

CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
January 2, 2018

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Tuesday January 2, 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
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	Councilperson
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Grantham	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 December 18, 2017 regular session minutes. Councilperson Cartee motion to approve, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the vote:

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

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

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

Under presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications; Counselor Dorroh advised everyone that the Erica Grady lawsuit had been settled by MOPERM in the amount of \$30,000 with the City's deductible portion being \$1,000.

Unfinished business; Councilperson Cartee inquired of the MODOT contract, Mayor McGraw stated that the contract basically says the City would pick up trash, and that he would make sure the Council would get a copy.

Mayor’s report; Save A Lot will be closing January 10, 2018. Mayor McGraw emailed Corporate and they emailed backed stating that they were sorry about the decision, and then sent another email shortly afterward inquiring about the availability of locations. The Mayor called the number on the email, and only got voice mail, and stated that he would follow up. The hearing taking place for Liberty Utilities rate increase location is not yet known, the Mayor will be contacting the Missouri Public Service Commission to find out. Councilperson Cartee was concerned about the businesses in town having to contend with rate increases not only with Liberty but Ameren also. He asked if the Mayor had talked to any of the representatives statewide about the utilities. Mayor McGraw stated that he had never seen any representatives at the hearings that he has attended. The rate increases affect other areas other than Caruthersville, and the Mayor of the town seems to be the perfect candidate to attend. Councilperson Cartee stated that he would call the representatives tomorrow. Councilperson Hood inquired of the closing of Save A Lot as to if there was some indications that they may be considering staying, with the asking of availability of other locations. Mayor McGraw explained that there were franchisee and corporate Save A Lots, and that he had made contact with corporate. He stated again that he would be following up. The Mayor drove a 2006 Crown Victoria that’s in the possession of the City of Portageville it has 96,000 miles. The Mayor asked the Council to authorize him up to a certain amount for the purchase of the car for the airport courtesy car. Councilperson Bullington made motion for Mayor McGraw to negotiate up to \$1,700 for the car, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

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

The Carnell property demolition date was set for January 8, 2018, all the costs that have incurred will be added to the taxes. Councilperson Rodgers stated that there was a list of 4 properties that were to be torn down, and 3 have been torn down. The 4th was the structure on East 18th St. across from Lincoln Extension. Mayor McGraw stated that he would look into the matter; Councilperson Cartee suggested that all the properties that the City owns should be looked into that needs to be torn down. Due to the cold weather and holidays there have been delays with Republic Services. The hydraulic lines on the trucks have been freezing, and replacement trucks have been sent out, they will also be running on Saturday. James Stricklin has been dealing with a drainage problem for years in the East 19th and East 20th area. A drainage box was supposed to be put in, but it was pushed back year after year. Mr. Stricklin was given an estimate as to what it was cost to fix the drainage problem. A change order can be accomplished through the G & C contract in the amount of \$6,750, and then pave with asphalt in the summer. Councilperson Cartee made motion to accept the change order, second by Councilperson Grantham then it was rescinded by Councilperson Cartee. Councilperson Rodgers has dealt with the same problem on Belle, in which she had been told at one point that it could also be tagged onto a project. The Mayor will call John Chittenden about tagging on both of the projects.

Fire report; The fire calls from December 8, 2017 through January 2, 2018 are as follows: 12/18/17; Vehicle fire on I55/412 which was a total loss, 12/23/17; Vehicle fire on I55, but cancelled before arrival, 12/28/17; Transformer blown in alley behind 411 Ward they stood by until Ameren arrived, 1/1/18; Fire alarm sounding due to a burst water line at Southgate Living Center. There are presently 120 members of the Rural Fire Subscription, and there were 120 fire calls during 2017. Of the

120 fire calls, 36 were out of City, 9 were gas leaks or odor of natural gas, and 2 were medical assist calls.

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported that she sent out 9 letters, and 1 follow up, and the City abated 3 requests. Ms. Fuller is also working with Mers Goodwill to get another volunteer.

Councilperson Cartee was concerned about the Cemetery cost with Russ Riggs compared to the cost incurred by H. S. Smith. Russ Riggs cost is \$700 for open and close compared to Smith's \$600. Cartee suggested that the Council meet with the Cemetery Board to see where everyone is at as to who's marking the graves, and point of contact after hours. Melissa McClain suggested starting back at square one, and needing to look at the Cemetery Board as to getting more members, and educating the committee as to what the Cemetery Board does. Ms. McClain asked for a copy of the contract with Russ Riggs and H. S. Smith so that she can see what we're dealing with.

Budget report; Councilperson Bullington referred to the sales tax distributions deposits reports and how it's affecting the City's bottom line, and will continue with businesses closing. If it doesn't turn around the City will be in trouble with increased expenditures. Councilperson Bullington stated that from now on there will be a listing as to who attends the Finance Committee meetings, and all other committees should do the same.

Library report; Teresa Tidwell reported that the Library will be digitizing the Republican, Hayti Herald, and the Steele Enterprise newspapers, which will include the entire county, and can be accessed on any computer.

Water & Sewer; Paul Shaw reported a water main break on West 10th St., and thanked everyone for their assistance. Everyone should be cautious as to the weather warming up, if pipes were frozen, once unthawed, the water could possibly go over the entire house.

New business; Councilperson Cartee made mention of the City ordinance regarding shoplifting, with concern of business owners losing profit. Counselor Dorroh stated that the measures were in place and prosecution was relatively high, but there could be an increase in the amount of fines that are imposed through the court. There was discussion about the police monitoring high traffic areas such as Dollar General. There was also discussion of a use tax being put on the ballot which covers internet sales, and purchases made out of state that are shipped in.

Business from the floor; Charles Cain was concerned about modernizing the City Collector's office, or hiring people during tax season. There was a lot of discussion as to how the City Collector's office is being run, the Mayor stated that Ms. Morgan was not here to defend herself and that it was a conversation that needed to be discussed with her.

Introduction of bills; An ordinance amending ordinance No. 2017-08 and the pay plan adopted therein. Councilperson Cartee motion for the first reading, second by Councilperson Merideth as follows:

BILL NO. 2018-01

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2017-08 AND THE PAY PLAN ADOPTED THEREIN

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI, as follows:

Section 1. Ordinance No. 2017-08, as previously amended by Ordinance No. 2017-09, is hereby further amended by the adoption of the pay plan as presented at this meeting.

Section 2. All other provisions of Ordinance No. 2017-08 shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. This ordinance shall not be codified, but rather, shall be maintained in the City's Personnel Policy Manual in addition to the Ordinance Book for the City.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be effective from and after the date of its passage and approval.

READ TWO TIMES AND PASSED ON this 2nd day of January, 2018

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON the 2nd day of January, 2018

ATTEST

Mike McGraw, Mayor

Takella Motton

Councilperson Duckworth motion for the second reading of Bill No. 2018-01 by title only, second by Councilperson Hood. The question before the Council is now will Bill No. 2018-01 to be known as Ordinance 2018-01 pass and become law, which resulted in the following vote on said question to wit:

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

Councilperson Cartee motion to go into closed session for the discussion of property and legal, second by Councilperson Grantham which resulted in the following vote:

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

Upon returning from closed session, and with no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Duckworth motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Merideth with all in favor, the meeting adjourning at 6:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

DRAFT