

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE  
May 21, 2018**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday May 21, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in the Court room of the Municipal Court 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
Grable	Councilperson
Hood (Absent)	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Lyons	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 May 7, 2018 regular session minutes. Councilperson Duckworth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Rodgers which resulted in the vote:

Grable	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

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

Grable	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Councilperson Hood addressed a letter to the Council concerning the GED program that has been operating out of the Cupples building by Elenore Taylor. Councilperson Hood's concern was with Ms. Taylor's students being within walking distance to the location, and finding a location comparable. The Mayor was looking at finding Ms. Taylor another location due to the high utilities. The Armory was too far, and the Mayor was considering the Recreation Center. In the meantime Councilperson Hood had spoken to J. J. Bullington and David Fullhart and both expressed interest with aiding Ms. Taylor with

a location for the students to attend their classes. Ms. Taylor stated that she had been with the GED program since 2010, and talked about adult education lending itself towards a viable workforce. There have been cutbacks over the years, and competing with urban areas has cut into the grant process, but Ms. Taylor and Rose McKillip continue to aid students in getting their GED. The nearest adult program is in Cape Girardeau, MO. Ms. Taylor program has been servicing the surrounding areas, and has partnered with Mers Goodwill, Job Service, and Probation and Parole. As of now they are operating off donations. Mayor Grantham commended Ms. Taylor on the job she's doing and its importance to the community. Eugene Meyer with Job Service stressed the importance of high school equivalence in today's labor force. There are also job requirements in order to receive public assistance in a lot of areas, and you have to have a high school education or high school equivalence in order to get a job.

Randy Guest addressed the Council about software for The City Collector that would give equal footing as the County. The software would cost \$5000 per year, \$1,250 a quarter; even with it being installed late the price would be the same because of the installation. The only hardware that would have to be purchased would be a printer, and training would take place for implementation of the software. Andy Terry with Clear Basin has the Assessor's account, and the price was negotiated for the City with it being a smaller entity. The program is cloud based with security measures in place, and the set up would take 2 months to move data from the Assessor's office to the City Collector. The contract would be a 5 year agreement with the billing not occurring to the next fiscal year July 1, 2018. The software would eliminate a lot of steps along with scanners, which can be utilized. Currently the City Collector has to do everything manually; the software would offer checks and balances. After some discussion about the agreement, the roll out date, and efficiency of the program there was a motion to table by Councilperson Merideth. Councilperson Rodgers second the motion which resulted in the following vote:

Grable	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Police report; Chief Tony Jones reported that a shooting occurred over the weekend. The City, County, and Highway Patrol are working on the case. There is a suspect that a warrant has been issued on, and there are 2 more suspects that should be apprehended by the end of the day.

Fire report; Chief Charlie Jones reported fire calls from May 10, 2018 through May 21, 2018 are as follows: 5/10/18; Vehicle fire with minor damage on Truman, 5/12/18; Empty boxes burning in a field off Route U & D Extended, 5/14/18; Electrical line arched due to a vehicle accident, 5/17/18; Structure fire on Highway 84 mutual aid request, 5/17/18; Structure fire with moderate damage on East 13<sup>th</sup> St., 5/19/18; Small grass fire at overpass on Route Y. There have been 53 fire calls to date compared to 43 last year. Rural fire subscription renewals will be mailed out Friday May 25, 2018 to all members. Presently there are 129 members, with 10 members joining since January of 2018. Anyone wishing to join for the 2018-2019 year can do so before July 1, 2018. The cost is \$100 per year.

Street & Sanitation/Airport/ Building Inspection report; Councilperson Duckworth gave thanks to the Helen Schultz Garden Club and businesses for the donation of mulch for landscaping at Reynolds Park. At the airport Weights & Measures checked the fuel system and everything was in order. The

airport courtesy car will be going out for repairs for a recall notice. The dump truck is still down, waiting on the hydraulic pump to come in. The spring cleanup is done, and the normal pickup of limbs and debris is ongoing. The department finished washing sidewalks at Reynolds Park, cleaned out the gutters at City Hall, and cut and trimmed Right of Ways. Several houses were inspected for occupancy, 2 notices were issued and an order to vacate and repair; there were also 2 building permits issued.

Code Enforcement report; Sonya Fuller reported on mailing out 23 letters and is currently working on 10 more letters. She has also been talking to property owners about relocating their derelict cars. The scrapping that some property owners have in their yards has been emphasized to be move to the back of the property or put on a trailer until they haul it off. The main focus at this time is getting property owners to mow. There was a question about what happens after a citation is issued. The property owner goes to court once the citation is issued. If nothing is abated they will be fined the full ticket. If part of the nuisance is abated they City will work with them. The same nuisance can also continue to be cited if there's no abatement of nuisance. Counselor Dorroh stated that generally once it gets to court a fine will be issued, and if they still fail to abate, a new citation will be issued for each day they fail to abate the nuisance.

Water & Sewer; Paul Shaw reported that the Water & Sewer Committee, Finance Committee, Doug McDowell, and John Chittenden had met to discuss different avenues to move forward with the water project. Paul Shaw and the Mayor will be going to a workshop tomorrow in Poplar Bluff where there will be discussion of infrastructure of water systems and the financing there of. Fire hydrants will be flushed on June 25, 2018, and the water will change colors.

Park & Recreation/Armory; Wes Deere reported that they're going forward with the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls volleyball signups which is \$30; the softball is over. The pool summer hours will be from 12:00-4:00 pm. starting May 29, 2018. The women's' volleyball league is halfway done, and baseball and softball is still going on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. There will be a coed volleyball tournament that will be playing at the Hayti gym June 2, 2018, the cost is \$100 per team.

Library; Teresa Tidwell reported that their calendar of events has been installed on the web site; it will be under community calendar on the site. If you google Caruthersville Public Library it will automatically come up. The calendar has all the groups in town, and there's the ability to add events as needed. The summer reading program starts May 29, 2018, and they will be getting their reading logs, book bags, and ice cream on that day. The summer reading is 8 weeks and will meet 3 days a week, five books will be assigned, and a prize will be awarded.

Budget report; Councilperson Bullington made mention of the checks being held at the Collector's office and the effect that it had on the budget, and reiterated the General Fund balance being in deficit spending also caused by being over budgeted. It's imperative to be conservative with the spending. The Finance Committee will be meeting tentatively June 5, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. to have the first budget meeting.

Mayor Grantham reported that Jim Rosen with the Wal-Mart property contacted her right away after she took office. There are 2 prospects for the space, Rural King and Buckheit, and she will be kept informed of any movement. The Mayor has formed an Economic Advisory Committee, which consist of Julie Coppage, Tyler Sullivan, Jeff Montgomery, Byron Luber, Dustin Price, Jamie Jones, Jana and Baughn

Meredith, Mike Bernard, Paige Gillock, and Brian Taylor. They will be meeting frequently, and there's a larger Committee that will meet quarterly and will consist of the people that go to Jefferson City and that is on the Economic Advisory Committee. There's also going to be a Beautification Committee that will be beautifying the entrances into the City, and hopefully build a new sign on Ward Avenue. Jana Merideth will be taking donations for the endeavor, and donations will be tax deductible if you make the check out to the Helen Schultz Garden Club. The Bank of Missouri grand opening is Wednesday May 23, 2018; citizens are welcomed to come out.

Counselor Dorroh introduced Bill 2018-04 for a special election to be held to consider one half of one per cent sales tax for economic development for improvement of the City's waste water system which would be placed on the August 2018 ballot. Councilperson Duckworth motion for the first reading by title only, second by Councilperson Rodgers as follows:

**BILL NO. 2018-04**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-04**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI, IMPOSING A SALES TAX FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSAL TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY FOR THEIR APPROVAL AT A SPECIAL ELECTION CALLED AND TO BE HELD IN HE CITY ON AUGUST 7, 2018.**

Councilperson Duckworth motion for the second reading of Bill No. 2018-04, second by Councilperson Duckworth. The question before the Council is now will Bill No. 2018-04 to be known as Ordinance 2018-04 pass and become law, which resulted in the following vote on said question to wit:

Grable	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Lyons	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes		

Councilperson Duckworth motion to go into closed session for the purposes of personnel and legal matters, second by Councilperson Rodgers, with all in favor.

Upon returning from closed session; there was further discussion about the software for the Collector's office and its need, and possibly something in like matter for the Clerk's office, by keeping some things in house rather than for the accountants having to do the basic accounting. If there's software in place then rather wait on the accountants the City would be able pull up financial information, and department heads would be able to have it readily available and perhaps get a better grasp on the budget. Mayor Grantham stated that she wanted the Finance Committee to look at every bill that they sign off on.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Duckworth motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Bullington with all being favor, the meeting adjourning at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor

DRAFT