

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
July 17, 2017**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Monday, July, 17, 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
Merideth	Councilperson
Grantham	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	Councilperson
Cartee	Councilperson
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Hood	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 July 3, 2017 regular session minutes. Councilperson Merideth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Rittenberry, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

Councilperson Cartee motion to approve the closed session minutes, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

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

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes

Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

The next order of business was the presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications. The Cooperative Agreement For School Police Services was presented with the framework primarily the same. There was clarification as to the duties of the police officer that was implemented. Councilperson Cartee motion for approval of the agreement, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Abstain	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

Mayor's report; Park & Recreation Director Keith Davis has resigned effectively August 3, 2017, with 14 years of service. The Park Board will be receiving applications for the position with a cover letter and resume, and will be making a recommendation to the Mayor for the appointment. The grant for refurbishing the interior of the Exchange Building application process has been postponed until August. The City will be receiving a letter of engagement from DeReign & DeReign concerning the Carnell property on Carroll in which the City Council will review. The Industrial Park acreage will be surveyed to determine exactly how much the City owns by Dowdy & Dejournett Land Surveying.

The owner of McCoy's Salvage refused entry onto to the property to check for contaminants. Ward & Reeves is filing an action in Circuit court on behalf of the City. The City has also hired Dowdy & Dejournett Land Surveying to assist in establishing a R.O. W. for Brantley Lane. The roof repairs on the Cupples building are complete, awaiting rain to see if there are any more leaks. There's been some confusion as to who's responsible for alleys. According to surveyors and attorneys, alleys are the responsibility of the City just as streets are. The roll off at the Maintenance yard has been successful; residents are dumping their debris instead of putting it curbside. Republic Services are requesting residents to have their totes wheels facing their house; it reduces the chance of spilling. Mitzi Dell will be applying for an 80/20 grant for sidewalks from MODOT, and will be contacting Ameren in regards to the street lights for Marlar Road.

Mayor McGraw asked for approval of the appointment of Luther Robinson to the Cemetery Board replacing Patricia Jones. Councilperson Rodgers motion to accept the appointment, second by Councilperson Hood, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

Fire & Police report; The fire calls from July 8, 2017 to July 17, 2017 are as follows: 07/08/17; Fire alarm sounding during thunderstorm on Carleton, 07/10/17; Checked home for carbon monoxide

on Beckwith, and nothing was found, 07/11/17; Vehicle fire on Mississippi bridge, 07/13/17; Fire alarm sounding on Mooreland Dr. due to cooking. Fire inspections were conducted at Lady Luck Casino on July 10, 2017, and at the Caruthersville Schools on July 17, 2017. SEMA Area Coordinator, Mark Winkler was here July 17, 2017 to review the City's Emergency Operations Plan. A Promulgation Statement will have to be signed by all members of the Council.

Chief Tony Jones reported that Kevin Hopkins will not be attending the Police Academy; he decided to go with Steele for better pay, and it allows him to do oversees training. Patrolman Aaron Reynolds will be putting in his resignation to go to New Madrid for better pay, and it allows him to carry insurance on his child. The police radios have gone digital, and no one will be able to transmit their signal unless they have the digital capability. The one way on 16th St. will be completed by the time that school starts. It will go from Ward to Davis; all traffic coming off Ward has to east on 16th St. Superintendent Bullington will have robocalls going out to the parents alerting them to the situation.

Terry Rushing reported that the plaques have been ordered for the pavilion at the riverfront. The Street department has been picking up a lot brush and debris. There are 8 roll offs of debris at the limb pile.

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported that there are 23 letters in process, that will be going out as soon as the revised letter is drafted by Counselor. Some of the residents have abated the nuisance before letters were sent out. Ms. Fuller has been on pause, hoping that the word spreads of the \$130 fine that will be imposed if the nuisance is not abated. There are a lot of derelict cars within the City that are of concern.

Keith Davis reported that he will be resigning from the City, and thanked everyone that supported him throughout his career. He stated he wouldn't trade his 14 years of experience for anything. He will be happy to assist in any way that he can with the transition.

Budget report; Councilperson Bullington reported that once the June financials are in the budget will be finalized. The department heads were met with about their budget requests, and looked at what could be put on hold, and what was of priority. The department heads will be meeting with Councilperson Bullington as to where to put their staff on the salary schedule following the passage of the ordinance.

Teresa Tidwell reported that they're continuing to get ready for the sales tax proposal on the August ballot. The Library will have to severely curtail its' services if the half cent tax is not passed. Starting in August a new program will be available for adults, which is a three part series. It's called "Pushing the Limits", which will focus on weather extremes and climate change and how it effects the populous. Gary Woodall, a scientist from Memphis will be taking part in the endeavor. There will be three free books given to participants. The Library is also looking at eclipse programming; the Library will be open during the eclipse so people can come out for the viewing. Hill Electric offered two proposals for the Library's HVAC. 1. The installment of a new replacement compressor in existing carrier unit for \$3,657 with a one year parts and labor warranty. 2. The installment of a new Trane rooftop unit with a five year warranty on the heat exchanger, compressor, parts, and one year labor for \$16,219.91. For either proposal half will be upfront. Councilperson Cartee motion to accept the \$3,657 proposal, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

Councilperson Bullington wanted to make it clear that the Library tax proposal was sales tax and not a property tax increase. The General Fund supplements the Library for a \$100,000, which could free up money that could go to other projects if the half cent tax passes. Councilperson Hood also spoke of everybody winning if this tax passes, for such a small increase. All Wards will vote at the Library on August 8, 2017, and absentee ballots are available at this time.

Paul Shaw reported that things will be back on track with vacations wrapping up. The water bill adjustments were signed off on. Mayor McGraw stated that adjustments that were obvious should be addressed more quickly. It was discussed that the all adjustments should be directed to Paul Shaw and referred to the Water Committee.

Business from the floor; Ann Jefferies stated that Sister Darlene has been elected Mother Superior, and will be leaving Caruthersville after 12 years. Sacred Heart will be hosting a dinner in her honor, and Donna Whitener will be organizing the event. Sister Darlene’s replacement will be Sister Sharon. Ms. Jefferies asked if the Council would honor her in some kind of way. There will be a Proclamation awarded to Sister Darlene.

Introduction of Bills; Bill No. 2017-08 An Ordinance adopting a pay plan for employees was introduced by the Mayor. Counselor Dorroh stated that the Finance Committee had made a couple of minor changes to the ordinance of subsection 7.6 page 3, by changing subparagraph b. The volunteer fire fighters chart goes from A to OO, but would cap out to DD for any additional fire fighters not currently employed. The next change would be to page 4 Section 7.9 under subparagraph a there will be added number 4, which will include Department heads being evaluated by their respective Committee or Board in consultation with the Mayor. Councilperson Rodgers motion for a first reading of the ordinance by title only, second by Councilperson Duckworth as follows:

BILL NO. 2017-08

ORDINANCE NO. 2017-08

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A PAY PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE

Councilperson Duckworth motion for a second reading, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

The question is will bill No. 2017-08 pass and become known as Ordinance No. 2017-08, which resulted in the following vote on said question to wit:

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

Councilperson Cartee motion to go into closed session for the discussion of purchasing real estate and personnel. Councilperson Merideth second the motion which resulted in the following vote:

Merideth	Yes	Grantham	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes
Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes

Upon returning from closed session, Councilperson Merideth wanted to know if chickens were allowed in the City limits. Counselor stated that no livestock was allowed within the City limits.

With no further business to come before the Council the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. with all in favor.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor