

The Carl Junction City Council met in regular session on Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. Mayor Tom Paul called the meeting to order with the following present: Anita Francis, Walter Hayes, Bob McAfee, James Shanks, Roger Spencer, and Carole Wofford. Hollie LaVigne and David Pyle were absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Lawver, City Attorney Mike Talley, City Clerk Alaina Wright and Assistant Crystal Winkfield.

AGENDA

Roger Spencer motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Walter Hayes seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent. Walter Hayes motioned to approve the consent agenda. Roger Spencer seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no one present for public forum.

ORDINANCES

Walter Hayes motioned to put “**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE VII. UTILITIES; CHAPTER 705: WATER, ARTICLE III. USER CHARGE SYSTEM BY AMENDING SECTION 705.330: ACTUAL USE RATE STRUCTURE, TO INCREASE WATER RATES EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2026**” on first reading by title only. Roger Spencer seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.

Discussion: Steve Lawver said he had a newer water analysis rate on the dais for everyone to look at it. He said this analysis includes the EPA’s recommendation that the rate be at 2% of the median household which would put us around \$138 just for water and would increase utility bills to \$200-\$300 per month. Steve said the proposed rate will produce up to \$2.1 million of revenue in a dry year and around \$1.7-1.8 million in a typical year. He said this doesn’t raise the rates to the degree they need to be raised and another 10% increase next year is likely. Roger Spencer asked what the current rates are and Steve Lawver said currently it is \$14.69 for the first thousand gallons and \$4.67 for each additional thousand gallons and it will increase to \$15.83 for the first thousand gallons and \$5.14 for each additional thousand gallons.

Carole Wofford asked if we had any kind of steady rate for seniors or those living on fixed incomes. Steve Lawver said we do not and that when we took out the SRF loan 20 years ago one of the requirements is that we change our structure so that everyone pays equally.

Roger Spencer motioned to put it on second reading. Bob McAfee seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

Walter Hayes motioned to put it on final passage. Carole Wofford seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.

Francis-yes, LaVigne-absent, McAfee-yes, Spencer-yes, Pyle-absent, Hayes-yes, Wofford-yes, Shanks-yes. Motion on Ordinance #26-13 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.

DISCUSSION OF 2026-2027 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mayor Paul said he handed out committee assignment sheets that stayed the same from last year other than moving Anita Francis to Economic Development.

REPORTS

The Council reviewed the Administration report. Steve Lawver said Lakeside Pavilion still needs painted and the soffit still needs to be installed. Carole Wofford said Steve Nelson did a good job at getting it looking good before the first Farmer’s Market.

Roger Spencer asked if public works could look at the playground equipment at 4-Oaks Park because he’s gotten reports that the stairs on the playground equipment are rusted and jagged. Roger also said in the southwest corner of the park there’s an oak tree that is leaning and looks like it might go into the house at 115 Schimm if it were to fall. Steve Lawver said he would look into it and get it taken care of.

Carole Wofford said they’ve started putting sewer lines in her area and asked if there was a timeline on how long that’s going to take. Steve Lawver said that’s Ace Pipe and they are lining them.

James Shanks asked if the playground equipment referenced by Roger Spencer was under warranty and Steve Lawver said no. Police Dept. report – Steve Lawver said there was one estimate on the damage to a patrol car, and it was \$9,700 worth of hail damage. Asst Chief Stever said it’s unit 105 which is the oldest vehicle. Steve Lawver said he expects MIRMA to total the vehicle.

Public Works report – James Shanks said they mowed the park and did a good job but there are several large trees in the park from the flooding last week.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget/Finance: Walter Hayes had nothing to report.

Code/ Nuisance: Carole Wofford had nothing to report.

Human Resources: Roger Spencer said he’d like to have a meeting at 6:30 pm on May 19.

Public Facilities & Planning: David Pyle was absent.

Economic Development: Hollie LaVigne was absent.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Anita Francis said at a previous meeting the 250th anniversary mosaic tiles were approved but we didn't discuss installation. Steve Lawver said we would have to get someone to install it that has installed tiles before.

Walter Hayes said he received an email today asking about the speed bumps and asked if we ordered anymore. Steve Lawver said they were delivered on Friday May 1. He said he was also asked where the carnival was going to be this year and Steve Lawver said it would be on Main Street again the week of Memorial Day.

Carole Wofford asked if there would be a plexiglass sheet over the front of the mural once it's complete to protect it.

Mayor Paul said the Carl Junction Cultivator's Club put flowers down Main Street and in the flower bed and it looks very nice.

NEW BUSINESS

James Shanks said the city usually helps fund the Briarbrook CID fireworks show and with this year being the 250th anniversary of our country, they were hoping to put on a bigger show than normal. Alaina Wright said the past few years the City has given \$3,500 toward the show.

Walter Hayes said he will miss the May 19 meeting. He said he will be meeting with Eric Burleson if there's anything city related to discuss.

Alaina Wright said she received an email from ACI Speedpay that a service currently provided for residents to make utility payments will be changing. She said currently Officials Payments is free for the city to offer and the residents who use it pay only a small transaction fee, but the email stated that beginning July 1, they will charge a monthly fee of \$1,995 to use their website. She said in April, three payments were made through this service and in March there were only two payments. James Shanks asked if there was anything particular about this website that is different from the city's website. Alaina Wright said they have the ability to take tax payments, but since Jasper County now collects the taxes, we no longer get tax payments like that. Anita Francis asked if there's a way to inform customers using this service that it will no longer be offered. Alaina Wright said so few customers use this service that city hall staff could call each one and inform them. Water Hayes motion to cease using Official Payments. Roger Spencer seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.

ADJOURNMENT

Carole Wofford motioned to adjourn the meeting. James Shanks seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR