

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE**  
**October 16, 2017**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday October 16, 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
Merideth	Councilperson
Grantham	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	Councilperson
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Hood	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 2, 2017 regular session minutes. Councilperson Merideth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

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

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

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

Presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications; Dawn Jordan presented to the Council a proposal of installing playground equipment that her organization has been awarded for the England and French parks. She will get back with the Council once the cost has been determined for the installation of the playground equipment.

Unfinished business; Councilperson Cartee made motion for \$137, 200 to be procured from the Sales Tax Capital Improvement fund for the Marlar project, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Mayor's report; Jim Rosen of PACE Properties spoke with the President of Goodwill Inc. of Missouri, but they're not interested at this time with the property. The DRA grant was approved for \$25,000 for the Exchange building, in which only 16 were awarded. Mayor McGraw will be attending the rate hearing in February to voice opposition of the \$9.51 per month increase proposed by Liberty Utilities. Brantley Lane was surveyed and the lines were marked with flags. Edward Reeves continue to work on McCoy's Salvage through the court system. The Carnell property scheduled hearing will be towards the end of the month. Bid opening is October 24, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. for the Marlar project. Terry Rushing will be working on clearing some of the alleys. Mayor McGraw recommended the reappointment of Thomas Guest to the Parks and Recreation board. Councilperson Bullington motion for approval, second by Councilperson Grantham, which resulted in the following vote:

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

The Mayor has requested that the Street and Alley committee submit recommendations for the placement of the 10 LED lights donated by Ameren. Ameren will be installing the one light on Shady Lane and on South Ward.

Chief Tony Jones reported that the two escaped inmates at the County jail were spotted on camera going north of the levee. One was charged with kidnapping and the other with two counts of first degree murder. Chief Jones asked the community to be vigilant and not to hesitate to call if they suspect anything. Councilperson Bullington stated that the school would be on total lockdown until the inmates are captured.

Fire report; there was one fire call from October 14, 2017 through October 16, 2017 on County Road 362, which was a result of a gas leak in a valve. Councilperson Hood stated that the fire department had the opportunity to purchase a 1984 Ford fire ladder truck. The ladder truck is 50 feet, owned by the City of Dexter, purchase price \$20,000. There's a \$600 annual ladder testing fee, and \$1000 is budgeted for maintenance. If purchased the large hose would be left on the truck, which would cost \$6000 to purchase. There was discussion of the purchase of the truck being a good deal, the potential cost for upkeep, being cautious about budget spending, and a ladder truck being accessible within a 5 mile radius. Councilperson Hood motion for the purchase of the ladder truck, second by Councilperson Rittenberry, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Terry Rushing reported on the day to day pick up of limbs and debris. The department demolished 3 structures within 8 days. They loaded four 30 yard construction dumpsters at the limb pile. The department had trees trimmed on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Ralph Clayton Road, and several trees were cut down in the curve of DAEOC Road. Assistance was given to Water & Sewer at 16<sup>th</sup> and Edwards, and assistance with the chili cook off. Information was updated for the base aircraft required for federal funding. One electrical inspection was done and there are 7 building permits to be issued.

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported sending out 10 letters, and 3 were abated. If a couple of the properties aren't abated a citation will be issued.

Cemetery board; there was a meeting October 12, 2017 and discussion was as follows. A family member of William Clyde Sellers requested that his military marker be repaired or replaced, and the board agreed that it was the family's responsibility. P.G. Maners resignation was accepted effective January 1, 2018. Mayor McGraw will prepare a request for bids for someone to dig graves. Going forward the only time a pauper grave can be requested is by the coroner, and the board will make the decision as to whether or not to grant the request. Councilperson Bullington asked if the corrected minutes were done or available. Melissa McClain stated that the minutes had been corrected, and they would be provided for the next meeting. Ms. McClain stated the biggest concern for the board was the inability of the City having its own records for the location of graves. The mapping of the graves would cost \$13,000 for the software and there's a modest annual fee for maintenance. The board is asking the City to consider purchasing the software, so that the City could have its own records. The board would still apply for grants, but January 1, 2018 is fast approaching. The system that the City has supplies the name, plat, block, lot, and grave number, but not the actual location in the cemetery. Councilperson Cartee requested that more companies be looked into, and there was discussion as to whether or not anyone had actually asked H. S. Smith for the records. Councilperson Cartee motion to table until there are further findings, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Park & Recreation; Wesley Deer reported starting October 30, 2017 there will be aquatics aerobics on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$2.00 extra for daily admissions and \$15.00 extra for monthly admissions. Kickball signups are ongoing, and there have been 20 to 25 signups already.

Teresa Tidwell reported that the air conditioning is working great at the Library, but the heat exchanger on one of the units has rust holes, unattended it could cause carbon monoxide poisoning. The Library was awarded a grant for I pads, which will be taken out to local daycares, and used for the

younger children. Next Tuesday will be Halloween story time. Discussion ensued about bids for the library heating unit. Contacts will be made to local companies for bids on the heating unit for the Library.

Paul Shaw reported that the Scada equipment was in, and there would be meetings next week for the set up. The department assisted with traffic with the inclement weather.

Business from the floor; Tom Tidwell read the oath of office for elected and or appointed city officials. He stated that he had never seen as much dissention and turmoil within the City. With the allegations taken against the City, Mr. Tidwell doesn't feel as though the Mayor has lived up to his oath of office. He asked for the Mayor's resignation or a leave of absence while court proceedings take place. He stated that he had a petition going for the resignation of the Mayor. Counselor Dorroh stated that there was pending litigation regarding alleged conduct of the Mayor and the City would not comment on the allegations pertained in the petition. The City is being defended in the case by the Spradling and Spradling law firm. Counselor Dorroh stated that there were no statutory standard provisions for an administrative leave status; any administrative leave would have to be consensual. If the allegations prove to be true then there could be a recall election or impeachment by two thirds of the City council. There was discussion among the Council members of the Mayor voluntarily stepping down or taking a leave, Mayor McGraw didn't comment on any of the comments that were made by the Council being under legal advice.

Councilperson Cartee motion for closed session for litigation, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Upon returning from closed session, Chief Tony Jones introduced the two cameramen in the audience that are doing a documentary on small town Americana. Mayor McGraw opened the floor to the Council. Councilperson Merideth motion to seek outside legal counsel to investigate. If the allegations prove to be true, then impeachment will be asked for. Councilperson Cartee second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Councilperson Duckworth motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Cartee with all in favor.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor