

The Carl Junction City Council met in regular session on Tuesday November 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Hollie LaVigne called the meeting to order with the following present: Anita Francis, Bob McAfee, David Pyle, Roger Spencer, and Carole Wofford. Walter Hayes and James Shanks were absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Lawver, City Attorney Mike Talley, City Clerk Alaina Wright and Assistant Crystal Winkfield.

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no one present for public forum.

ANNUAL UPDATE FROM RETAIL STRATEGIES

Kam South and Stephen Dendy were present from Retail Strategies to give an update on their business recruitment progress for the past year.

ORDINANCES

Jennifer Shotwell was present to speak about the ordinance. She said the government shut down that just recently ended has stalled their funding, which runs on reimbursement programs. She said the end of November will mark four months that they have been waiting for invoices to be paid. She said last year in the four county area they serve they provided almost half a million meals and in Carl Junction they provided nearly 9,600 meals and delivered just as many to residents in the area. She said they serve about 35% of the age eligible population for the area. She said State of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has said it will be about eight weeks before they have access to the federal funding they will need to reimburse invoices. She said the minimum wage went up by \$1.40 for 26 employees over the last year which has taken the majority of their reserve funds. She said this MOU is the same presented to Webb City, Joplin, and Neosho which would allow the city to provide them funding to cover the wages for the employees and food costs to keep the center feeding the seniors.

David Pyle motioned to put “**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BY AND BETWEEN THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING, REGION X, AND THE CITY OF CARL JUNCTION, MISSOURI, TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE THROUGH A SHORT TERM REPAYMENT PLAN TO PROVIDE NUTRITION PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF CARL JUNCTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,750.00 PER WEEK; PROVIDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND/OR MAYOR TO EXECUTE SAID MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**” on first reading by title only. Bob McAfee seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.

Discussion: Hollie LaVigne asked if they had received donations and Jennifer Shotwell said yes and that is how they’ve managed to stay open this long. She said now they expect the funding to run out around December 8. She said they are also working with Governor Kehoe on getting some other funding released.

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

Discussion: There was no further discussion.

David Pyle motioned to put it on final passage. Roger Spencer seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.

Francis-yes, LaVigne-yes, McAfee-yes, Spencer-yes, Pyle-yes, Hayes-absent, Wofford-yes, Shanks-absent. Motion on Ordinance #25-40 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

Long-Term Project report – Alaina Wright said the second reimbursement for the water project arrived today and was approximately \$140,000.

Steve Lawver said the community meeting will be tomorrow afternoon and it will take the ideas given at the last community meeting and put them all together so they can build a priority list based on what the community wants to see. Hollie LaVigne said it’s a come and go event and Steve Lawver said it would be from 3:00-8:00 PM.

Treasurer’s report – There was no discussion.

Police Dept. report – There was no discussion.

Public Works report – Hollie LaVigne asked if the park bathrooms were all winterized and Harvey Kitzberger said the bathrooms at Lakeview Park are still open.

Carole Wofford asked if the pump that had broken at the WWTP was fixed yet and Harvey said there was a lead time of eight to thirteen weeks for the parts.

Alaina Wright said the way the days in November fell, that just like last year the only way to do disconnections for non-payments of water services would be to do them on Wednesday November 26th, which would leave those without water off for four days over the long holiday weekend. She said last year, the council had directed her not to do water disconnections for November, and she needed direction once again. The consensus among the members was to once again not do water disconnections for November bills.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget/Finance: Walter Hayes was absent.

Code/ Nuisance: Carole Wofford had nothing to report.

Human Resources: Roger Spencer said there was a meeting at 6:30 PM for evaluations for the city administrator, city clerk, and police chief and the committee agreed with the forms. Steve Lawver is going to get those forms to Mike Talley to handle both the City Administrator and the City Clerk.

Public Facilities & Planning: David Pyle encouraged people to come to the community meeting tomorrow.

Economic Development: Hollie LaVigne said the update from Retail Strategies was earlier.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Steve Lawver said there are a lot of trees that haven't shed their leaves yet this year. He spoke with Jay Morton and they decided to add a week to the end of the pick up schedule and allow people to call in if they need leaves to be picked up. Roger Spencer asked how many leaf vacuums we have and Harvey Kitzberger said there are two ready to go.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief McCall said December 13 would be Shop with a Cop, and the Lions Breakfast on December 6 will donate their proceeds to Shop with a Cop.

ADJOURNMENT

Roger Spencer motioned to adjourn the meeting. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent. Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR PRO-TEM