

CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
January 3, 2017

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Tuesday, January 3, 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
Cheek	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Harmon	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee (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 was the approval of the December 5, 2016 minutes. Councilperson Merideth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Harmon, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Councilperson Rodgers motion to approve the December 19, 2016 minutes, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Councilperson Bullington asked if the closed session minutes of December 19, 2016 could be discussed in closed session to clear up a statement that could be taken the wrong way.

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

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

Presentation of letters and other communications; Dawn Jordan asked to speak to the Council about what was going on with Healthy Schools Healthy Communities. One of the programs, the Walking School Bus, is in need of participants to walk with the students. The Elementary school is the target area within a mile radius going door to door picking up the students. There's an application process with a background check, and the cost will be free of charge to the applicant. The tentative schedule for the Walking School Bus will be 7:10 a.m. through 7:40 a.m. starting in April. There's no Walking School Bus in the evening. There will be classes conducted at the PIN office on learning to eat healthy for you and your family in 2017. Patricia Cagle is the Certified Health Coach; classes are from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There's also a Swimming Club being developed for Middle School students to learn how to swim. Only 10 students will be able to participate in the program. You can contact Dawn Jordan at (573) 333-5301 ext. 228 or Karen Henson at (573) 333-0031.

Mayor's report; Buffington continues to work on the HVAC system at the Recreation Center, the anticipated end date is in February. Hill Electric, a local contractor, will be doing the emergency HVAC system for the Library. Mitzi Dell will be checking the status of the City's application for the Marlar Loop, January 4, 2017. A complaint was received from a resident on E. 10th St. about their yard being left in poor condition with the installation of the sewer lines. The problem will not be able to be addressed until warmer weather.

Mayor McGraw along with Nick Cartee and Jeff Montgomery met with Mr. Jim Rosen with PACE Properties. The incentives were discussed that were drafted in a letter by Counselor Dorroh and the Mayor. Mr. Rosen has stated that there's nothing to report as of to date, but it would be in the best interest of the City to keep the rumors to a minimum. No one knows definitely what business will occupy the Wal-Mart building. Wade Mansfield will be working with Melisa McClain on the Committee for Downtown Redevelopment. The Council had voted to have the January 16 meeting on January 17, 2017, but the Ameren public hearing is January 17, 2017. Councilperson Duckworth motion to move the meeting to Wednesday January 18, 2017, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Unfinished business; Councilperson Merideth had talked with Counselor Dorroh about the Police and Fire vacation hours. Counselor stated that he didn't know if the Council had any changes are where it stood. Councilperson Bullington inquired about the last paragraph of the revised vacation policy as to exactly how many hours the police and fire would average. It was discussed that the police would average 42.75 hours, excluding Tony Jones and Jerry Hudgens, and the fire average hours would be 48 hours per week. After more discussion, it was decided to go ahead with the revised vacation policy concerning the Police & Fire departments and all other full time employees at 40 hours per week.

Councilperson Harmon motion to approve the revision, second by Councilperson Cheek, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Councilperson Bullington read a letter from a resident commending Tony Jones on how he conducted himself when handling a tense situation. The resident stated that Chief Jones leadership and dedication was appreciated.

Police & Fire report; there were 3 fire calls from December 20, 2016 through January 3, 2017 as follows: 12/20/16, Fire alarm sounding at Caruthersville Middle School; 12/26/16, Fire alarm sounding at Southgate Living Center; 01/03/17, Light fixture arching at Post Office. The Caruthersville Wal-Mart donated \$2,500 through the Community Grant Program. Proceeds will go towards 6 pagers for the department, special thanks to manager Buddy Barger. Chief Charlie Jones also reported that there were 106 fire calls this year compared to 122 last year.

Water & Sewer report; Paul Shaw reported that the motor for 12th and Ward was up and running, and that the second motor was being fixed. Rural Water helped with the sludge report, and John Chittenden is working on the next step to take with the process. One of the Aerator units is cracked, which is under warranty. They're looking at the most cost effective way to fix the problem. Councilperson Harmon made mention of John Chittenden addressing the Council on January 17, 2017. Paul will be contacting Mr. Chittenden as to when he will be coming, once all the numbers are in concerning the Waste Water plant.

Councilperson Bullington reported that the minimum wage was increasing by 5 cents, and that it would affect 10 employees at the Recreation Center. Councilperson Bullington motion to increase the employee's hourly rate to \$7.70, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Library report; Teresa Tidwell reported that Hill Electric had to postpone putting in the HVAC unit, but would do so as soon as the weather permits. The Christmas Story Time was very successful, and they will be looking at doing special story time events every 2 months.

Councilperson Bullington along with Councilperson Duckworth and Counselor Dorroh will look at the revision of the personnel manual taking a section at a time. Communication can occur through emails, and everyone will have the chance to participate.

Business from the floor; City Collector Rebecca Morgan requested for another extension for the part time clerical aide until the end of February. The purpose is to continue with the filing system, and possibly help with the installation of a computer program. Councilperson Bullington motion to approve the extension, second by Councilperson Harmon, which resulted in the following vote:

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

New business; Councilperson Harmon commended Rebecca Morgan on doing a great job as City Collector. He stated that he had got some complaints about the Collector’s office being closed some days in December. Counselor Dorroh stated that the way the holiday fell, that a penalty shouldn’t be assessed, which would not have been until Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Ms. Morgan was closed Friday, December 24, 2016, and half a day Tuesday, January 3, 2017. It was announced on KCRV that the City Collector would be closed Friday and Tuesday, and posted on her window. Not late fees were assessed until Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

Councilperson Bullington motion to go into closed session to discuss the December 19, 2016 closed session minutes. Councilperson Duckworth second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Upon returning from the closed session, and with no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Harmon motion to adjourn with all in favor.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor