

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE**  
**February 5, 2018**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday February 5, 2018 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
Merideth	Councilperson
Grantham	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	Councilperson
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Hood (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 January 18, 2018 regular session minutes. Councilperson Merideth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Rodgers which resulted in the vote:

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

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

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

Presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications; The Caruthersville Golf Association sent a certified letter with the intent to renew their lease agreement for an additional 10 years with the same conditions as the previous agreement.

Mayor's report; The 2006 Crown Victoria that the City was inquiring of the City of Portageville is no longer an option. One of the Police department's vehicle blew a motor, so they will be keeping the

Crown Victoria. The State Surplus Property is an option to consider; they have vehicles at a set price that can be chosen from. It was suggested to get a list of cars for sale with a range of mileage and prices, with the higher mileage being an indicator of a lower price as a guide. Terry Rushing will provide the Council with a list of 4 cars to choose from at the next meeting. Mayor McGraw asked Counselor Dorroh about the Carnell property, and Counselor stated that he would be speaking with the Public Administrator in regards to the property. The only easement at this time that's not finished is the one behind O'Reilly's. The easements involving Taven and the car wash have been completed. The original easements were crowded out, and new easements had to be put in for the Marlar project. Republic Services will be working Presidents' Day. Republic has a new truck that will service Caruthersville and Hayti. The truck itself has dual purposes in which it can pick up totes and dumpsters. The engineering study for Mooreland Drive has been completed.

The drainage problem on East 19<sup>th</sup> Street to East 20<sup>th</sup> Street and on Belle Avenue that was voted on at the last meeting as an add on in the amount of \$11,460 need to be revised. Terry Rushing stated that creating a ditch along Walker and putting a drain on Belle would have to be done by a contractor. Rushing proposes by putting in sea grates on 9<sup>th</sup> and Belle in the amount of \$17,035, and cleaning out the culvert which was covered up, at the end of Belle, would help alleviate the drainage problem. Rushing also proposes doing some of the work in house with the savings going towards payment of 9<sup>th</sup> and Belle. Councilperson Rodgers questioned the validity of the drainage proposal giving relief to the problem. Councilperson Bullington asked if what he was proposing going to eliminate the problem. Rushing stated the only way to eliminate the problem would to put in a pit and pump it over to the storm water pump station. Councilperson Cartee made mention that money had been spent before for drainage on Belle and the problem persists. The Council is in agreement for John Chittenden to come and address the Council about the drainage problem rather than throw money at something that may not correct the problem. The Mayor will be calling John Chittenden to come to the February 20, 2018 meeting to talk about what needs to be done to fix the drainage problem.

Janice Ballard with Heart to Heart International is seeking office space, and Mayor McGraw will be assisting her with securing the office space. There will be some jobs that will be created with the endeavor. City Hall will be closed Monday, February 19, 2018 in observance of Presidents' Day, the Council meeting has been moved to Tuesday, February 20, 2018.

Police report; Chief Tony Jones recommended the hiring of Benjamin Gilkey as patrolman at level D; the other candidate that was approved for hiring would be awaiting a year for retesting.

Fire report; Chief Charlie reported the fire calls from January 18, 2018 through February 5, 2018 as follows: 1/18/18; Gas order on Eastwood, 1/19/18; Fire alarm sounding due to cooking on West 12<sup>th</sup> St., 1/19/18; Report of a fire in the woods on I55/412, 1/20/18; Medical lift assist called out twice at the River View Apts., 1/21/18; Structure fire with moderate damage to bedroom on Broadway, 1/24/18; Trash pile burning on County Rd. 344, 1/25/18; Fire alarm sounding due to cooking on County Rd. 351, 1/27/18; Structure fire with moderate damage on Truman Blvd., 2/3/18; Structure fire with storage trailer and boat destroyed, 2/5/18; Grass fire out of control on I55. Training for the month of January was practicing with the new MSA self-contained breathing apparatus, with 17 firefighters in attendance. There were 5 fire inspections conducted from January 29, 2018 through February 5, 2018. Approval was asked of the Council for the donation of 2 rural fire subscriptions for the R3 party on February 23, 2018

valued at \$100 each. Councilperson Duckworth motion for approval, second by Councilperson Grantham, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported that she's working on several letters, and that time would be extended to March to abate the nuisance because of the weather conditions. Ms. Fuller stated she would start surveying the later part of March, and then will start working on derelict vehicles. There was a question about whether or not the businesses were being contacted, particularly Churchill, because there was a car on the levy side without tires. Ms. Fuller expressed that she was instructed to leave Churchill alone for a period. Councilperson Bullington responded by saying with Code Enforcement being one of the biggest problems the City is dealing with, and Churchill as one of the properties, that problem areas needed to be addressed no matter who it is, unless there's a good reason.

Budget & Finance; Councilperson Bullington presented the Council and department heads with data that reflected fund balances being over their budgets. For the month of December the General Fund balance was in a deficit of \$7,705.95, which will get back in line in January when more deposits are captured. The loss of revenues and expenditures are concerning, and Councilperson Bullington suggested that an accountant, preferably, Doug McDowell give a more in depth accounting by looking into the City finances. Councilperson Duckworth made motion for McDowell to look more into the financials, second by Councilperson Grantham, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Library report; Teresa Tidwell reported that they are among 9 libraries that have been selected to take part of Edge Cohort, which is a management tool that can be used to align technological services with the needs of the community. With the assessment being used to measure the results, the Library is on target being 200 points above the other libraries in the same category.

Water & Sewer; Paul Shaw reported that the department had worked on a 6 inch water main leak on 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The well line at the Water plant is being completed. Lines were serviced at the Cotton warehouse, Poplar, and Churchill property by the Roundhouse. They also put in boxes at the new Bank of Missouri. Shaw attended a DNR meeting in Jefferson City, and they will be attending a class at the Armory next week for water recertification hours. The department is also working on a compliance permit that is due by 2020 for the Waste Water department. Mayor McGraw inquired about the cyber-attack claim, and asked that it be checked on.

Insurance report; Councilperson Rittenberry reported that the bid packets for the health insurance for the City is being worked on. Counselor Dorroh is assisting in getting all the information needed to be included in the packets to provide locally and post in the paper. Contact will also be made to the current provider as to what is being offered for renewal. The bid packets should be available by next week.

Business from the floor; John Bailey inquired about the flag maintenance at Veterans Park, he noticed that it was tattered; Parks & Recreation is responsible for the flags at its parks. Jerry Harmon wanted to know what could be done about the coyotes before someone gets hurt. It was suggested to ask the Conservation agent to put out more traps.

Councilperson Bullington made mention of the Recreation Center admissions being down, and that it needed to be paid attention to. Councilperson Bullington stated that MOPERM was under budgeted, and asked Councilperson Rittenberry to find out the difference to what was paid last year as opposed to this year. Bullington also inquired of any headway of the recording of the meetings. There has been discussion of having the meetings in the Municipal Court building which would be more cost effective, and it has more room. Councilperson Cartee made motion to go into closed session for the purpose of property and legal, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Upon returning from closed session, and with no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Cartee motion to adjourn. The motion was second by Councilperson Grantham with all in favor, the meeting adjourning at 6:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor