

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
July 18, 2016**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday, July 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council room of the Municipal Building at which time and place the following were present:

Mike McGraw	Mayor
Takella Motton	City Clerk
Lawrence Dorroh	City Counselor
Tony Jones	Sergeant at Arms
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee (Absent)	Councilperson
Cheek	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Harmon	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	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 June 27, 2016 special meeting minutes. Councilperson Harmon motion for approval, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes		

Councilperson Merideth motion to approve the July 5 minutes, second by Councilperson Harmon, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes		

The next order of business was approval of reports and bills motion by Councilperson Duckworth, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes		

Unfinished business; Councilperson Harmon inquired of the marking of two recent grave sites. The Mayor stated that he and Terry watched while PG Manners marked the graves, which took a while. Harmon stated that he took issue with Code Enforcement with marking, locating, or watching grave markings. The Mayor stated that with Terry Rushing eventually being out of Code Enforcement, he thought it was important to have him privy to grave markings. Councilperson Harmon stated that he didn't want Terry Rushing engaged in such activity, because he had plenty to do as Code Enforcement. Harmon stated that he didn't want to the City involved in grave marking or digging, but that we are at that point, because we no longer have a relationship with H.S. Smith. The Mayor stated that the City still had a relationship with H.S. Smith until another contractor is in place. Councilperson Bullington then stated that the Council had gotten letters stating that H.S. Smith would be finished as of July 14, 2016. The Mayor, Clerk, nor all the Council members received the letter. It was discussed that until someone is hired for Code Enforcement Terry was responsible for the duties, and shouldn't be involved in the marking of graves. Councilperson Bullington asked for the Council to be informed of the person recommended for the marking of graves before a decision is made.

Mayor's report; Counselor Dorroh introduced language that could be added to the end of the vacation policy of the personnel manual, which follows: For the purpose of this vacation policy, each employee shall receive compensation for such leave based upon the average number of hours worked during such employee's normal work week, excluding all overtime hours. The Mayor recommended approval of \$21,000 for the professional fees for Horner Shifrin for the Recreation Center HVAC. Councilperson Bullington motion for the budget to be amended and to have it come out Sales Tax Capital Improvement, second by Councilperson Cheek, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes		

The Mayor reported that a committee will be meeting in August to review funding. They will be submitting recommendation as to what funding source best fit our situation in regards to the Marlar Loop. The Fifth Annual St. Jude Bucking in the Bootheel will be September 9, and September 10, 2016. Last year there were an estimated 3,000 attendees and 300 contestants from 16 states. On July 23, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. will be the First Annual St. Jude Gospel Sing. Mayor McGraw recommends the City to be a sponsor in the amount of \$1,000. Councilperson Hood motion for the approval of the budget amendment out of Tourism, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes

Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes		

The rock has started being applied to the 18th St. Lincoln Project; anticipation for the pavement will be in August. Josh Tinnin completed the sewer pipe to Playground Rd., and the houses on Magnolia have been hooked up. The insertion valve for the Water Plant will be known where to be inserted on Wednesday, John Chittenden will be here, and Josh Tinnin will do the work. MOPERM will be sending Jim Odom, Risk Control, on Tuesday, July 26, 2016 to assist with guidelines for the courtesy car usage for the airport.

The Mayor would like for the City to go from a L1 to an L3 for their retirement with Lagers. Councilperson Bullington wanted to know when the representative from Lagers would be coming down. The Mayor stated that we should be hearing something soon as to the percentage to apply for payroll for full time employees, and would be talking with someone about making a presentation. Bunge has decided to wait until next year for the street paving of the public service road. McDowell & Middleton has proposed a letter of engagement for \$2, 400/mo. for professional services plus other services that may occur from time to time. Councilperson Harmon motion to approve the seven percent increase, second by Councilperson Bullington, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes		

The pavilion and handicap ramp is nearing completion, and the sidewalks to the wheel chair accessible tables have been installed. The only thing left to pay for is the plaques, which have to be ordered.

Councilperson Hood reported 3 fire calls from July 14 through July 18, 2016. On 7-14-16 an accident occurred on I-55, 7-14-16 grass was set afire on Walker, and 7-14-16 fire alarm sounding at the Pemiscot County Court House. There were six fire inspections conducted since July 8, 2016, five of which were at Caruthersville School District #18.

Tony Jones reported that the school resource vehicle was done, in which they got donations from the community. Jazzma Thompson, Resource Officer will be attending classes to engage with the students with her studies. The march that occurred over the weekend was very peaceful, nothing like some people were in an uproar about with a possibility of violence. The march was from the Court House, 15th St., to the French Park. Tony stated that he thought it was great to live in a country with the freedom of expression without repercussions.

Water & Sewer; Councilperson Harmon reported that it was decided at the committee meeting to table the revisions to be made to the adjustments for the Water Department. The Committee would like to have the adjustments come before them before a decision is made in order to keep track. Basically smaller leaks will have an adjustment of 50% in excess of average usage, and larger leaks will have a cap of no more than 5 times in excess of average usage. Once the rest of the Council has time to review a decision will be made.

Street & Sanitation; reported that the daily operations have continued, with the pickup of limbs and debris. There were three street repairs conducted on Ward Ave. MODOT gave the approval to make the repairs on South Ward with concrete, instead of having to wait on an asphalt company. Assistance was given to the Water department with some leaks, as well as the Water department assisting the Street department with concrete. The street sweeper has a hole in the radiator and is in need of repair, the part cost \$1,700 not including labor and mileage. The one ton dump truck is out of service, over the last two to three years \$8,000 to \$9,000 has been spent yearly to keep it operable. With the accident that occurred recently, damage was done to the front end, and before that they've experienced breakdowns every two weeks. A 2016 Ford F550 in the amount of \$54,897.07 which is a state bid can be obtained from St. Louis, MO. Councilperson Rodgers motion to amend the budget with funds being taken out of Sales Tax for the purchase of the truck, second by Councilperson Duckworth which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes		

Councilperson Harmon motion for the street sweeper to be fixed out of the regular Maintenance budget, second by Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes		

Terry Rushing wasn't for sure what budget the \$25,620 expense for the drain cleaning was coming out of. The City Clerk will be checking the minutes to find out. Rushing inquired as to where the Drew Barnett subdivision consulting fee was to paid from, which is \$1,700. It will be paid out of Administration. There's an abate nuisance with a property on Vest, both residences that were there are deceased, and Terry's working on getting a contact person. Councilperson Rodgers stated that she was familiar with the property and has someone working to get it up to par. There was one inspection and one building permit conducted.

Mayor McGraw attended the Park & Recreation board meeting, and he talked about security for the office area, with bullet proof glass. The panic buttons will also be installed at City Hall, Library, and the Recreation Center.

Teresa Tidwell reported that the Library has had a very successful summer. They broke all records last week with patrons coming in and computer usage with online classes, job searches, and the games for the kids. The Summer Reading guest reader will be Lena Samford for this week and next week they will be wrapping up with a movie. The library has averaged 50 kids/wk. plus their caregivers during the summer.

Collector's report; for the first month turnover was \$2,000, second month \$4,000, and for the third month turnover was over \$16,000. For the month of June there were two new business licenses issued and one renewal, each in the amount of \$50.

Cemetery report; There's a contractor that contracts with different entities; he has new equipment, and experience. His cost for contracting business with the City would be \$400/grave; currently we pay \$450/grave.

Business from the floor; Charles Motton questioned the bulletproof glass at the Recreation Center; it was explained for safety purposes with everything that's transpiring in today's world. He also questioned why the water fountain had not been addressed for the French Park. There's an existing water fountain that he asked if it could be hooked up. Charles stated that activities are going on every week at this time in the park, and with all the money the City spends on everything else a water fountain shouldn't be a big expenditure. Councilperson Rodgers stated that the water fountain that had been looked at was \$4,000 which is handicap accessible and well-constructed. Charles Motton asked about the qualifications for the Code Enforcement position. Counselor Dorroh stated that the personnel manual gives a breakdown of qualifications and the Mayor stated that it could be supplied.

Rosie Jackson was concerned about all the vacant lots on Dudley and East 20th St. that have not been tended to. Ms. Jackson mentioned that Mr. Bob had cut some of the lots, and all he needed was gas for the cuttings. The Magnolia Cemetery is of concern, it's out of control, and perhaps the City could help with the process, in which the citizens have been trying to do take care of. It was discussed that the property owner could be given a 7 day notice to address the issue, and after the 7 days the City could take care of the issue and put it on their tax bill. If this continues to occur and taxes aren't paid the property could go up for sale. Another way that such nuisances could be taken care of is through taking possession through a land clearance redevelopment plan.

Steve Motton stated that the owner of Magnolia Cemetery should be held accountable, and commended the Mayor for cutting the entire cemetery last year. Steve made mention of the pole on Adams that's lending over being held by wires, B & H is not abiding by the contractual guidelines set forth, no sidewalks, and the lots not being addressed. The taxes are being paid, and residences are being forsaken, overlooked.

Mayor McGraw stated that sidewalks had been sprayed on 12th, 13th, and 14th streets last week just to see what the City was dealing with, as to whether or not it would be cost effective to have them repaired. There was discussion of the cost share program with the City for sidewalks. The property owner pays for the sidewalk to be put in, and the City reimburses for half of the cost. It was also mentioned that the Drew Barnett subdivision would not be having sidewalks that it would be the property owner's responsibility to put in the sidewalks.

Councilperson Bullington asked if the Council deemed it was necessary to put in sidewalks could the City do the work or contract it out. Sidewalks were budgeted for this year and the money was not used. Tony Jones stated that something has to be done about the aforementioned streets. It would solve a lot of the problems with the kids walking in the streets. Councilperson Rodgers suggested that the Street department could do the repairs of the broken sidewalks, which has been done in the past.

Lillie Wilbourn stated that sidewalks are vital, just as the bulletproof glass, dump trucks, or street sweepers. Ms. Wilbourn has heard of residences avoiding the aforementioned streets when school is dismissed. The Mayor asked Ms. Wilbourn would she assist him and a couple more councilpersons to come up with a plan for the sidewalks, she agreed.

Mitchell Wooden asked if there's a way to access the Code Enforcement book. It was discussed that you could get copies that you have to pay for. The easiest and most economical way to access the Code is online at the website.

Charles Motton stated that with the dump truck being a gas truck it could be refurbished for \$30,000 with it having less than 200,000 miles; all it does is pick up trash. The rest of the money could be used for sidewalks and/or water fountain.

Nito Johnson talked about the purpose of the march was to bridge the gap between the races. He and other people in the community try to have something going on for the kids every Sunday, and invite anyone to be a participant.

Robert Jones commended Tony Jones and staff for providing security at the march, and reiterated the invitation for the police and council to come and introduce themselves. The kids would see them in a different light, and they would see the kids in a different light.

Dorothy Williams commented on the expenses that the City was incurring and asked why not fund something for the kids to do. There was mention of the Pemiscot Initiative program having activities for the kids for the summer and the low participation. Effort has to be made to be informed.

Councilperson Hood commented on programs struggling to use money that has been granted because of lack of participation. He mentioned the Weed & Seed program that he was a part of, and the lack of trust within the community. Charles Motton mentioned the corruption within the city government at the time, and the stigmatism attached to the names of some programs. Councilperson Hood commented that there are pros and cons in any situation that he was for doing the right thing.

Emma Campbell stated that we as a community have to come together, and that it indeed takes a village. The Mayor mentioned that the hard surface parking area that was mentioned a while ago for French Park will have to be marked off, and the broken up concrete will be applied. As far as the water fountain, the Mayor stated that the city officials would have to be called upon to put it into the budget.

Charles Motton stated that you have to talk about the past so that you can move forward to the future, and in order not to repeat the same type of behavior. He commended Councilperson Hood on the role he played in the Weed & Seed program. He mentioned a couple of individuals being incarcerated by corrupt city officials and by improper use of information. He stated that if we didn't look at the undesirables that we would always have underlined racial tension within the city.

Ella Coleman commended Tony Jones on having a female officer, and stated that two of the previous police chiefs were no good. Ms. Coleman stated that Chief Jones was doing a good job, and if he continues, that she believes that he will bring the City together.

Councilperson Bullington stated due to the condition of the General Fund we had to get a better handle on the budget. The beginning balance is \$298,755.62, ending \$242,359.46 with a decrease of \$56,396.16. The department heads should not submit any more than 80 hours in a pay period. The total amount of work time, vacation, sick, and holiday time should not exceed 80 hours per pay period. The department head should not submit any more than 11 holidays, and should submit no more than the required time of service for vacation. The police department should not submit any more than 171 hours in a 28 day period, and the total amount of work time, vacation, sick, and holiday to not exceed 171 hours in a pay period. The fire department should not submit any more than 192 up to 212 hours in a 28 day period, and not to exceed the total amount for work time, vacation, sick, and holiday in a 28 day period. Overtime in all departments should be monitored and remained at a minimum until budget is presented for adoption. Councilperson Bullington also request for a current list of employees and their hire dates. Councilperson Bullington motion for the adoption of the plan, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Hood	Yes	Merideth	Yes
Harmon	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	Yes		

Councilperson Bullington asked for department heads to submit short term and long term plans for a budget with numbers and bring it back to the Finance Committee. Councilperson Harmon stated that the things that have been budgeted for, to go ahead and do them, the money is there. Councilperson Rodgers suggested that the Mayor talk to the department heads about adhering to their budgets.

Councilperson Duckworth motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Rodgers, with all in favor, the meeting adjourning at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor

