

CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
November 7, 2016

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday, November 7, 2016 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
Cheek	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Harmon	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 October 17, 2016 minutes. Councilperson Cartee motion for approval, second by Councilperson Harmon, which resulted in the following vote:

Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes

Councilperson Cartee motion to approve the October 24, 2016 special session minutes, second by Councilperson Merideth which resulted in the following vote:

Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Abstain	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes

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

Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes

The next order of business was the Mayor's report. The contract was signed with Buffington for the HVAC system at the Recreation Center in the amount of \$384,000. Materials have been ordered and the construction is set to be underway. Waters Engineering estimates the cost of the Marlar Loop at being \$371,600. There's still one house on East 10th St. that hasn't been connected to sewer. Hopefully the sewer port will be able to be located on Thursday, November 10, 2016. Thanks to the County Commission, the Brown Shoe ditch vegetation has been totally removed free of charge. There was a town hall meeting Tuesday, November 1, 2016 with 43 people in attendance. The meeting was in response to the closing of Walmart on January 20, 2017. Caruthersville I Associates owns the building and is actively seeking a tenant. Mayor McGraw has submitted names to the landlords as prospects received by the administration. Some of the things that were mentioned at the Town Hall meeting were submission of names for contacts or volunteers to serve. They would be involved in the private development along Truman, Hwy 84, East 3rd St, and E 12th St. They would also look at the development of downtown, occupancy of the Walmart building, and involvement with the Chamber of Commerce.

It has also been suggested that the city seek outside sources void of any political overtures to form an economic team that would report or request permission for incentives. The team and the city would reach out to federal, state, regional and local partners to develop an economic plan to spur economic growth in the city and surrounding communities. Counselor Dorroh stated the Mayor had the ability to appoint standing committees with the approval of the Council. Private investments coupled with federal and state resources would be tapped into to stimulate the community in order for survival.

City offices will be closed Friday, November 11, 2016 in observance of Veterans Day. The pavilion at Reynolds Park ceiling will be fixed once the plaques are installed. Terry Rushing will be checking to see when they will arrive. Mayor McGraw thanked Terry Rushing for his diligence in helping with the Brown Shoe ditch. Terry's team hauled the dirt to the old county landfill and the brush was taken to the limb pile. A permit has been issued to burn the debris. Representatives of USDA Rural Development were here October 20, 2016 for a walk through for possible funding sources in which the City and Three Rivers would have to abide by. The City will take action to be in compliance with its covenant bond agreement with the USDA once an ordinance is drafted.

Paul Shaw reported that the sewer line was completed for Papa Johns, and that the City was in compliance with DNR after an inspection report was conducted. DNR did recommend sampling stations, which will cost \$27,000 that has been budgeted for. Councilperson Harmon motion to proceed with the work order, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes

Paul Shaw also reported that the Water department assisted with a sewer project for Hayti Heights on Friday November 4, 2016.

Tony Jones reported that the bullet proof vests that were budgeted out of Asset Forfeiture have several components to consider. He will be looking at different companies to seek the best options, and

will get back to the Council with a decision. Chief Jones pointed out that there were several parents in the audience. The parents are concerned about the safety of the children at the Middle School with the traffic flow. The police department is looking at providing a one way from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. while school is in session for 16th Street. You would have to come off of Ward Avenue to drop and pick students up. Parking will be provided on both sides of 16th St. with all cars facing the same direction leaving the lane open for traffic to flow through.

Terry Rushing reported that it would cost \$1,800 to clear the fence row for the corner lot connected to French Park. Councilperson Cartee motion to approve the clearing, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes

Councilperson Cartee made mention of the City's cleaning up of the alleys and the property owners' responsibility of help keeping them cleared off. Terry Rushing reported that assistance was given to Drew Barnett and Paul Shaw with a water main issue with the Barnett subdivision. Changes have been made to the plan, but Barnett has the necessary documentation for a construction permit to submit to DNR. Rushing made contact with a resident on 9th St. that had a shed in their front yard, and they were told that it had to be moved to the side or back. Contact was made with a resident on Jefferson that has been living at the residence without water, which is a violation. The residence stated that they would have it turned on by this week. Rushing will follow up and issue an order to vacate if there's noncompliance. Assistance was given to Liberty Utilities and the Water department with the cleanup of a street break on South Ward, and putting in a new meter setter. A property on Carroll was checked after receiving a call from a council member. A claim has been filed; the process has started, and it should be in probate within the next two weeks. The limb pile will be burned as soon as the wind allows it to be blown away from the city limits. Both of the dump trucks had to be repaired, one had to have an \$1800 floor put in to compensate for the hauling of dirt. The second truck stabilizing pivot bracket broke while coming down with a load, the cost is not known as of yet. Councilperson Rodgers wanted an update of the repairs of street breaks in Ward 1. Rushing stated that sometimes the smaller jobs take as long as the bigger jobs because of interruptions. He stated that the street breaks on E. 18th St. and the manhole hasn't been forgotten. Rushing made mention of losing a manhole on E. 19th St., and it needs to be explored with camera. There are also sections on E. 20th St., the 900 block of Collins, and the 1300 block of Zaida that need to be explored with camera to determine the cause of the cave ins. Rushing will be getting quotes for explorations with the camera system.

Keith Davis reported that Buffington has begun demo on the old HVAC system at the Recreation Center. They will start this week putting in the new system. The east wall of the office window has been removed, and the brick wall has been started. Councilperson Rodgers inquired the status of the ADA table being installed in French Park. Terry Rushing stated they had plans for the ADA table along with a sidewalk leading to it. The Mayor inquired of the water fountains installation in French and England parks. It was decided to wait until spring and install near the pavilions.

Teresa Tidwell reported that she submitted the annual statistical data to the Secretary of State that showed 30,000 circulations for the fiscal year. The library will be hosting their annual Christmas Story Time on each Tuesday evening beginning November 29, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Sunday movies at the library are as follows: November 6/"Blood Diamond", November 13/CLOSED, November 19/"Away from Her", November 27/CLOSED Thanksgiving weekend.

Councilperson Bullington wanted to know when the one way would go into effect. Tony Jones stated that he would be getting with Terry Rushing about the signage, and would start announcing it immediately. Counselor Dorroh will prepare an ordinance for the next meeting, and suggested a barricade for the affected street. Councilperson Duckworth motion to approve the one way on 16th St. from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. permanently second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Cheek	Yes	Hood	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes

Charlie Jones reported that there were eight fire calls from October 18, 2016 through November 7, 2016 which are as follows: October 18, 2016, fire alarm sounding on Brown due to food left on stove; October 28, 2016 fire alarm sounding on Grand with nothing detected; October 28, 2016 fire alarm sounding on Magnolia due to burnt pizza; October 28, 2016 fire alarm sounding on E. 18th due to cooking; November 11, 2016 fire alarm sounding at Southgate Living Center due to dust from sheet rock; November 1, 2016 fire alarm scare on Emerson due to a short in TV; November 7, 2016 responded to fire on E. 13th from debris set afire on sidewalk and then responded to fire on W. Parkview due to food cooking on stove. The training for the month of October was for first aid, the month of November will be CPR.

Business from the floor; Shelby Walker commended Terry, Paul, and their crew for notifying them of the street closure for 4 hours which took less than 3 hours. With the street being a dead end it could have presented problems if there was an emergency, but they were professional. The Mayor commended Richard Lee for going out on Saturday to the Methodist Church to correct their sewer which was running abnormal during their bazaar. Mr. Manley was concerned about several houses on the 1100 block of Madison that are run down, and Terry Rushing will be looking into it. Charles Cain wanted to know if there had been any response from Walmart or petitions to keep the store open. Mr. Cain wanted it to be put on record that Walmart has bought a web company for \$3.3 billion. Mr. Cain stated that he noticed mattresses and other items at the limb pile and wanted to know where it goes. It was stated that it goes to the landfill in Dexter.

Rick Branden thanked Tony Jones for working on issues surrounding the school's traffic flow. His concern was the students that walk in the middle of the street on 16th St. Mr. Branden suggested a walkway like the High School has, which the students adhere to. Councilperson Bullington stated that a crossing guard may have to be hired to help with the one way until everybody gets use to the flow of traffic. Bullington also realizes that they need a bus loading zone, and will be working on some resolutions to get everything worked out.

There was discussion of a conversation that Mayor McGraw and Tony Jones had in the Mayor's office. There was discussion from council members about hearsays and how it affects morale. There was discussion about putting pettiness aside and working towards the common good, which has been all said before. Councilperson Hood summed it up by saying that until hearts are changed towards one another the endless cycle of combativeness will continue and the City will suffer for it. He stated that if we wanted the City to thrive that everybody would have to work together and stop the bickering.

Christina Williams wanted to know if the Mayor knew that Walmart was closing beforehand; the Mayor stated that he knew the same time as the Walmart employees were being told and was emailing the Council soon after, and letting them know of the situation.

Emma Campbell stated that she was reminded of Michael Jackson's song the "The Man in the Mirror". Start with the man in the mirror and ask him to change his ways. Walmart is gone, but something even better could come to the City. She said that this can happen only if we cast down the things that pull us apart.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Duckworth motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Merideth with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk