

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE  
September 24, 2018**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday September 24, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. 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
Lyons	Councilperson
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Grable	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson

There wasn't a quorum for the regular session meeting of September 17, 2018; therefore the regular session was rescheduled for September 24, 2018. 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 Public Hearing minutes of September 4, 2018 Councilperson Duckworth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Lyons with all in favor.

Councilperson Bullington motion for approval of the regular session minutes of September 4, 2018 second by Councilperson Lyons with all in favor.

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

Mayor Grantham presented letters received by the City of Caruthersville. H. S. Smith sent a letter stating they would open/close graves in Little Prairie Cemetery for \$700 per grave, which is the same as Russ Riggs was charging. Delta Tree Service had sent a letter a while back, and their price is the same, \$749.50 per mowing for the upkeep and mowing of Little Prairie Cemetery. There was also a letter received from Larry Shelby complimenting Roger McCaig on removal of debris. Mayor Grantham and Jana Merideth went to Davenport Iowa to the Mississippi River Cities and Town Initiative. It began in 2012 which consist of mayors of cities and towns that are on the Mississippi River. Mayor Diane Sayre was one of the first two females that joined in 2012, and since then there have been 15 female Mayors among the 86 Mayors, with Mayor Grantham being the 86<sup>th</sup> Mayor to join.

Counselor Dorroh read a letter from Terry Rushing giving his two weeks' notice with his decision

to resign from all his positions with the City except the Fire Department. Terry Rushing gave a verbal resignation to the Mayor on September 12, 2018. Mr. Rushing's last working day will be September 26, 2018, with his official last day being October 2, 2018. Councilperson Duckworth motion to accept the resignation, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Counselor Dorroh recommended the Council to approve the decision to accept the transfer of the opening and closing of graves from Russ Riggs back to H. S. Smith. Councilperson Bullington motion for approval, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

The City is currently charging \$600 for opening and closing of graves and is being charged \$700, and in the past the City was at least making \$100 for each opening and closing of graves. Councilperson Bullington motion to raise the opening and closing of graves to \$750, second by Councilperson Hood which resulted in the following vote:

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

Police report; Councilperson Bullington reported that the agreement between the school and the Police department is up for renewal and suggests that they add another officer at the same rate of \$34,750 per year paid by the school. The original agreement is that the Police department would provide the uniform, equipment, and health insurance. Councilperson Grable motion for approval of the proposed agreement for the School Resource Officer, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Fire report; Councilperson Hood reported the fire calls from September 4, 2018 through September 24, 2018 as follows: 9/6/18; An 18 wheeler had a tire to blow out and trailer caught on fire on I55/412, 9/8/18; Fire alarm sounding due to steam on Bushey, 9/11/18; Fire alarm sounding at Head Start with nothing detected, 9/15/18; Fire alarm sounding at Head Start with nothing detected, 9/17/18; Structure fire on State Hwy 164 & Route H east of Steele, 9/19/18; Fire alarm sounding at R3 School with

nothing detected, 9/20/18; Shrubs on fire next to building on Carleton with minor damage, 9/24/18; Fire alarm sounding due to baking on East 10<sup>th</sup> St. Fire drills were conducted at the Caruthersville School District on Monday September 10, 2018, and Head Start on September 17, 2018. Michael Coleman, Jerry Hudgens, Jess Cagle, and Charlie Jones attended a Fire Investigator course in St. Charles, MO on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 for continuing education credits for recertification.

Street and Sanitation; Councilperson Duckworth requested a committee meeting for Monday October 1, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported mailing out 14 letters, and hand delivering 3. A complaint was made to the Police department and another complaint will be made this week for code violations. The door hangers are being continued, and the Mers Goodwill volunteer is still working, with 2 additional volunteers being added this week.

Water & Sewer; Paul Shaw reported that the meters had been changed out for Trinity, the Court House, and the Middle School. Mr. Shaw attended the National Rural Water Association conference last week, and the MWR Association which the City is a part of was acknowledged as being the best state association at the national level. Paul Shaw presented the Council with a quote from Master Meter for the Allegro Fixed System budgeted for \$40,000. The quote comes in at \$35,777.78 for the meters. Councilperson Bullington motion for approval second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Councilperson Bullington asked if the Water department was set up for the rate increases to be on the bills starting October 1, 2018, and Paul Shaw stated that they were.

Park & Recreation; Wes Deere reported that there will be a Pee Wee football game Tuesday September 24, 2018 at Hayti, and they won over New Madrid last Tuesday. Mr. Deere had talked with Counselor Dorroh, and has the specifications for the bid. The exhaust motor was fixed by Harold Hampton; therefore it will not have to be included in the bid.

Library report; Teresa Tidwell reported that last week she went to the Association of Rural and Small Libraries National Conference in Springfield, IL. There were 750 Library Directors from 49 states, and Ms. Tidwell attended a pre-conference on health. The Library also has been awarded approval for a course called Geri-Fit, focusing on those 65 and older. The program will check the abilities of the elderly before and after, which is done in a chair with small weights via video. The library staff is still focusing on the job force, and moving somewhat away from literacy.

Budget report; Councilperson Bullington reported that the Council should keep an eye on the Sales Tax reports; with this year being the first year without any Sales Tax revenue from Wal-Mart.

Insurance report; Councilperson Rittenberry reported that the City should be expecting \$1,206 from the worker’s compensation policy, after an audit was conducted.

Mayor Grantham presented the Council with a list of properties that the City owns, and potential quick sales, and others that needed to be held onto. The Council will look over the properties and discuss at a later date. Councilperson Bullington wanted to know if the properties had to be offered through a bid process to the tax payers before offering to the neighbors first hand. Counselor Dorroh stated that the City has a policy for the neighbors being offered the property first at a fair market value determined by the Council. The bid process would occur if the neighbors weren’t interested.

Counselor Dorroh went over a letter that he composed for any potential business interests wanting to relocate to Caruthersville, MO in which incentives are offered by the City, and incentives that may be offered by the State of MO. One incentive is the Urban Redevelopment Corporations Law that provides real property tax abatement for improvements made to property that is declared blighted by the City Council. It authorizes a maximum 10 year period in which real property taxes apply to land only followed by a 15 year period in which taxes are limited to 50% of land and improvements. The amount of the abatement could also be by payments in lieu of taxes.

Another incentive is the Community Improvement District Act that can be utilized in a blighted area to provide a funding mechanism for improvements to the property, including private investments where the property is utilized for retail. This is achieved through an additional sales tax within the property district, and is not a city wide tax.

In addition to the financial incentives the City of Caruthersville will make every effort towards any venture a success. Zoning changes could be streamlined, and any specifics needed for the endeavor could be explored by the City of Caruthersville. State wide there are brochures that can be obtained to give to potential business interests. Councilperson Bullington motion to authorize the Mayor to send the letter to any potential business interest second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Jana Merideth reported that there will be an Economic Advisory Committee meeting Tuesday at City Hall, and an Economic Development Council meeting Tuesday October 9, 2018. There a couple of webinars that Ms. Merideth and the Mayor have registered for that will be giving updates as to where the State stands after Governor Greiten’s departure. November 1, 2018 Daniel Cantana will be here in the City for a luncheon meeting followed by a tour of the City. The Mayor and Ms. Merideth will be attending a Missouri Economic Development workshop in Cape Girardeau, MO, in which Mr. Cantana strongly encouraged attendance. While at the conference in Iowa, contact was made with the American Queen Cruise Lines and the Viking Cruise Lines. The Advisory Committee is working on a campaign for the November 6, 2018 ballot making sure that the public knows that there’s no additional tax. November 15, 2018 will mark the first City Economic Development Initiative with all business being invited to a luncheon at the Armory to brainstorm and partner together. The Arts Council has been

working on the Exchange Building, and presented a picture by Gary Lucy and Penny Brantley that will be hung in the building once it's ready.

Bob Lazenby made mention of the Homecoming game Friday night in support of the Tigers.

The Mayor presented a hand blown glass of the Mississippi River that was given by a company that has people to come and create images with hand blown glass while attending the conference in Iowa.

Councilperson Rodgers was concerned about the ditch that has been dug on 18<sup>th</sup> and Belle, in which there's been a lot of complaints. The ditch is at a lower elevation than the drain pipe; the water goes in and sets. There will be discussion of the matter at the Street & Sanitation Committee meeting to bring before the Council to correct the problem.

Teresa Tidwell announced that the Pemiscot County Historical Society will be honoring 5 nominees for the Wall of Distinction Friday September 28, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. as follows: Robert Culler, J. Thos. Markey, Charlie Jones, Cleat Stanfill, and D. J. Merideth Jr.

Councilperson Bullington commended Mayor Grantham and Jana Merideth on all their efforts for economic development.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Hood motion to adjourn second by Councilperson Bullington, the meeting adjourning at 5:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

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City Clerk

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Mayor