

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
May 17, 2021**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday May 17, 2021 in the Council room of the Municipal Building at which time and place the following were present:

Sue Grantham	Mayor
Takella Motton	City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh	City Counselor
Tony Jones	Sergeant at Arms
Rodgers	Councilperson
Glass (Absent)	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Lyons	Councilperson
Cheek	Councilperson
Grable	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Spence	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 regular session minutes for May 3, 2021. Councilperson Lyons motion for approval, second by Councilperson Spence all in favor, with Councilperson Grable abstaining.

Councilperson Lyons motion for approval of the closed session minutes of May 3, 2021, second by Councilperson Hood all in favor, with Councilperson Grable abstaining.

Councilperson Hood motion for approval of reports and bills, second by Councilperson Lyons with all in favor.

Mayor Grantham received a letter from the Missouri Department of Economic Development stating that the application for the Mitigation – General Infrastructure project had been approved in the amount of \$2,499,950. The funds will be geared towards sewer liners that weren't covered by FEMA. The City also has applied for a grant for pavement and drainage that we haven't heard from as of yet.

Police report; Chief Tony Jones reported that he along with Councilperson Hood and Rodgers along with other people in the community are going to have meetings to discuss the violence that's occurring in the community, and try to come up with a plan to curb the violence. The crimes affect the whole community because it spills over into the schools, recreation, etc. There have been shootings into churches, cars, and apartments, and the police are doing what they can; they don't want anybody to get hurt or killed. Some of the community leaders have been trying to reach out to the youth by planning events like Dads and Men in the Park. Councilperson Bullington made mention that the school system is creating support systems by hiring next year a school based Social Worker which is also a licensed Mental Health Therapist, and a Behavioral Interventionist which is also a licensed Substance Abuse Therapist.

Fire report; Fire calls from May 6, 2021 through May 17, 2021 are as follows: 5/6/21; Fire alarm sounding due to cooking on Zaida, 5/13/21; Structure fire with moderate damage on Ward, 5/14/21; Extrication requested by PCSD 911 on Hwy 64 with occupant being out upon arrival, 5/16/21; Structure fire a total loss on Walker, 5/16/21; Grass and brush fire causing a smoke hazard across I55/412. Four fire inspections have occurred for the month. The annual maintenance checks and certification of all the pumps were performed with no major issues being found. J & M Displays will be conducting the fireworks again this year Sunday July 4, 2021 at 9:15 p.m. This year there will not be any selling or shooting of fireworks within the City limits due to the disaster last year.

Public Works; Paul Shaw reported that he was still waiting on the transformers, and when it gets in the 3rd Street Plant will be operable. The paving is being dug out on sections of Ward and Carleton to be repaved with other areas being considered next. Advertising for a Bookkeeper/Accountant position will take place that will include a salary range dependent upon experience.

Park & Recreation; Lamonte Bell reported that the metal detector was received, a possible new outlet may have to take place, and it will be put together by the weekend. There are 15 trees available for French park, and the Tree Board is looking to get more donations so that the trees can be placed strategically to prevent driving through the Park. Placement on the back end where the goals are would also be ideal, and the trees could be dedicated in the honor of someone. Mr. Bell presented a report for the Armory rentals as follows: January 2021; Dates 1/28/21, 1/29/21, and 1/30/21 rental \$400.00 for coin show, February 2021; Dates 2/13/21 and 2/14/21 rental \$300.00 for party; March 2021; Dates 3/26/21 and 3/27/21 rental \$300.00 for wedding reception, April 2021; Dates 4/23/21 and 4/24/21 rental \$300.00 for celebration; Total amount being \$1,600.00. Councilperson Rodgers inquired about gravel or chat being put down that had been discussed a while back about the drive thru on the far east of the Park. Paul Shaw stated that they could put some gravel down.

Collector report; Paige Gillock reported City Collections from April 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021 are as follows: Real Estate/\$2,768.97, Personal Property/\$3,791.05, Drainage Districts/\$250.00, Miscellaneous/\$2,492.46, Total Taxes \$8,460.96, Total Collections plus interest and fees \$9,302.48. City Collections from May 1, 2021 through May 17, 2021 are as follows: Real Estate/\$3,317.65, Personal Property/\$234.44, Miscellaneous/\$410.00, Total Taxes \$3,532.90, Total Collections plus interest and fees \$3,962.09. Ms. Gillock also reported sending out liquor license renewals.

Insurance committee; Councilperson Spence sent a text to Joyce Ryerson with Colonial Life letting her know that she was the new chairperson, and was available to help in any way.

Economic Development; Jana Merideth inquired about the new logo signage for the City, and would like to divide the remaining signs up among the Wards. With July being a tough month to hold meetings Richard Proffer suggested having the next quarterly meeting for the Local Leadership Team for August 24, 2021 at the Public Library which will be from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Shad Burner the Southeast Business Private Manager for Missouri Economic Development will be attending the meeting; zoom will be available. The Clean Up Committee will be enlisting Lisa Gardner as Co-Chair, they will begin promoting videos and telling what has been done towards economic development. Workforce Development primary focus was on the Soft Skill Workshop and no one signed up for the classes. Partnership is being established with DAEOC, and hopefully participation will be established. Ms. Merideth stated that it's imperative that Caruthersville become a workforce grant community, as of now

we're at 96%. Bio Ag of St. Louis is in the position to hon in on the agriculture aspects with farming technology for the community. There will be a brunch in November to discuss the prospects. Downtown Tourism focus is on Fiber Optic, they will need 1,000 to 1,500 people to register in showing interest, to be able to come to town, as of now there's 354 people that have signed up. There has been constant contact with Logan Meeks concerning the Exchange Building. Its grant season and they're going for the ultimate funding for the visionary plan. Councilperson Bullington made mention A2H has been working with the City for two years, and will be sending an invoice in which the Arts Council has agreed to pay. With the work being primarily being done for the City of the rebranding, Councilperson Bullington asked the Council to consider helping to pay the invoice.

New Business; The Casino bill passed the House and Senate, and will be up for the Governor to sign off on. There's a lady in town who may remain nameless, but does a lot of volunteering at the Library and her church. She also paints the curbs and stripes in the streets and parking lots of the City. She has just recently painted the polls of the old Brown Shoe building in preparation of a new business. If you see her volunteering around in town give her big thanks. Jana Merideth commended Mayor Grantham at representing the City well in her testimony for the passage of the bill for the Casino to be on land. Mayor Grantham entertained a motion to go into closed session for the discussion of property. Councilperson Bullington made the motion, second by Councilperson Lyons, which resulted in the following vote:

Rodgers	Yes	Bullington	Yes
Lyons	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Spence	Yes		

Upon returning from closed session, Mayor Grantham introduced bids for the repairs of the Medic One building. Lee Lowman gave a bid of \$11,244.00, Servpro had an incomplete bid, and Gibbens Professional Services bid was \$10,791.56. Councilperson Lyons motion to accept the lowest bid from Gibbens, second by Councilperson Grable, which resulted in the following vote:

Rodgers	Yes	Bullington	Yes
Lyons	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Grable	Yes	Hood	Yes
Spence	Yes		

Councilperson Lyons motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Hood with all in favor the meeting adjourning at 6:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk