

CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
February 6, 2017

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday, February 6, 2017, 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	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 January 18, 2017 minutes. Councilperson Harmon motion to approve, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Councilperson Harmon motion to approve the January 18, 2017 closed session minutes, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

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

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

Mayor's report; The HVAC unit for the Diane Sayre Recreation Center has arrived, and the work on the system continues. Councilperson Cartee asked if any State officials had been talked to concerning Ameren's rate increase. Christi Mercer stated that residents should voice their opinion, but that Ameren was trying to recoup the loss of revenue from Noranda. Ms. Mercer stated that Ameren's stance is that the rates were lower because of Noranda. There's still a ruling that has to take place, and at this point there's still a comment period. Mayor McGraw stated that a lot of employees were inquiring about the yearly raises. Counselor Dorroh stated that there were steps in the salary schedule based on a yearly basis. There was mention of discussion of salary increases at one time, but nothing was decided upon. Councilperson Bullington stated that the Mayor should make a recommendation. Councilperson Bullington stated that she was not against raises, and that it was good for morale. Councilperson Bullington and Councilperson Duckworth have been looking at what is favorable and affordable concerning the salary schedule. After further discussion the Mayor stated that he would be making a recommendation concerning raises for the employees. The next Council meeting falls on President's Day, Councilperson Cartee motion to change the meeting to Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Councilperson Harmon second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Christina Wade, with the Delta Regional Authority, works with communities on projects that create jobs. Some of the initiatives are lift stations, water mains, towers, etc. Ms. Wade stated that the application process is competitive, and could assist with presenting a strong application. The application itself is online, reviewed by Delta Regional Authority, and approved by the governor of each state. The first point of contact would be with Ms. Wade and they make the contact with other agencies. Their footprint covers eight states, and they're also involved with some very creative initiatives.

Christi Mercer, Business Incubator Project coordinator, talked about creative initiatives that could possibly occur in the Exchange building. She mentioned everything from renting out space, and selling local commodities, arts and crafts, to having startups for small businesses. Ms. Mercer mentioned how Cape Girardeau college students restored an old home. There's housing, coffee shop, and a meeting room. Christina Wade also mentioned how she worked on a project for downtown West Plains, MO which is booming.

Police & Fire report; Councilperson Cartee motion to buy radios from the sheriff's department for \$3,150, out of Asset Forfeiture, already budgeted, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

There were three fire calls from January 28, 2017 through February 6, 2017 as follows: 01/28/17; Grass fire out of control on County Road 534, 01/29/17; Structure fire on County Hwy 431 at a total loss, 01/31/17; Structure fire on W. 19th St. with minor damage to utility room. There have been 5 fire inspections during the past two weeks. There were 17 fire fighters attending a training session taught by instructor Paul Shaw. For the month of January there were 24 dogs and 2 cats at the shelter. Intake was 29 dogs, owner's pickup was 2 dogs, gave to rescue 12 dogs. Decomposed animals picked up were 2 dogs, 1 cat, 20 squirrels, 8 skunks, and 5 opossums. There were also 12 trapped skunks picked up.

Terry Rushing reported on the normal day to day duties. The street department assisted the water department with street breaks and a main. Rushing conducted 3 occupancy inspections, boarded up a building on Truman and sent out notice to abate a nuisance on the residence on Carroll.

Keith Davis reported that the Recreation Center had 91 signups for youth basketball, and will be having games within the next two weeks. Baseball signups and field preparations will be starting up soon. The adult basketball league had a game last Wednesday, and they've gotten a lot of feedback for next year.

Councilperson Bullington asked what would be the next step with the business incubator project. Christi Mercer stated that they would need two councilpersons to serve with the committee to make plans. As of now it's more sharing of information, and Ms. Mercer suggested in contacting other communities to see what they are doing. Councilpersons Cheek and Bullington along with the Mayor will be volunteering to assist with the business incubator project.

Teresa Tidwell reported that the library receive two grants. The National Weather Service issued one for adults, and Pizza Hut issued one to improve literacy.

Paul Shaw recommended the purchase of a new motor for the lift station a budgeted item out of Sewer Extension Fund in the amount of \$25,054.05. Councilperson Harmon motion to accept, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Business from the floor; Ronnie Lockridge expressed concern of an escalating problem of mud being slung on church property from an empty city lot. Mr. Lockridge asked if a barrier could be put up to prevent the problem. Terry Rushing will be looking into a reflective post, and putting up a temporary barrier of some sort for now.

Dawn Jordan asked for one person from each Ward to participate in the Liveable Streets program. The participants will be Councilpersons Merideth, Cheek, Rodgers, and Bullington. The meetings will take place February 16th and 17th, 2017.

Councilperson Merideth thanked Mr. Mansfield for the three day event at Grizzly Jig, and the business it brought into town.

Councilperson Harmon motion to go into closed session for discussion of personnel matters, second by Councilperson Cartee, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Upon returning from closed session and with no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Harmon motion to close, with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor

City Clerk