

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE**  
**June 5, 2017**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday, June 5, 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
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	Councilperson
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Grantham	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	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 May 15, 2017 regular with correction of Duckworth representing Ward 2 instead of Ward 4, and closed session minutes. Councilperson Cartee motion to approve, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

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

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

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

The next order of business was presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications. Lagers sent in the employer contribution rates for the City's retirement account in comparison to last year rates. The General stayed the same, Police department went down a tenth of a percent, and the Fire department went down .60 of a percent.

Counselor Dorroh made reference to a confidential memo that was part of the Council’s packet concerning Mr. Hoskins request for due process, and the need for discussion in closed session. Councilperson Bullington motion to go into closed session, second by Councilperson Rodgers which resulted in the following vote:

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

Upon returning from closed session, Councilperson Bullington motion to resend the action taken on Hoskins’ request, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cartee	No
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Abstain
Merideth	No	Grantham	Abstain
Rodgers	Abstain	Duckworth	No

Mayor’s report; Mitzi Dell met with the Department of Economic Development on May 18, 2017, and the City received an invitation to apply to the Community Development Block Grant program. The City would have to pay \$137,200 of the proposed \$359,200 for the water system improvements if funded. Mr. Rosen of Pace Properties is trying to sell Caruthersville to potential tenants concerning the Wal-Mart building. He has solicited 20 prospects with no interest at this point. The Committee for Funding Opportunities along with input from city officials submitted application for a grant to refurbish the Exchange building in the amount of \$55,000. The City committed \$5,000 and \$22,000 was donated by the Casino towards the project. The Committee for Downtown Redevelopment; the city is near completion of the west side of the 300 block of Ward. The property owner will pay the City as result of the consent to abate. Bollinger Real Estate appraised 5.02 acres of Industrial Park property adjacent to the old Bunny Bread building for \$63,000.

Mayor McGraw appointed Brian Taylor to the Board of Adjustment to replace John Sellars, and has appointed Kaleb Johnson to come back as patrolman. Councilperson Duckworth motion to accept the appointment of Kaleb Johnson, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Police report; Humane Shelter report from May 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017 was 31 dogs and 11 cats. Intake was 38 dogs and 19 cats; Owner’s pick up 9 dogs; Rescue received 6 dogs; Euthanized 5 dogs; Deceased pick up 1 dog and 6 cats; Wildlife; 31 deceased squirrels, 3 rabbits, 10 skunks, and 10 opossums. Trapped animals were 28 skunks, 5 opossums, 6 snakes, and 2 birds. Chief Tony Jones made mention of reports received of the shooting of fireworks at the police during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Every year someone is injured by high powered fireworks, and there will be zero tolerance for any

shooting of fireworks within the city limits. Chief Jones inquired of an ordinance being adopted for the possession of the fireworks. Counselor Dorroh stated that there were no laws governing the possession of fireworks, but that he would look into it. There is an ordinance already in place that allows fireworks to be confiscated, gives notice to parents, and they can be fined for the offense after the initial warning. Adults can be jailed for shooting fireworks. The audience responded by maybe having a designated area, or to shooting fireworks during a certain time. Chief Jones stated that all had been tried before, but with the high powered fireworks it's very dangerous, and the kids shoot at each other and at the police. Tony went on to say that kids have always shot at each other with fireworks, but now the fireworks are so powerful, and it gets worst every year.

Fire report; Fire calls for May 19, 2017 to June 5, 2017 are as follows: 5/19/17; Lift assist for a 600 lb. male at Riverview apartments, 5/24/17; Fire alarm sounding at W. Parkview, 5/26/17; High winds blowing embers from limb pile on S. Ward, 5/27/17; Gas odor called Liberty Utilities to remove meter on Laurant, 5/27/17; Fuel spill at Casey's, 5/30/17; Lumber set afire at 4:00 a.m. on E. 12<sup>th</sup> St., 5/31/17; Vehicle set afire at midnight on E. 7<sup>th</sup> St. with minor damage, 6/2/17; Debris set afire at 1:00 a.m. at alley of 12<sup>th</sup> and Laurant, 6/4/17; Food left unattended on stove with minor smoke damage.

Training for the month of May was touring the Water and Waste Water plants. Fifteen fire fighters from area departments attended a vehicle firefighting course Saturday June 3, 2017. There were letters sent out reminding current members of the Rural Fire Subscription fees for the coming year. Residents can join from now until July 31, 2017 for the annual fee of \$100.

Terry Rushing reported the normal pickup of limb and junk debris. The bollards were installed at the church on 14<sup>th</sup> and Vest. There was clean up of the riverfront from the rising water. Rushing trained Sonya Fuller with the identifying of properties by numbers and reading maps. There was a request to upstart the Street Project for \$292,500 and the West 19<sup>th</sup> Street Drainage Project for \$92,000 already budgeted for. Councilperson Cartee motion to approve, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported that with the aid of Terry Rushing they surveyed 26 properties of which 15 letters were completed. Twelve of the letters were either hand delivered or mailed, 3 of the letters will need further assistance from Mr. Rushing. Eleven of the properties have been photographed and property cards received.

Keith Davis reported that the ball season has ended; all-star games will be taking place with traveling to tournaments. The historical aircraft at England Park was pressure washed, which had never taken place, and there's a tremendous difference. Councilperson Bullington motion to amend the budget for the police salaries by \$3,000 and the benefits by \$700 for the Code Enforcement position. Councilperson Duckworth second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes

Teresa Tidwell reported that the Library Board voted to have a half cent tax increase to be put on the August ballot. The sales tax is computed by ten cents per \$100 valuation, which has been in place approximately 95 years. The hope is that residents that don't own property will share in the expense of supporting the Library. Summer reading starts Tuesday June 6, 2017, and there have been a lot of sign ups. Wednesday, June 7, 2017 will be movie day, and John Ashcroft will be at the library for a town hall forum. Thursday, June 8, 2017 will be crafts. Ms. Tidwell has been elected as President of the Missouri Library Directors.

Paul Shaw reported that a batch of valves have been non operable for quite some time at the Water Plant, and are now up and running. Shaw made mention of a reverse call system that if employed would alert residents to storms or any other emergencies. If residents sign up they would be alerted to conditions via text, facebook, twitter, or landline. The cost would be \$4,000 with a one-time sales fee of \$400. Discussion ensued to either put the expense in the budget towards Emergency Management or cost share through the different departments. Councilperson Bullington stated if the call system is employed that there should be some protocol for truly emergency situations so that people wouldn't become complacent. Councilperson Rodgers was concerned about the elderly and the handicap residents having transportation to the storm shelters and possible evacuations as to having something in place. At one time there was an agreement with the Special School District with the use of the handicap bus, and public safety officials assisting in transporting the special needs residents.

New business; Mayor McGraw asked for a motion to approve Brian Taylor to the Board of Adjustments. Councilperson Cartee motion to accept, second by Councilperson Grantham, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Business from the floor; Vickie Ricks was concerned about a fence that has been constructed on the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Cotton obstructing her view from her porch to see the school bus coming down the street. She was also concerned about parking of her neighbor's visitors on the street hampering her from backing out of her driveway. There are also street breaks at 1206 Vest and at 610 Cotton. Counselor Dorroh suggested that Sonya Fuller look at the code for height restrictions for fences and get with him. Terry Rushing stated that they would be looking at the side yard fence to see if it was in compliance. Councilperson Rodgers motion to go into closed session for hiring, disciplinary action, and real estate, second by Councilperson Merideth which resulted in the following vote:

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

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

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor

DRAFT