

**CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
July 5, 2016**

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Tuesday, July 5, 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
Cartee	Councilperson
Cheek	Councilperson
Hood (Absent)	Councilperson
Merideth	Councilperson
Harmon	Councilperson
Rodgers	Councilperson
Duckworth	Councilperson
Bullington	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 20, 2016 regular minutes. Councilperson Rodgers motion for approval, second by Councilperson Merideth, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Councilperson Merideth motion to approve the closed session, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Councilperson Cartee motion to table the June 27, 2016 special session minutes, second by Councilperson Duckworth, which resulted in the following vote:

Cartee	Yes	Cheek	Yes
Merideth	Yes	Harmon	Yes
Rodgers	Yes	Duckworth	Yes

Bullington Yes

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

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

Mayors' report; Counselor Dorroh is working on the dynamics of the vacation pay for the Police and Fire departments. Republic is requesting not to overfill the totes nor put trash outside of the totes. An extra tote can be supplied for \$5.00 per month which is billed quarterly; for an extra tote call (618) 693-3164. There will be a contract soon for the roof of the Cupples building, and Phyllis Miner at USDA Rural Development was contacted about possible funding. The Horner Shifrin contact has been reviewed and signed with bid specifications anticipated soon. The Marlar Loop revision preliminary form has been submitted for review for funding by Mitzi Dell.

The drainage project was completed in the 10 days allotted by the City. The Brown Shoe ditch is overgrown; the machine that was mentioned for use by the County is not operable. Jason Simpson will charge \$2,800/day for a 10 hour day with equipment and operator. The anticipation for completion is 7-9 days, due to increased vegetation. We will have to wait until the crop is out before starting. Spring cleanup ended May 20, 2016; if you want something picked up, call City Hall or Terry Rushing. There has been a lot of illegal dumping; fines will be imposed. G&C has finished installing the sewer on 18th and Lincoln. John Chittenden suggested the hole to be flooded for three weeks, then rock it, and pavement would probably occur in August.

Bunge requested that the public service road to be repaved and they would donate the money to the City. Mooreland Dr. was blocked by a huge tree; the street hasn't had any service in 30 years. John Chittenden will be reviewing the matter. The City street lights are identified by CV followed by a series of numbers on the pole. If there is a light out you can call Ameren at (800)552-7583.

Police & Fire report; Councilperson Cartee started off by thanking the city and county officers, fire department, and anyone else that assisted with keeping the fireworks calm down. Cartee stated there were kids unsupervised on the streets, and later on that night it was like a war zone. There was damaged done to vehicles, and Tony Jones held up a firework bomb, and Cartee stated that they are being chunked at police cars or any other cars going down the street. Cartee stated that citizens needed to be protected, and that what he saw was adults not kids acting in this manner.

Tony Jones stated that the plan was to decrease the police presence so that the officers could enjoy their holiday, and that he cut his vacation short to help out with the fourth. They ended up having to take some the kids to the juvenile officer and some of the parents had to come and get them. They didn't want to listen, and their actions are such that they want to take over the streets. Tony stated that the police are here to serve all the citizens in the community.

Robert Jones asked if there was a way in which an ok zone to shoot fireworks could occur. Councilperson Cartee stated they had tried it once in Hayti when there was a drought. The situation got out of hand and the fire chief got hit in the eye with a firework. Councilperson Cartee stated damaged was done to the Tahoe with one the firework bombs, and was surprised that anyone didn't get hurt. Tracy Bowman asked if an ordinance could be created to eliminate the mortar shells being sold. Counselor Dorroh stated we didn't have jurisdiction outside of the city limits. Jerry Hudgens looked at the possibility for a safety zone for fireworks, but there's a liability issue. The fireworks today are age restricted nothing like they use to be. They may have to go back to fining people the maximum to get things under control.

Steve Motton stated with the fireworks being illegal, there shouldn't be any middle ground, because some people look for a way not to abide by the rules and regulations. If the City didn't put on a fireworks display it would really send a message.

Jeremy Darnell suggested that the city ordinance should state possession of fireworks not discharge. What happens is that you may not see an individual discharge a firework, but they may be in possession of fireworks, and you can't do anything about it.

Councilperson Rodgers stated that when the banned of fireworks was with a \$500 maximum fine, there was peace and quiet. During that particular year there were houses and cars caught on fire. The fire department couldn't get back to the station before getting another call.

Tracy Bowman stated that there are parents out there that will defy law, and buy age restricted fireworks for their children anyway, if the child is denied. Charles Motton asked if maybe the communities could come together and make a conscious effort not to sell the mortar bombs in Hayti.

Charlie Jones stated that this situation has continued to go on from year to year to no avail. One year an officer got shot, and fears that it will happen again. The year Councilperson Rodgers was referring to there were 14 calls between 4:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m., all fireworks related. Things have been thrown at the fire trucks and police cars. He saw kids unattended popping fireworks earlier with parents setting on the porch and kids at the end of the driveway, and later on he didn't see any parents out with the kids.

Councilperson Bullington recommended that Police and Fire have a discussion and come back to the Council with what they come up with. Jeremy Darnell stated that modifications are taking place with the mortar bombs which make them even more dangerous. Councilperson Harmon stated that the ordinance should be enforced in full force and to amend the ordinance for the possession, to give the officers more authority. Counselor Dorroh stated that he would research the possibility of the City to manage possession of fireworks.

Fire calls; From June 23, 2016 through July 5, 2016 there were 7 fire calls. June 23; on County Rd. 524 there was an occupant burning brush pile, June 28; fire alarm sounding on Ward, June 29; smoke scare on Collins, June 30; fire alarm sounding on E. 14th, July 2; tree stump fire on Bushey, July 3; trash container set afire, and July 5; grass fire due to fireworks on E. 13th St.

Animal Shelter; from June 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016 there were 17 dogs and 3 cats at the shelter. Intake was 43 dogs, and 12 cats, owner’s pickup was 4 dogs. The Animal Rescue took 22 dogs and 1 cat. The animals that were picked up that had expired were 5 cats, 20 squirrels, 10 rabbits, 12 skunks, 10 opossums, and 10 snakes. Trapped were 31 skunks and 8 opossums.

Water & Sewer; Paul Shaw reported that the bills were up because of the annually primacy fee. The fee is dependent on the size of the meter; up to 1 inch is \$3.00, 1 to 2 inch is \$7.44, 2 to 4 inch is \$41.16 and anything above 4 inch is \$82.44. The fee is once a year for sewer and once a year for water, which goes to the State for lab fees.

Teresa Tidwell reported that the Summer Reading has continued, and with the holiday people were out of town last week.

Collector; Rebecca Morgan reported she had collected 6 more business licenses since the last report. She was not able to get letters out for delinquent taxes, but announcements were made on KCRV and ran on channel 7. Rebecca is getting together the list to run in the paper for 3 consecutive weeks. Rebecca has collected already a large amount in real estate penalties in a short period of time.

Cemetery; The Mayor stated that the City is still working with our contractor to find and dig graves until another contractor is in place.

Business from the floor; Tracy Bowman had concern of a chocolate Chihuahua that’s being roaming around in the streets. Ms. Bowman stated the dog needs medical attention, and was concerned about the care that would take place. Ms. Bowman offered her services to help with the animals rather than them being euthanized.

Charles Motton commended Tony Jones and officers with help in handling loitering at the Recreation Center for an event held on Friday, July 1, 2016. Christina Williams commended Terry Rushing and officers for the aide that was given to her daughter while climbing a ladder on Ward. She took a bad fall and the officers and MT’s were there taking care of the situation very quickly.

With no further business to come before the Council, Councilperson Harmon motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Duckworth, with all in favor, the meeting adjourning at 6:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor