

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
January 18, 2018**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Thursday January 18, 2018 at 6:00 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
Grantham	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth (Absent)	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee (Absent)	Councilperson
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Hood (Absent)	Councilperson
Merideth	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 2, 2018 regular session minutes. Councilperson Merideth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Rittenberry, which resulted in the vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

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

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

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

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

Under presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications; Melinda Scifres sent a letter

thanking the Mayor and City Council for allowing her to train her successor. Ms. Scifres' contract has been completed, and is looking forward to full retirement.

Mayor's report; Mr. Rosen has made contact with a Nevada (state) investor concerning the Wal Mart building. Save A Lot closed its' doors January 10, 2018. Mayor McGraw made the landlord aware of a possible contact regarding possible locations. Mayor McGraw has filed a report with Delta Regional Authority concerning the Exchange Building. Counselor Dorroh made mention that the Arts Council wanting to meet before entering into a contract. Counselor asked if the Arts Council would get with him to schedule a time for a meeting. The airport courtesy car is on hold; one of the police vehicles for the City of Portageville is out of commission. They will be having a meeting, and will advise the Mayor as to what will take place with the 2006 Crown Victoria. Demolition of the Carnell property is on standby due to inclement weather. The Marlar Project has easements with minor adjustments before proceeding to improve water suppression at the Nursing home. Water & Associates are working on an engineering study for Mooreland Drive.

Because of the drainage situation on East 19th St. to East 20th St. consideration for adding onto the G & C contract would be \$7,790. The drainage on Belle Avenue south of East 9th St. can be corrected by adding to the contract \$6, 150 for the work. John Chittenden advises cutting the street and filling with gravel, and pave this summer with asphalt. By eliminating the asphalt for now it would decrease the drainage work to \$6,750 and \$4,710 respectively. Councilperson Bullington motion to do the work without the concrete and pave this summer, second by Councilperson Grantham, which resulted in the following vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

Mayor McGraw wrote a proclamation proclaiming January 21 through January 27, 2018 as "School Board Recognition Week" in the name of Caruthersville School District #18 and encourages the community to recognize Caruthersville School District #18 Board of Education for its commitment in providing our students with the finest possible education. Special thanks to the City of Hayti and Mayor Lisa Green for providing an extra salt spreader truck with a snow plow. Terry Rushing stated that they had some issues with the truck, and wasn't able to use it. Presidents Day will be February 19, 2018, and the Mayor asked for the meeting to be moved to Tuesday, February 20, 2018. Councilperson Rodgers motion to move the meeting, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

Police report; Chief Tony Jones reported that the uniform reporting to the State has been submitted and the results compared to previous years will be received shortly. All the officers have completed the 48 hours of continuing education which is for every 3 years; plus an additional 24 hours of Community Education that the state has added on.

Street & Sanitation/Building Inspector; Terry Rushing asked for approval of a change order for the Malar Project for the hydrants for the Nursing home and Taven apartments in the amount of \$47,880, the City's portion being \$11,012, which is still within the budget. Councilperson Bullington motion for approval, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes
Merideth	Yes		

Code Enforcement; No letters have gone out in the past week because of the inclement weather. The letters that were sent out previously will have until March to abate the nuisance. Ms. Fuller has provided clerical aide to the City Collector and City Clerk upon request. The additional Mers Goodwill volunteer has started working with Street & Sanitation. Terry Rushing has assisted with and is checking on a house on Kelly Drive.

Parks & Recreation/Armory; Basketball season starts in 2 weeks. A full time position for Assistant Parks & Recreation Director has been advertised in the paper. Anyone interested in the position can pick up an application at City Hall, and will need to turn the application in at City Hall. The Recreation Center can be called for any additional information about the position.

Budget/Finance; Councilperson Bullington provided a list of budget amendments from July to the present. Councilperson Bullington will go through the list to see exactly what has been approved, and will have the budget to reflect the changes by the next meeting. There was a request for the Department heads or anyone else to look over the list to see if anything has been missed.

Library; Teresa Tidwell presented a new gadget that's called a play away that can be use with an auxiliary cable if you don't have a CD player in your car. Camden library provided the gadget free of charge, which retails for \$100, and the Library received 40.

Water & Sewer; Paul Shaw reported that a company had come in last week to complete the SCADA project that was budgeted for last year. There's a lot more alarms on the system with everything that goes on with the Water Plant. The department had to turn off water for a lot of residents with busted pipes. There was a lot of over time because of major leaks within the City. There were only 4 adjustments that need approval.

Insurance Committee; The committee met on January 9, 2018, which was not posted within a 24 hour period, which makes the meeting invalid, no action was taken at the meeting. The meeting can be reposted and another meeting takes place; the Council can act on any action with the committee being an advisory committee if they choose to do so. Councilperson Rittenberry recommends that the City bid out the health insurance to see if the City could possibly get better rates with agencies in town. The City's' payment of employee benefits that are currently being paid at right at a 100 percent, will be hard pressed to continue in the long run. Councilperson Rittenberry motion to seek out bids for the Healthcare insurance, second by Councilperson Grantham, which resulted in the following vote:

Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Rittenberry	Yes

aid with their situation. Mr. Travis made mention that he wanted to better serve the community, and would hope that leadership would take place for this area. Christina Williams asked the Mayor if he knew when all the random things that the Council had been asking for were going to be available for the Council. Mayor McGraw stated that some of the information had been provided in the Council packets. Ms. Williams inquired of a copy of the terms of the settlement agreement regarding Erica Grady, and asked if the Council had been provided with a copy. After much discussion as to who had a copy of the agreement and who didn't, Counselor Dorroh will be providing a copy of the agreement to the custodian of the records, the City Clerk. Councilperson Bullington had questions about the contract with MODOT as to whether the City was obligated or bound to the contract. Mayor McGraw stated that it was not a binding contract that it was simply stating that the City would adopt a highway, and that any administrative rules would be null and void if the City didn't comply. Doug McDowell asked about the timeframe of the sunshine law for request of information, Counselor stated that it was 72 hours.

Howard Prater asked about the procedure of the tear down of the house on the Carnell property. He wanted to know if the person tearing down the structure had to be certified with the property being a hazard. Counselor Dorroh stated that he would check on the hazardous conditions before demolition of the structure.

There was discussion of a use tax of one and half percent for the April ballot, and the cost if it was done on the August ballot. There was discussion about looking at Kennett and Steele before imposing the tax. Counselor stated that it had been put on the ballot years ago. Amazon has announced that they were going to pay the use tax which has driven the issue. The Council will revisit the use tax at a later date.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Merideth motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Grantham, with all in favor, the meeting adjourning at 7:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk