentioned that a lot of progressive things are going on at the facility. There have been senators, state representatives, and business people sustaining the after school programs. There have been 26 kids that have gone to college while participating in the program. He mentioned that there are people who help support efforts in the community when people try to rise above their circumstances. He pointed out that there are some positive things happening in the community, and invited the Council to come take part of what is happening on 18<sup>th</sup> St. with the kids. In connection with Three Rivers Community College there has been six kids given full rides, and this week along they have serviced 145 kids. Mr. Jones stated that politics needed to be put aside that creates division, and everyone needed to work together for the common good.

Mayor McGraw stated that we have talked a lot about code enforcement and Verlon Bernard from Steele has decided not to accept the code enforcement job for part time. The Mayor said that it was unfortunate with all the experience under his belt. The Mayor stated that the City should start looking at advertising for a part time code enforcement position for at least 29 ½ hours per week.

It was decided upon to have a special meeting to discuss amending the budget, and that in the meantime to look over the proposed budget and to offer in suggestions or corrections. Councilperson Harmon motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which passed unanimously, with the meeting adjourning at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor

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City Clerk

DRAFT