

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
FEBRUARY 2, 2015**

BE IT REMEMBERED the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session in the Council Room in the Municipal Building on Monday, February 2, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., at which time and place the following were present:

Sue Grantham	Mayor
Melinda Scifres	City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh	City Counselor
Tony Jones	Sergeant at Arms
Rodgers {Absent}	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	Councilperson
Cheek	Councilperson
Fike	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth (B. T.) {Absent}	Councilperson
Merideth (Baughn) {Absent}	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 to come before the Council was the approval of the minutes and bills. Upon motion duly made by Councilperson Bullington, seconded by Councilperson Cartee, the minutes and bills were approved unanimously.

Councilperson Cartee then reported the fire department had seven fire calls during the month of January, The Fire Chief then reported he had received a 50/50 grant from the Department of Conservation for twenty (20) pair of leather boots. The cost for the boots would be \$6,000. The City would need to purchase an additional pair of boots to outfit all the men on the department. Department of Conservation would pay \$3,000 for twenty pair, and the City would have to pay \$1,200 for the other four pair of boots. Funds from sales tax are available for the expense. Fire Chief Jones had sought quotes for the boots as follows:

Schumacher Fire Equip.	Boots \$6,000	Freight \$100.00
Nafeco	Boots \$8,200	

Councilperson Cheek motioned to amend the sales tax budget in the amount of \$7,200, with Councilperson Hood seconding, and motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief Jones then presented two bids for equipment for the tanker truck. This equipment will be necessary once the truck is ready for operation. The low bid was from Schumacher Fire Equipment in the amount of \$2,801. After discussion, Councilperson Cartee motioned to amend the

budget and approve the low bid in the amount of \$2,801. Councilperson Creek seconded the motion, the motion was carried unanimously. Fire Chief Jones then reported the tanker truck should be ready in May.

Councilperson Cartee then reviewed the Animal Shelter report with the Council. Currently at the shelter there are 20 dogs and seven cats. Six dogs were picked up in January, and an owner picked up one dog. Fourteen cats were picked up in January. Currently at the shelter there are nineteen dogs and five cats available for adoption.

Police Chief Tony Jones then introduced a candidate for a police position to the Council. His name was Caleb Johnson. The Council will discuss his employment during closed session.

Paul Shaw, Water/Wastewater Manager, reported that the crews replaced a sewer at 935 Laurant with the assistance of the street crews. The water crew has installed most of the radio read meters that have been purchased.

Operation Supervisor, Terry Rushing reported the crews worked on picking up yard wastes, cleaned up Reynold Park, and fixed a street break on Ward. He then reported more windows have been broken out at the building (formerly Cupples), and his employees have replaced the windows with pieces of metal.

Keith Davis, Parks/Recreation Director, reported basketball season began last week. He wanted to let the Council know the swim team will be competing in Tunica with 32 children on the swim team. This is the largest swim team the recreation center has ever had.

Randall Lee, Code Enforcement/Building Inspector, reported he is inspecting a business that burned known as the Blue Crystal. He tagged the building so the business could not operate. Many repairs need to be made. He has been using community service workers to clean up areas of the City, and the first time the workers picked up thirty-three bags of debris. Attached to his report was a list of businesses that have not purchased a business license for this year. Some of the businesses have not purchased a license for two years. He will be visiting the businesses to urge them to buy their license. He has been working with the owner on the demolition of the building known as Jackson Glass at 3rd and Ward. A demolition permit was obtained by the owner.

Councilperson Cartee then reported the Planning and Zoning Commission had met in regards to the request from Timmy Gardner to rezone property at West 19th and Truman on the west side of Truman next to The Store. Currently the property is zoned R-2, and Mr. Gardner has requested it be changed to B-1 to allow the construction of an office building. There will be no ingress or egress from the Nineteenth Street side of the lot. He intends to build a 7000 square foot office building to lease office spaces. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of the zoning change. After discussion, Councilperson Cartee motioned to accept the recommendation, and set the public hearing for the first meeting in March. Councilperson Fike seconded the motion, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Terry Rushing, Operation Supervisor, reported the work at the airport is progressing nicely. He then requested a budget amendment to replace two heating/cooling units at the City Hall.

One unit is in the City Clerk's office, and the other unit is in the Clerk's filing room. He had received two bids on the replacement of the units, with the low bid from Hill Electric at \$1,853.80. He recommended the budget be amended in Sales Tax. After discussion, Councilperson Hood motioned to approve the amendment, and the low bid, with Councilperson Cartee seconding, and motion carried.

Mr. Rushing then reported that a man from Tennessee has requested to dump the sewage he pumps from septic tanks into our system. This would be waste from the area. Counselor Dorroh stated he checked with DNR, and this could be allowed on our permit. After discussion, it was decided the contract would be discussed during closed session.

Chris Peeler then appeared before the Council regarding the issuance of contractor's license, specifically electrical. He stated there are no requirements for a person to purchase the license to do work in Caruthersville. The license does not require any type of training nor insurance. He felt that inspections should be made before drywall is placed in a new structure. If the installation fails, then the building inspector should be able to stop work on the project. Counselor Dorroh stated the City has adopted a set of codes that already allows the Building Inspector to check wiring and stop projects. He will look at the construction trades and will get back with him.

Mayor Grantham then asked the Council to reschedule the next meeting to Tuesday, February 17, 2015, due to President's Day on the 16th. Councilperson Cartee motioned to approve rescheduling the meeting as stated, with Councilperson Hood seconding, and motion carried.

Councilperson Cheek then motioned to hold closed session in regards to negotiated contracts, advise from legal Counsel, property, and personnel, with Councilperson Bullington seconding, and roll call was asked for, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Cartee	Yes	Fike	Yes
	Hood	Yes	

After reconvening into regular session, Councilperson Cheek motioned Counselor Dorroh draft an ordinance regarding certain personnel to place in the Code of Ordinances. Councilperson Bullington seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilperson Cartee then reminded the Council the bad debt list from the Water Department was overdue for review.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Hood motioned to adjourn the meeting, with Councilperson Cheek seconding, and motion carried.

m. i. n. a.

Steve Grantham

Melinda Sapiro
City Clerk