

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
November 6, 2017**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday November 6, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council room of the Municipal Building at which time and place the following were present:

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| Mike McGraw | Mayor |
| Takella Motton | City Clerk |
| Lawrence Dorroh | City Counselor |
| Tony Jones | Sergeant at Arms |
| Hood | Councilperson |
| Merideth | Councilperson |
| Grantham (Absent) | Councilperson |
| Rodgers | Councilperson |
| Duckworth | Councilperson |
| Bullington | Councilperson |
| Cartee | Councilperson |
| Rittenberry | 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 November 6, 2017 regular session minutes. Councilperson Merideth stated that there needed to be a correction to his motion that states “for the city to seek outside legal counsel to move forward with an impeachment hearing for Mayor Mike McGraw, instead of “Councilperson Merideth motion to seek outside legal counsel to investigate. If the allegations prove to be true, then impeachment will be asked for.” Councilperson Bullington made mention that Tom Tidwell stated that he had a petition circulating calling for a recall election not a resignation. Mr. Tidwell never mentioned a recall election; the only time a recall election came up is when Counselor Dorroh made reference to the petition as being for a recall election. It was also mentioned when Councilperson Bullington asked Counselor Dorroh to explain actions that could be taken; Counselor stated that if the allegations were true there could be a recall election or impeachment by two thirds of the City Council. Councilperson Duckworth made motion to amend the minutes of October 16, 2017, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

The next order of business was the approval of the closed session minutes, Councilperson Cartee motion to table until we go to closed session second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Councilperson Merideth motion for approval of reports and bills, second by Councilperson Cartee which resulted in the following vote:

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

Presentation of petitions, letters, and other communication; Chief Charlie Jones presented a lease agreement for fire equipment for the Council to approve. During the budget meetings the department had asked for \$82,000 for breathing apparatuses. Contact was made to Sentinel Emergency Solutions, and they stated that the equipment could be leased. The forms for the lease agreement require the Counselor to give an opinion to the lease agreement. Counselor Dorroh reviewed the lease and it's a standard form and approves. Councilperson Bullington motion to approve the lease as written, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Unfinished business; Dawn Jordan stated that there's someone that's willing to install the playground equipment at both parks for \$500 each. The concrete would cost \$100, the total cost being roughly \$1,100. Wesley Deere would have to get approval from the Park board. There a certain regulations for installment of equipment with the landscaping.

Mayor's report; with the approval of the \$25,000 grant, the Mayor is asking Counselor Dorroh to draw up a contract between the City and the Arts Council for the use of the Exchange building to provide cultural and economic benefits to the public. There will be no changes to Brantley Lane at this time, it will remain as is. There's a tree on Highland between 7th and 8th St. that's a safety issue; it's rotten at the bottom and leaning. There were 3 contactors contacted, and 2 weren't interested. Delta Tree Service proposed \$1,475 to remove the tree. It's on the City's ROW and busting up the concrete. Councilperson Bullington motion for approval, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

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

There was a hearing conducted regarding the Carnell property, and an order has been issued to demolish the property with a 30 day appeal in place for an order of stay. Recommendation is being made for Jessica Rose to fill the unexpired term of Robert Jones on the Park and Recreations board. Councilperson Duckworth motion for approval, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Republic Services will be working Friday, November 10, 2017 but City Hall will be closed. An engineering study has to be done for Moreland Drive in order to get the project underway. Councilperson Cartee motion for approval, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

There were no bidders for the Recreation roof. The contractors that did receive a bid packet were concerned that there was no scope of work to tell them what to do. There was a report that listed all the deficiencies and areas that needed to be repaired, which was in the bid packet. They were also invited to look at the roof for their assessment. After some discussion it was decided to seek an engineer for the scope of work to repair and fix the Recreation roof. Councilperson Cartee motion for approval, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Mayor McGraw asked if anyone had any idea what to charge for the 12 lots on East 3rd, East 2nd, Walker and Bushey. The Mayor had proposed \$1000 for each lot for the potential acquisition for a business. Councilperson Rodgers thought it was too low, perhaps \$2500 for each lot. Councilperson Duckworth motion to have the 12 lots appraised, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

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

The City received a contract from MODOT to be signed for the upkeep of Exit 6 for a bid of \$800

in which Councilperson Cartee tabled, and was not prepared to take off the table. "Councilperson Cartee stated he thought it was more important to have Highway U to have lights rather than pay \$800 every 14 times a year. The City should talk to MODOT about putting up lights."

Police report; Chief Jones reported that the 2 inmates that were in the County jail had been apprehended in Louisiana, and will be transported back to the County jail. There was an armed robbery at a hotel yesterday morning and the suspects were brought into custody.

