

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CARTHAGE, MISSOURI
August 9, 2022

The Carthage City Council met in regular session on the above date in the Council Chambers at 6:30 P.M. with Mayor Dan Rife presiding. Fire Chief Ryan Huntley gave the invocation and Police Chief Bill Hawkins led the flag salute.

The following Council Members answered roll call: Mark Elliff, Robin Harrison, Brandi Ensor, David Armstrong, Trudy Blankenship, Ceri Otero, Robin Blair, Alan Snow, and Ed Hardesty. City Administrator Greg Dagnan was present; City Attorney Nate Dally was absent.

The following Department Heads were present: Police Chief Bill Hawkins, Fire Chief Ryan Huntley, Public Works Director Zeb Carney, Parks & Recreation Director Mark Peterson, Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox, and City Clerk Miranda Deal.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2022 Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no citizens present during Citizen's Participation.

Mr. Snow reported that the Budget Ways & Means Committee met on August 8 and approved the property tax levy that appears in C.B. 22-38, there was no increase in rates this year. He also reported that sales tax numbers were doing great and were up 48% from the same month last year. Traci gave the committee a capital project list from the previous fiscal year that showed the projects that were budgeted and what was expended for each one. The next meeting will be September 12.

Mrs. Harrison reported that the Committee on Insurance, Audit and Claims met on this date and approved the claims. Traci reported that there was currently one large claim on the City health insurance, and that 60% of the claims over the last year were for employee dependents. The City's life insurance and long term disability provider, Mutual of Omaha, will be increasing their rates by 60%. Traci and Michael will be looking into other providers for those two benefits. The next meeting is scheduled for August 23.

Mr. Snow reported that the Public Safety Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for August 15.

Ms. Otero reported that the Public Services Committee is between meetings with the next meeting scheduled for August 16.

Mr. Armstrong reported that the Public Works Committee met on August 2 and discussed C.B. 22-37 and the Resolutions that are on the agenda. The committee also discussed removing 4 handicap parking spaces around the square and using them as regular parking spaces. Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to remove 4 handicap parking spaces and turn them into regular parking. Motion carried. Mr. Armstrong also explained what the change order in Resolution 1974 was for. The Myers

Park Round-About was the prototype for the area and they changes will soften the curbs around it. He also mentioned that Resolution 1975 would express the City's support for the renovations of the Deerfield apartments that are located south of town behind the Fairview Christian Church. The next meeting will be on September 6.

Special Committee and Board Liaison Reports were given by Mr. Elliff for the Jasper County Commission, and Ms. Ensor for the Library Board. Ms. Otero mentioned to the Council that Texas Roadhouse was donating 10% of your total food purchases to the Carthage Humane Society tonight if you mentioned you were there to support them. Ms. Blankenship reported on her attendance to the Kellogg Lake Bridge dedication.

Mayor Rife reported on Marian days and his attendance at the Kellogg Lake Bridge dedication ceremony.

During reports from Council Members, Mr. Armstrong discussed the Council's obligation to appoint the Planning, Zoning, & Historic Preservation liaison. Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to appoint Mark Elliff to the Planning, Zoning, & Historic Preservation Commission. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 8 yeas. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero, and Snow. Mr. Elliff abstained. Mr. Hardesty read a letter he received from a citizen regarding a skunk problem in their ward. The Animal Control Officer does not handle skunks or other wild animals, there are companies who will come and trap them for a fee, but there is nothing the City can do about the skunk nuisance at this time.

Police Chief Bill Hawkins reported on Marian Days being a success, they expect a larger crowd next year. He also reported that he has promoted Sergeant Eric Miller to Lieutenant.

Fire Chief Ryan Huntley reported that Marians Days also went well for his department, there were no cook tent fires.

Public Works Director Zeb Carney reported that his guys helped out with Marian Days and that he now has 4 openings in his department. One of his employees, Kirk Tilley, has been hired as the Parks Superintendent.

Parks & Recreation Director Mark Peterson reported on Kirk Tilley starting soon, the lime scooter rider counts during Marian Days, and a pop-up Zumba class at the Municipal pool.

Assistant City Administrator Traci Cox reported that the sales tax numbers were up, that is partly cause by the high inflation rates. The Capital projects from the last fiscal year had \$10.3 million dollars budgeted for them and there was only \$3.7 million expended. Some projects were completed, some will not be done, and some are being carried over into the new budget year.

City Administrator Greg Dagnan gave out his City Administrator's report prior to the meeting on various items he has been involved with the last few weeks. He reported on the Marian Days walking tour that the Chamber hosted on August 3. He also reported on

a meeting with Vision Carthage and Department Heads where they discussed projects they would like to look for grants for with the Grant Writing service that Vision Carthage has for the next year.

The Committee on Claims filed a report in the amount of \$832,587.36 against the following funds: General Revenue \$219,932.61, Public Health \$1,410.09, Lodging Tax \$1,041.67, Civic Enhancement \$986.00, Parks/Stormwater \$64,014.03, Fire Protection \$3,412.00, Golf \$2,857.84, Myers Park \$2,439.50, ARPA \$65,768.52, Public Library \$25,000.00, and Payroll \$445,725.10. Mrs. Harrison made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to accept the report and allow the claims. Motion carried.

The City of Carthage held a Public Hearing for the property tax rates proposed to be set by the City of Carthage. There was no one present at the Public Hearing.

Under old business, C. B. 22-37 – An Ordinance annexing certain adjacent territory commonly known as 1699 West Fairview into the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri as requested by Bill Wilson was placed on second reading followed by a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero, and Snow. The Council Bill was approved and numbered Ordinance 22-38.

Under new business, C. B. 22-38 – An Ordinance levying general taxes upon real property located within the City of Carthage, Jasper County, Missouri for the year 2022, for General Revenue purposes and other purposes, and fixing the rates thereof was placed on first reading with no action taken.

Mr. Hardesty made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to split the question of the Mayor's Appointments.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hardesty, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Tiffany Cossey to fill the Ward 5 vacancy. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero, and Snow.

City Clerk Miranda Deal administered the Oath of Office to Tiffany Cossey. Ms. Cossey took her seat and joined the other Council Members.

Mr. Snow made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong to approve the Mayor's Standing Committee Appointments as presented:

David Armstrong to the Budget Ways & Means Committee

Mark Elliff as the new Public Safety Committee Chair

Tiffany Cossey to the Public Safety Committee

Trudy Blankenship to replace David Armstrong as Vice-Chair on Committee on Insurance/Audit and Claims

Tiffany Cossey to the Committee on Insurance/Audit & Claims

Motion carried with a roll call vote of 9 yeas and 1 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Harrison, Otero, and Snow. Nays: Hardesty.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison to approve the Mayor's appointment of Bill Smith, Chad Dininger, and Aaron Borland to the Care Leave Committee until August 2024. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero, and Snow.

Mr. Elliff made a motion, seconded by Mr. Snow, to approve the Mayor's re-appointment of Jim Swatsenberg and Jerry Poston to the Zoning Board of Adjustments until August 2027 and the appointment of Alan Bull until August 2027. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero, and Snow.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mr. Elliff, to approve Resolution 1974 – A Resolution of the Council of the City of Carthage, Missouri authorizing the approval of the change order No. 3 for the Garrison Ave. Improvement Project to include the Myers Park Round-About in the amount of \$93,524.50. Resolution 1974 was adopted by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero, and Snow.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Ms. Ensor, to approve Resolution 1975 – A Resolution approving a project (within the meaning of Chapter 349, Revised Statutes of Missouri) of the Industrial Development Authority of Jasper County, Missouri, to be located in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 1975 was adopted by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero, and Snow.

Mr. Armstrong made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Harrison, to approve Resolution 1976 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Carthage amending an administrative lot split for property located in Peach Tree Subdivision, in the City of Carthage, Missouri. Resolution 1976 was adopted by a roll call vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Ayes: Armstrong, Blair, Blankenship, Cossey, Elliff, Ensor, Hardesty, Harrison, Otero, and Snow.

During closing comments, everyone welcomed Tiffany Cossey to City Council and thanked the departments for their hard work during Marian Days. Mr. Elliff and Mrs. Harrison expressed their condolences to Mr. Dally for the loss of his father, Ms. Otero thanked Mr. Hardesty for speaking up about his concerns on topics, Mr. Snow mentioned that Carthage now had a very highly educated Council with the advanced degrees some had, Ms. Cossey thanked everyone for welcoming her.

Ms. Cossey made a motion, seconded by Mr. Armstrong, to adjourn the regular session of the Council Meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Dan Rife, Mayor

Miranda Deal, City Clerk