

The Carl Junction City Council met in regular session on Tuesday April 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. Mayor Mark Powers called the meeting to order with the following present: LaDonna Allen, Mike Burns, Rick Flinn, Bill Maguire, Bob McAfee, David Pyle, Roger Spencer, and Hollie LaVigne. Also present were City Administrator Steve Lawver, City Attorney Mike Talley, City Clerk Alaina Wright and City Administrator Assistant Crystal Winkfield.

AGENDA

Roger Spencer motioned to amend the agenda to remove item #12. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed. LaDonna Allen motioned to approve the agenda as amended. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed. LaDonna Allen motioned to approve the consent agenda. Roger Spencer seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Chevelle Lawver-616 Locust She wanted to thank everyone that contributed to the Citizens for the CJPD committee and said their help was appreciated.

Tammy Greenburg-1116 Marie Lane (via YouTube stream) She wants to expand on our strengths to gain more revenue for Bluegrass Festival. She feels there should be celebrities brought in, and said there should be more music and cars and it should be more like the Maple Leaf Festival.

PRESENTATION OF LIFE-SAVING AWARDS

Mayor Powers presented Chief McCall with a life-saving award.

Chief McCall presented Officer Danny Conway with a life-saving award.

DISCUSSION OF TRANSFERRING MUNICIPAL COURT CASES TO CIRCUIT COURT

Steve Lawver said Tracé McMullen has turned in her notice and her last day will be Friday April 5, and this is a good opportunity to transfer municipal cases to the circuit court. Steve Lawver said he's already spoken to Judge Elliston and Doug Miller about the situation. Mike Talley said he has spoken with the circuit clerk and the associate judge who would be handling our cases. He said a drawback is that there is a total loss of control at the local level. Mayor Powers said he believed the Code & Nuisance Committee needs to review the matter before it goes any further. Steve Lawver said he has a meeting with Judge Elliston and Doug Miller Friday to start looking at files and he would like the code committee to meet as early as possible. The committee meeting was set for Wednesday April 3 at 1:00 PM.

ORDINANCES

LaDonna Allen motioned to put "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2025 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET" on first reading by title only. Roger Spencer seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

Discussion: LaDonna Allen said there was discussion during the last council meeting and there was a budget committee meeting and after discussion the budget committee does believe this budget is sustainable. She said it was the committee's vote that the budget should be recommended to the full council.

Mike Burns was concerned that historic raises were snuck into the budget without the budget committee's approval, then when the budget committee met to discuss those raises, they were bullied by employees into presenting a budget with those raises and felt that something had gone wrong during the process. LaDonna Allen said there were miscommunications between committee members and staff, but those were addressed and a process is going to be put in place to make sure that doesn't happen in the future. She also said she didn't feel the committee members were bullied.

Mayor Powers pointed out the raises last year were significantly lower than inflation. He also said the budget can always be amended if needed.

David Pyle motioned to put it on second reading by title only. Roger Spencer seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

Discussion: Rick Flinn asked when dispatch will be moving to JasCo and Chief McCall said it began April 1 at 10:00 AM. He said all dispatchers will remain on staff through April 19.

LaDonna Allen motioned to put it on final passage. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

LaVigne-yes, McAfee-yes, Flinn-yes, Spencer-yes, Allen-yes, Burns-no, Maguire-yes, Pyle-yes. Motion on Ordinance #24-05 was approved by roll call vote, signed by the Mayor, attested by the City Clerk and made a part of the permanent records of the City of Carl Junction.

LaDonna Allen motioned to put "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES FOR CITY EMPLOYEES EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2024" on first reading by title only. Roger Spencer seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

Rick Flinn motioned to put it on second reading by title only. LaDonna Allen seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

LaDonna Allen motioned to put it on final passage. Rick Flinn seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

LaVigne-yes, McAfee-yes, Flinn-yes, Spencer-yes, Allen-yes, Burns-no, Maguire-yes, Pyle-yes. Motion on Ordinance #24-06 was approved by roll call vote, signed by the Mayor, attested by the City Clerk and made a part of the permanent records of the City of Carl Junction.

LaDonna Allen motioned to put "AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING CITY OFFICERS TO THE CITY OF CARL JUNCTION TO SERVE THE ENSUING YEAR UNTIL NEW OFFICERS ARE DULY APPOINTED" on first reading by title only. Rick Flinn seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

Discussion: There was no discussion.

LaDonna Allen motioned to put it on second reading by title only. Bob McAfee seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

LaDonna Allen motioned to put it on final passage. Rick Flinn seconded. All in favor. No opposed.

LaVigne-yes, McAfee-yes, Flinn-yes, Spencer-yes, Allen-yes, Burns-yes, Maguire-yes, Pyle-yes. Motion on Ordinance #24-07 was approved by roll call vote, signed by the Mayor, attested by the City Clerk and made a part of the permanent records of the City of Carl Junction.

REPORTS

The Council reviewed the Administration report. Steve Lawver said the company we use for cleaning is a contractor with Jani King. He said the contract will expire in the next few months, but the franchisers of Jani King will take on cleaning the buildings until the city decides what to do.

David Pyle asked if Steve Lawver was working with Mid Central to clarify the contract for technology upgrades and Steve said yes.

Public Works report – Mike Burns asked if compost was ever spread at Country Club Estates Park and Jay Morton said yes. Jay Morton asked if the dirt would be cleaned up where the footgolf course was installed and Mike Burns said he would try and find out.

Police Dept. report – Mayor Powers asked about electronic ticketing and Chief McCall said there is a meeting Thursday at 1:30 PM for administration. He said officers had training this morning for the Omnigo system and that should go live by the end of the month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget/Finance: LaDonna Allen said the budget was passed earlier.

Code/ Nuisance: Rick Flinn said there's a meeting tomorrow at 1:00 PM to discuss moving municipal court.

Human Resources: Roger Spencer had nothing to report.

Public Facilities & Planning: Mike Burns said there was a meeting last week but they did not have any recommendations. Hollie LaVigne asked if there was an update on the completion date for Lakeside Park. Steve Lawver said the date right now is scheduled for the end of May.

Economic Development: Hollie LaVigne said there was a meeting with Retail Strategies last week and there will be a zoom presentation in about two weeks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Rick Flinn said he saw something on Facebook last week about footgolf and there being concerns about the upkeep for the course. He asked who is responsible for taking care of that and Jay Morton said the city is responsible for mowing it. Rick Flinn said in a previous meeting the council decided the course might need to be moved but now it seems as if the equipment has been installed. Mike Burns said he wasn't sure exactly where the project was in the process.

NEW BUSINESS

LaDonna Allen said it was brought up in the public facilities meeting about developers doing very large plats and they'd like to look at some kind of code change that if there are so many lots in a plat the developer needs to put in a green space that the city can then maintain. Hollie LaVigne said he had spoken to Steve Lawver and he would need to speak to the P&Z Commission about it.


Bill Maguire asked when we would get election results about the use tax and Mayor Powers said around 9:00 or 10:00 PM.

Mike Talley said there was a closed session on the agenda for a lawsuit filed by a former employee. He said the case has been turned over to our insurance carrier and they have accepted defense of the claim, but they will do not cover the portion of the claim for lost wages. He said the insurance carrier will defend all claims so there was no further need for the closed session.

Steve Lawver said the railroad will be doing work at 171 & Pennell and will have the crossing closed 12:00PM -7:00PM Friday April 5.

ADJOURNMENT

Roger Spencer motioned to adjourn the meeting. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.


CITY CLERK


MAYOR