Fire report; there were 6 fire calls from October 22, 2017 through November 6, 2017 as follows: 10/22/17; Fire alarm sounding on Grand Ave., 10/22/17; Fire alarm sounding at the Caruthersville Cotton Gin, 10/26/17; Vehicle fire on Laurant, 11/1/17; Gas leak on W. 12th St., 11/3/17; Trash fire on Highway H, 11/4/17; Alarm sounding on Ward Ave. The training for the month was a Safety meeting discussing proper lifting techniques, and preplanning of the Elementary school buildings. Fire fighter, Paul Shaw, attended the Missouri Emergency Services Instructor Conference in the Lake of Ozarks, MO. The roof leaks in the bays have been repaired, sealant has been spread along the south wall of the bay, and the wall will need repainting.

Terry Rushing reported on the daily operations of picking up limbs and debris. There were four 30 yard dumpsters that were dumped. The tractor was ran with the bush hog, and then had to switch to the side cutter when the tractor was inoperable. The Street sweeper was run until it blew a hydraulic line. All the repairs should be able to be done in-house. The back glass of the new dump truck has to be repaired, the operator was driving down South Ward, heard a pop, and the glass shattered. The department also assisted with a water tap for the new Bank of Missouri. The engineering agreement has to be paid by the City. There's a Sewer Extension amendment in the amount of \$20,740, Councilperson Duckworth motion for approval, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

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

There's a change order for the cross pipe east end of the drainage on W. 19th St. in the amount of \$3,350, Councilperson Duckworth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

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

There's a change order request for the Drainage project for a storm water lift station that goes from 9th St. to Maple to 7th St. in the amount of \$91,050 out of Sales Tax. Councilperson Duckworth motion for approval, second by Councilperson Cartee, which resulted in the following vote:

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

The airport had to have a timer put in for the exterior lights of the main hanger; one of the lights was repaired on the south end of the eight hangers. The airport has been approved to receive NPE funding, with \$150,000 being available as long as the base aircrafts are kept at 10 and above.

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported 15 letters were mailed to abate nuisance, and working on 2 follow ups. Ms. Fuller had a court appearance on October 26, 2017 for 2 citations. The defendant that appeared was given a \$25 fine plus court cost with the nuisance being partially abated, and the other defendant failed to appear. The partnering with Mers Goodwill to have volunteers work with Code Enforcement and Street & Sanitation has begun. The youth volunteer has been working with Street & Sanitation since November 2, 2017.

Park & Recreation; Wesley Deere reported that peewee football has ended, and all the equipment has been turned in and recertified for next year. Kickball has started, and 1st and 2nd graders are needed to sign up. Mr. Deere has been working on getting quotes from landscapers with putting in mulch around the new playground equipment. He is also starting a racquet ball league for 16 year olds and over, and will teach how to play. Councilperson Bullington made mention that David Cook would be coming back to the Recreation Center and needed to be put on the salary schedule at \$7.87/hr., and if life guarding an extra dollar would be added.

Budget report; Councilperson Bullington reported that the Finance committee had worked hard on the budget, and detailed information was provided for each fund. Any expenditure outside of the approved budget is not the Finance committee or Council responsibility.

Teresa Tidwell reported that the heat had been installed, but was having some problems. The children's opening of Mayor Sayer Christmas Village will be Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. The kickoff will began with author Maggie Claire talking to guests about the process of writing books and her photography. Ms. Tidwell invites the public not only to come out to see the lighting of the village, but also the local art that is being displayed. The last session of the Pushing the Limit will be next Tuesday, November 14, 2017, which is the book club science cafe where the weather man comes from Memphis and meets with the people.

Paul Shaw reported; that the W. 19th Street Drainage project had started. The gas main has to be lowered. They located and fixed lines that got hit. Bids were opened for the Marlar Loop project, and were awarded to MB Construction in the amount of \$209,730, the total project being \$371,600. Councilperson Cartee motion to accept the bid, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Insurance Committee; Josh Rittenberry reported that the Insurance committee had met with a representative from Colonial Life about supplemental insurance on October 26, 2017. On November 2, 2017 Councilperson Rittenberry and Councilperson Bullington had a phone conference with the representative with Colonial Life. It appears that Colonial Life offers more coverage for less money as an alternative to AFLAC. If you decide to sign up on not there a two benefits that the employee would get, a well card that offers discounts and kofe which offers financial coaching. Mayor McGraw stated that with employees being the ones that pay 100 percent of the supplemental insurance if an employee elects to stay with AFLAC they should be able to keep it. Councilperson Rittenberry recommends that Colonial Life would be able to come and interview employees for the supplemental insurance.

Safety Committee; the Safety Committee met on October 27, 2017. The department heads turned in their monthly safety meeting measures with acknowledgements, and also drug test acknowledgement forms from their staff. All accidents and incidents were deemed non- preventable, and all eligible personnel will be receiving a safety incentive as part of the safety program.

New business; Councilperson Cartee and Councilperson Bullington had questions about the City Collector's part time aide. Mayor McGraw will be giving the figures so that it could be amended to the budget.

Business from the floor; Mayor McGraw told everyone that they could speak but only one time. The instruction was given to raise their hands, state their names and he would write their names down, and then call by order. Tom Tidwell stated that he had gotten almost 250 signatures for a recall petition. Mr. Tidwell says the Mayor has gone outside of his jurisdiction at times, and abuse his authority; also putting on leave an employee without the consent or consideration of the Council. Mr. Tidwell stated that the City Council has full authority to start the impeachment process tonight according to the Missouri State statues. Mr. Tidwell asked the Council to take it into consideration to make a decision over the fiasco.

Donald Jefferies asked if a cost comparison had been done for a new roof for the Recreation rather than repairing the old one. He also inquired of taxes collected on a hotel, and why it's a problem with the information being a public record of the ownership. Counselor Dorroh stated that there had been some changes in ownership over the past year; there were operating groups and owners of the property. He's trying to track down who had ownership over the various time frames.

Robert Jones addressed the Council by asking at what point have they done anything besides obstruct him to do anything productive for the City. Mr. Jones asked if the Council had supported the Mayor in anything for the City. Councilperson Duckworth stated he supported the Mayor in cleaning up the alleys and trimming of the trees. Since the Mayor is supposed to be such an ineffective leader, Robert asked what have the Council has proposed. Councilperson Hood stated that he had on several occasions proposed exploring and looking for business to come into the area. He supports not only the Mayor but he supports anyone that would bring in business whether it be by selling of land or leasing land to make it happen. Mr. Jones stated that in all his 45 years that he hadn't seen any business to come to the City, and some of the members had been on the Council for years. Mr. Jones asked if any laws had been broken, derelict of duties, other than allegations, and a law suit. The Mayor is being tried in the court of public opinion on the basis of morality vs immorality.

Mary Beth Hudgins wanted to know how she could go about filing a grievance against the Mayor. She wrote a check in March for rental of the Armory, but it didn't go through the bank until September. She wasn't notified of the insufficient check from the City, she knew nothing until her father-in-law told her. Ms. Hudgins was told to bring the cash back to the City Clerk once she came to the office, and she said she would come back after lunch with the money. Counselor Dorroh asked why she would file a grievance against the Mayor, Ms. Hudgins stated that whoever she needed to file it against. Ms. Hudgins also stated that according to her bank that the check in question is a stale dated check.

Doug McDowell inquired about developing a program to give security advice to the different churches in light of the recent church shootings. Chief Tony Jones stated that Jerry Hudgens has gone to class for that type of training, and that he could be contacted.

Charles Motton passed out a statement made by Tom Tidwell on social media "Just curious if cotton were black would there be a problem?" Mr. Motton stated that it was blatant racism, and that there was a problem within the city. There's pretense as to wanting to get along and work together, but with statements like that nothing could be further from the truth. Motton made mention that he had been in meeting and pitched business ideas, such as a recycling center, Community Wal Mart, or a Loves, but some members of the Council prefer to get on facebook and topix to say what they really want to say. Motton referenced to the paper that Tom Tidwell passed out about the process of the removal of elected and appointed officials as being malarkey, and propaganda at its finest. Motton stated it was a dog and bell whistle to get confusion going on in the city. Mr. Motton stated that if we all got together instead of bickering and get some businesses into the community the town may we live instead of die.

Luther Robinson held up a newspaper and stated that everything in the paper was negativity tainted towards the Mayor, as if there's a personal vendetta against the Mayor. Mr. Robinson made reference to Christina Williams stealing from the Chamber, which she said was an allegation.

Councilperson Bullington asked the Mayor to talk with the economic team about some of the ideas that Charles Motton talked about and to see if it was feasible and have them to report back to the Council.

Steve Motton stated that he didn't wave the Mayor's flag, that he was one of his biggest prodders. He stated that the Mayor have his issues like we all do.

Counselor Dorroh stated that the paper that Mr. Tidwell passed out didn't apply to 3rd class cities, that it was for 4th class cities, but there was a statue that is almost identical.

Mayor McGraw drew up an ordinance for elected officials for voluntary drug testing. After discussion ensued, the Mayor withdrew the ordinance from review at this time. Councilperson Bullington motion to go into closed session for the purpose of personnel, litigation, and discussion of the closed session minutes, second by Councilperson Rodgers which resulted in the following vote:

Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes

Bullington
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Yes

Cartee

Yes

Rittenberry

Yes

Upon returning from closed session, Councilperson Cartee motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Hood with all in favor, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

DRAFT