

CITY OF CARUTHERSVILLE
September 5, 2017

Be it remembered the Council of the City of Caruthersville met in regular session Tuesday September 5, 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
Rittenberry	Councilperson
Hood	Councilperson
Merideth (Absent)	Councilperson
Grantham	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 August 21, 2017 regular session minutes. Councilperson Duckworth motion to approve, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

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

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

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

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

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

Duckworth Yes

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

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

The next order of business was the presentation of petitions, letters, and other communications. McDowell and Middleton provided the City with a six month financial statement summary as follows:

<u>Totals of All Funds</u>	
Balance on Hand January 1, 2017	\$4,555,324.33
Revenues Collected	3,016,394.78
Expenditures Paid	(3,035,893.43)
Transfers In (Out)	0.00
Balance on Hand June 30, 2017	<u>\$4,535,825.68</u>

The tax rate for the year was presented for review; the tax rate ceiling is the same as last year at \$1.1174. Councilperson Bullington motion for a Public Hearing for September 18, 2017, second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

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

Doug McFarland, General Manger for Republic, Southern IL and Southeast MO, came to let the City know that they were aware of the inconsistency with the trash pickups. Tim Davis the residential driver and John Vaughn the commercial driver are promising. The infrequent pickups of the roll offs at the limb pile have improved, and the City was supplied with a roll off that's at the Maintenance yard for residents to have access to get rid of items. Mayor McGraw pointed out that the City doesn't pay for the roll offs, the commercial containers are charged by Republic, and the residential totes were \$3.50 less per household than the next lowest bidder for the contract. Tim Davis knows the routes so the missed pickups should cease, and it was also mentioned that the occasional extra bags outside of the tote would be picked up as a courtesy, but you will need an extra tote if it's the norm that all trash will not fit in a tote. There is an ordinance that states trash should be bagged before placing in receptacles. Any of the observed holidays by Republic will cause routes to be a day behind. It was also brought out that dumpsters have a tendency to get pushed back, and over a period of time, if it's on a concrete slab it ends up in the grass. Republic has called before if a dumpster is not located on a hard surface and there's been a heavy rain that would leave ruts if picked up to see if the customer wanted pickup. It was also brought up about spillage from garbage and juices as to the handling. Mr. McFarland will be getting with the drivers to make sure that such incidents are dealt with.

Unfinished business; Councilperson Cartee inquired of the remotes for the limb pile, Terry Rushing was absent from the meeting, and the Mayor wasn't given a list. Councilperson Bullington inquired of the revised Cemetery Board minutes. The Mayor stated that the scheduled meeting didn't occur, and the minutes would be done once the meeting takes place.

Mayor's report; Wes Deere was appointed Director of Parks and Recreation, and approved by the Council; his salary will be \$32,106.39 a year. Jim Rosen of PACE Properties has talked with a potential tenant, and will be following up with the Mayor this coming week. Application was made for a \$55,000 grant with Delta Regional Authority, and another grant was submitted for \$30,000 with DAR. No burning or hunting is allowed within the City limits, a fine will be imposed if the ordinance is not adhered to. Letters of agreement have been received for the ROW with a couple being outstanding for Brantley Lane. The Cupples roof did receive a leak after a heavy rain, and Frazier will be contacted. The recommended \$1,000 per lot for the 12 lots on East 3rd and East 2nd of interest for a business was discussed. Councilperson Rodgers stated that the lots probably should go for more. Operation Healthy Delta will start September 13 through the 16th from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. On September 17, 2017 the start time will be 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Regular hours will pick back up September 18 through the 21st. Eastwood Memorial Church and Sacred Heart will be hosting the medical treatment facility.

Police and Fire report; Fire calls from August 25, 2017 through September 5, 2017 are as follows: 8/25/17; Fire alarm sounding on Truman, 8/25/17; Shed on fire on County Road 524, 9/3/17; Gas leak on Washington notified Liberty Utilities, 9/3/17; Fire alarm sounding at DAEOC, 9/5/17; Vehicle on fire pulling a trailer on I55 a total loss. Training for the month of August was Chlorine Gas thought by Paul Shaw. Chief Tony Jones reported that the speed trailer was out of commission after being hit and it will be back out once it's fixed.

Code Enforcement; Sonya Fuller reported 10 letters had been sent out, abated 4 nuisances through communication, and 4 properties are scheduled for Court on Thursday, September 7, 2017. Ms. Fuller received a letter from Wendell Hoskins requesting copies of all notices for abatement of nuisance for the calendar year 2017. There will be a charge of 10 cents a copy along with a search and finding fee. Since May, Ms. Fuller has sent out 94 letters, 3 letters were held off on for Terry Rushing to take action on. The response time has been good with the letters being sent, there were some that were out of town or deceased that weren't as easily resolved. Mers Goodwill is willing to send volunteers to Code Enforcement, they would be insured through the State, and uniforms could also be provided through them. Ms. Fuller will meet with Mers Goodwill on September 11, 2017 for final approval of the volunteers.

Mayor McGraw referred to an email that he had sent to Councilperson Bullington, Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. His concern was the variations in the Clerks salaries; the City Collector's taking on the Custodial services to compensate her income, and keeping the same rate of pay as the past Custodian. The City Collector's salary is \$16,378/yr. and as Custodian \$6,037/yr. which would bring her to \$22,415/yr. The Hayti City Collector makes \$25,500/yr. plus \$200/mo. for doing the Cemetery records, which brings her to \$27,900/yr. Councilperson Cartee stated that recommendations weren't made concerning the above issues. The Mayor stated that he was not privy to the exact pay rate, until he went to the Accountants, and apparently the department heads did not tell their staff. Councilperson Bullington stated that the Finance Committee used the same exact salary schedule that was adopted in 2012 used their current rate and took them up a step. Everyone will not have the same

exact raise until next year, because everyone really didn't place on the schedule, whatever their current rate was, placement was made to nearest step, then to the next step for the raise. Councilperson Bullington made mention of those that had surpassed the steps on the salary schedule, and it would not happen again because of the process of the steps. Yet, the ones that have surpassed the steps would be grandfathered in, and continue to get 1.50 percent raises. Councilperson Bullington stated that she had no idea how the Water Clerk's salary was determined, but when the Court Clerk was hired it was recommended by Mike Hazel that she be given her years of experience because she was doing the same exact job for the City as she had been doing for the County. Councilperson Bullington also stated that when the City Clerk was hired that she was placed wherever. There were a couple of employees at the Recreation Center that got raises that shouldn't have, and they were changed. There was also an employee at the Recreation Center that got a raise after being employed for six and a half months. Councilperson Bullington was under the impression that everyone would get a raise if they've been employed for six months. It was voted on that the part time employees would have had to been employed for a year, and the full time employee 6 months in order to get a raise. Mayor McGraw stated that he stood steadfast on the City Clerk's salary issues. He recommended that Rebecca Morgan continue to get paid at the same rate as the past Custodian, he recommended that Karen Henson rather than get a nine cent raise be moved up a step. Mayor McGraw also recommended that Beth Bailey be given an addition 75 cents for coming in at 4:30 a.m. After much debate, Councilperson Cartee motion to give everyone a 1.50 % raise for the year, second by Councilperson Rodgers. The motion was withdrawn and Councilperson Bullington motion to move anyone that was similar to Karen that was a few cents over a half to be moved to the next step second by Councilperson Rodgers, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	No		

The City Clerk stated that there had been issue with her salary from the beginning. When appointed the Mayor recommended \$35,000/yr.; the previous Clerk was making \$40,000 when she left. Council viewed the resume and application, and saw the credentials of B.S. Business Administration with the Office Management/Political Science emphasis, and the 23 years of business experience at Wal-Mart in management and accounting. Placement on the salary schedule was difficult for the Council to determine, and Councilperson Bullington suggested \$13.03/hr. It was also stated that the pay rate would be reviewed in July the next fiscal year, to no avail. The Mayor Pro Temp was communicated with and was asked about the unfairness of the pay rate, and how the Water Clerk position was referred to for a pay rate with the ordinance that applied to the City Clerk's temporary or deputy clerk being paid at the same rate in the absence of the City Clerk. It was suggested in a Water Committee meeting that whoever got the job would be paid \$15/hr. the same as the past Water Clerk. Councilperson Bullington stated that the person would have to fit on the salary schedule, which would put them at 19 years with a rate of \$14.90/hr. It was also mentioned at the Water Committee meeting that a decent salary should be considered because of the theft that had taken place. At the next Council meeting, the Mayor Pro Temp motion to put the City Clerk on the salary schedule with 16 years of experience at \$14.25/hr., and with 10 hours of overtime per pay period, the Council voted and it passed. The justification of paying employees that're over the threshold was alluded to when the City Clerk cannot seem to get a fair pay rate compared to others. The personnel manual was also referenced to with the City Clerk being in the

same category as the department heads, Councilperson Bullington asked Counselor if that was the case, and he stated he would look into it.

Councilperson Bullington stated that she would look further at the salary schedule to make sure no one else is in a similar predicament as Karen Henson. Beth Bailey stated she has been here 6 years and is making minimum wage, and didn't think it was fair. Councilperson Bullington suggested that a stipend as the Mayor suggested wouldn't be the way to go, but if Beth Bailey was bumped up on the salary schedule to step E it would have the same effect. Councilperson Bullington motion that it be defined in the ordinance that the Office Clerk that works the 4:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. shift receive an additional 75 cents. Councilperson Hood second the motion, which resulted in the following vote:

Bullington	Yes	Cartee	Yes
Rittenberry	Yes	Hood	Yes
Grantham	Yes	Rodgers	Yes
Duckworth	No		

Library; Teresa Tidwell reported that the library had gotten approval of an early literacy grant between \$2,500 and \$3000.

Mayor McGraw asked Counselor Dorroh about the salvage yard on Hwy 84 and the property on Carroll Avenue. Counselor stated he was working through the police department with probable cause concerning Hwy 84. The Carroll property will have an ad placed in the paper next week.

There was a question about the coyote problem again; citizens are advised not to shoot, but to call the Conservation agent. Steve Motton stated that the conduct of how the meetings have been handled was very disheartened. Professionalism is not being adhered to, and it doesn't set a good precedent for the youth. Councilperson Cartee stated that he agreed and for that reason he would not be seeking reelection. Tony Jones stated that everyone would have to do better. With the town dying and the need for business to come in, the City is not representing itself well. Chief Jones stated that when the papers have incidents of disputes, and with potential businesses coming in, looking at the situation is not favorable. He stated that we all have to work together and treat everybody the same. Christina Williams stated that she has been working with Operation Healthy Delta. She also attended a Stronger Economics Together meeting in Sikeston last month. The surrounding communities are looking at joining together with a united front to be looked upon as a region rather than separate entities in order to get funding sources. There is also a web site called Location One that has a listing of empty buildings that are ready for business that the City is not on. The next meeting will be in Portageville at DAEOC Wednesday September 6, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Councilperson Cartee made mention of a meeting that he and the Mayor had attended at the Casino that was looking at funding for the port directed towards economic development which is a good thing.

Counselor Dorroh's response to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources regarding the fish kill is under negotiations. Counselor Dorroh stated we would need to go into closed session for any further discussion. Councilperson Duckworth motion to go into closed session second by Councilperson Cartee with all in favor.

After returning from closed session Councilperson Duckworth motion to adjourn, second by Councilperson Cartee with all in favor.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor