

CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
August 21, 2017

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday August 21, 2017 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
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Grantham	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	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 August 7, 2017 regular session minutes. Councilperson Cartee motion to approve, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

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

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

Councilperson Cartee motion for approval of reports and bills, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes

Bullington Yes Cartee Yes

The next order of business was the presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications. The City received a demand letter from DNR to pay a penalty for a fish kill, the total cost being \$9,960.01. Counselor Dorroh will be handling the response to the letter. Counselor Dorroh will also be working on trying to recoup some of the money from the property owners. There was a letter from Dr. John Gardner regarding real estate that will be discussed in closed session. A letter was also received from P. G. Maners stating that H. S. Smith will no longer do business with the City of Caruthersville as of January 1, 2018. Councilperson Bullington inquired of the Cemetery minutes as to if they were complete. Mayor McGraw stated that both cemeteries had stated that they didn't want to do anymore pauper graves, because of the confusion. The Cemetery Board made recommendation to do away with the pauper graves. After discussion of as what constitutes a pauper, determinations, and proof thereof, the Council stated that the Cemetery Board would need to give a report stating the recommendation. There may have to be a to the revision of the ordinance for a pauper grave if it's done away with.

Unfinished business; Alan Brockman presented an indemnity agreement to the City in regards to him having access to the limb pile to remove wood and logs. The agreement would offer protection of the City against any claim, suit, loss, or damages by action of Mr. Brockman. Counselor Dorroh stated there were mandatory and recommended practices under the burn permit. Vegetative debris can be burned it excludes trash and rubbish. The pulling of saw logs and timber would be a recommended practice, which would be up to the Council as to what's economically sound. There was a lot of discussion of what and who is allowed at the limb pile. The consensus is to get control of what is picked up and dumped. Announcements will be made as to when and how other debris other than vegetation will be handled. Contractors will not have access to the limb pile unless their vegetation is from a City project. It was also discussed that a camera should be installed with the limb pile in view to detect whose dumping. Councilperson Cartee motion to get an inventory of who has keys, remotes, and why, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

Terry Rushing met with Ben Baker and Tony Hood and they're going to bring their D6/D9 dozer to help clean up the piles which is mostly dirt with some wood mixed in. They will spread the dirt and pull out the wood.

Mayor's report; Labor Day will be Monday, September 4, 2017 and the Council meeting will have to be moved to Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Councilperson Cartee motion for approval, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

Republic will be attending the Council meeting on September 5, 2017. In addition to having the tote wheels facing your house to reduce spillage, they're also imploring to have totes away from the mailboxes, and if you have two totes have them separated for easy pickup. Marlar Drive now has 3 City street lights, and they were installed for free. The Mayor also discussed with Ameren about a street light for Shady Lane. Mitzi Dell is working on a sidewalk grant. An inquiry has been made about land that the City owns and other public entities for a business requiring 12 lots. The business would initially employ 30 people. The recommendation is for \$1000 per lot size of 50ftx140ft. Acreage at the Industrial Park is also being inquired of for purchase. A volunteer cleanup day is scheduled for September 9, 2017 for the Southward overpass area. For more information contact Dr. John Gardner at 573-333-0512.

Police & Fire report; Chief Charlie Jones reported fire calls from August 10, 2017 through August 21, 2017 as follows: 8/10/17; Fire alarm sounding at Court House, 8/17/17; Fire alarm sounding due to sheetrock dust on Ward Avenue, 8/19/17; Fire alarm sounding on Collins, 8/20/17; Accident with an eighteen wheeler on I-55. Gary Woodall, National Weather Service from Memphis TN, certified the City for 3 more years for its Storm Ready Community certification. Chief Tony Jones reported that traffic flow has been good with back to school drop offs. Chief Jones applied for the grant for the 19 body cams for the police department. The problem is that the storage vault for 5 years is \$55,000 with a limited amount of storage or unlimited storage for 5 years at \$195,000. This will be revisited at a later time. Rick Moyers has ordered 10 more cages for skunks. Code Enforcement sent out ten letters, four complaints were given to the police, and four citations were written by officer Lacey, scheduled for court date is for September 7, 2017.

Terry Rushing reported on the daily operations of picking up limbs and debris. The plaques have come in for the Pavilion, and will be mounted tomorrow if it doesn't rain.

Budget report; The total fund balances for the June 30, 2017 fiscal year is \$4,535,825.68 a reduction of \$614,710.52. The projected fund balance for June 30, 2018 is \$3,967,176.32. Councilperson Bullington wanted it to be known that even though she prepares the budget, she's not responsible for monitoring the budget. Reductions were made in the budget towards the Sales Tax Capital Improvement Tax and the Sales Tax to compensate for the loss of revenues from Wal-Mart. Councilperson Cartee made mention how diligently Councilperson Bullington has worked on the budget, and how department heads need to step up and consider the wellbeing of the City when asking for wants as opposed to needs. If the City continues spending as it has being it will be facing deficit spending, the department heads were implored to be responsible to watch their budgets. The General Fund ended at \$206,173.26, and the previous year was \$123,353.60. The proposed ending balance for 2017-2018 is \$128,943.16. Transfers from the General Fund to the Library Fund were \$97,810.49 for the year; with the sales tax passage, the proposed transfers to the Library Fund will be \$5,007.00. To cover expenses for Economic Development that may occur, \$22,814.61 is proposed for next year. The Community Revitalization Fund consists of grants and donations, spending will be limited. The Street department transfers were \$49,118.47 with the proposed transfers being \$39,983.00. Mayor McGraw proposed to have any sale of City property to go into the Economic Development Fund. Councilperson Duckworth motion to adopt the budget, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

Library; Teresa Tidwell reported starting January 1,2018 the Library will start getting payments from the sales tax passage. The eclipse viewing was very successful, 1500 glasses were given to residents and patrons.

Water & Sewer; Paul Shaw reported that training will occur next week on the meter reading software. The office may have to close for short period. The Nixle emergency information will be put on the bottom of the water bill as to how to access.

Mayor McGraw asked if the old backhoe was operable, Terry Rushing stated that it needed repairing, and would be checking on the cost. The Mayor stated that it could be used for demolition rather than the newer backhoe. The extender reach on the old backhoe does not work, so the newer backhoe will have to be used possibly.

Business from the floor; Mary Bernard was concerned about the coyote presence in the area of South Ward and Copeland Drive. It was discussed that there is a tree line and a storm drain that could be the attraction. Chief Tony Jones will contact Brian Shelton about the matter. Melissa McClain has issue with stray dogs digging up flower beds, and chasing children at her residence. It was discussed that a complaint could be made and a citation issued.

Introduction to bills; Councilperson Bullington motion for the first reading for an amendment to the salary ordinance by title only, second by Councilperson Cartee as follows:

BILL NO. 2017-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2017-08 AND THE PAY PLAN ADOPTED THEREIN

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-10

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Absent
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

Councilperson Duckworth motion for the second reading, second by Councilperson Merideth, the question is will Bill No. 2017-10 pass and become known as Ordinance No. 2017-10, which resulted in the following vote on said question to wit:

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

Councilperson Duckworth motion for the first reading of an ordinance remitting payment to the City for damaged buildings by title only, second by Councilperson Rodgers as follows:

BILL NO. 2017-11

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-11

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR REMITTANCE TO THE CITY OF A PORTION OF THE INSURANCE PROCEEDS ON CERTAIN DAMAGED BUILDINGS

Councilperson Cartee motion for the second reading, second by Councilperson Merideth, the question is will Bill No. 2017-11 pass and become known as Ordinance No. 2017-11, which resulted in the following vote on said question to wit:

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

Councilperson Bullington motion to go into closed session for the discussion of sale of real estate and legal action, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes

Upon returning to open session and with no further business to come before the Council , Councilperson Rodgers motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Merideth, with all in favor, the meeting adjourning at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor