

CITY OF CARTERVILLE, MISSOURI
STATED REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Invocation: Gene Hutchcraft

- 1) **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** – Mayor Alan Griffin calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 2) **ROLL CALL** – Dwayne Cupp, Vanessa Summers-Norton, Dalyn Waite, Warren Myers, Devin Keeling, Judy Martin, Cody Franks, Brenda Cupp.
City Attorney – Derek Snyder
City Employees – Jon Cook, JuLinda Deither, Officer Othellis Roper, Reserve Officer Seth Talbott
- 3) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4) **MOTION TO ACCEPT THE SEPTEMBER AGENDA** – Dalyn Waite makes a motion to accept the agenda. Brenda Cupp 2nd the motion with council in agreement.
Motion passed.
- 5) **APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES** – Warren Myers makes a motion to accept the council minutes from regular meetings August 11, 2026 and Special meeting August 24, 2026, and Work Session September 1, 2026. Dalyn Waite 2nd the motion with council in agreement.
Motion passed.
- 6) **OLD BUSINESS** —
 - a) **COUNCIL BILL 26-09 NO PARKING ON POPLAR STREET** – Dalyn Waite makes a motion to amend Council Bill 26-09 to have no parking on the South Side of Poplar between Tennessee Street and Elizabeth Street and no parking on the North Side of Poplar between Elizabeth Street and Pine Street. Vanessa Summers-Norton 2nd the motion with Council in agreement.
Motion passed.
Vanessa Summers-Norton makes a motion to have the 2nd reading by title only of Amended Council Bill 26-09. Devin Keeling 2nd the motion with Council in agreement. Motion passed.
JuLinda Deither reads Amended Council Bill 26-09 by title only.
Brenda Cupp makes a motion to accept 2nd reading of Council Bill 26-09. Judy Martin 2nd the motion with Council in agreement.
Motion passed.
 - b) **COUNCIL BILL 26-14 OPEN RECORDS POLICY AMENDMENT (SUNSHINE LAW)** – Dalyn Waite makes a motion to have the 2nd reading by title only of Council Bill 26-14. Dwayne Cupp 2nd the motion with Council in agreement. Motion passed.
JuLinda Deither reads Council Bill 26-14 by title only.
Devin Keeling makes a motion to accept 2nd reading of Council Bill 26-14. Dalyn Waite 2nd the motion with Council in agreement.
Motion passed.
 - c) **DISCUSSION OF NUISANCE CODE IMPROVEMENTS** – Visitor Ronda Whisner makes her concerns about her neighbors yard, home, grass, fence and more and is asking for better nuisance codes and enforcement. Devin Keeling cautions council in overstepping citizens' rights to decorate their property as they see fit. Dalyn Waite states he would like to see the City adopt Joplin's nuisance codes specifically numbers 17, 18, 19. Vanessa Summers-Norton would like to have Chief Worley to clarify how the ordinances are enforced. Council was asked to send their suggestions to City Administrator Jon Cook, so he can put together an ordinance for next meeting.

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- d) **JUDY MARTIN LATE PERSONAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE** – City Administrator Jon Cook stated that he helped Judy file her personal financial disclosure and appeal. Dalyn Waite asked if the City had admitted fault in any way. Brenda Cupp asks for clarification for what year the personal financial disclosure was for. City Administrator stated that it was for 2025 since an ordinance was not passed that year to allow Council to forgo the filing. The ordinance is now passed and good for 2 years. Devin Keeling does not feel that it is the City's responsibility to pay. As a council member responsibility belongs to you to keep track of filings and pay fines if late.
- Devin Keeling makes a motion not to reimburse Judy Martin for the late fees. Brenda Cupp 2nd the motion. Dalyn Waite asks for roll call vote.
- Yeas—Dwayne Cupp, Warren Myers, Devin Keeling, Cody Franks, Brenda Cupp
Nays—Vanessa Summers-Norton, Dalyn Waite
Abstain—Judy Martin
Motion to not reimburse Judy Martin for the late fees passed.

7) **VISITORS –**

- a) **ANITA DEMERY**—Asks for the Mayor to step down and resign from his position. States he shows no respect for citizens or council members. Anita stated she raised foster kids and would not accept a fair grade from a report card and she refuses to accept that a Fair on the State Audit is acceptable. It should be at the minimum Good.
- b) **STEVE TANDY**—Says he hopes that the City does not accept Joplin's nuisance ordinances. He states that Chief Worley is not fit for the job. He feels his family was targeted for nuisance violations by Chief Worley. He has some ethics violation concerns regarding the Chief. Steve states when the Mayor began his position, he moved the City forward for a year but then progress stopped. He says the mayor no longer is earning respect and has a vote of no confidence from citizens and council. He says that the Mayor is to be held responsible and needs to resign so the City can heal. Steve would also like Council Member Brenda Cupp to resign. He states her Facebook page, Carterville4U needs to be held to a higher standard. And says she is unethical on Social Media.
- Council Member Brenda Cupp thanks Steve and the others for their comments and respects them for coming to Council to speak even if it is against her.
- *At the 5-minute mark, Steve asked for more time. Vanessa Summers-Norton makes a motion to allow Steve 3 more minutes to speak. Dalyn Waite 2nd the motion with Council in agreement. Motion passed.
- c) **GLENDA NEWBY**—Asks for the Mayor's resignation. She says he does not have respect for citizens and council. And she has noticed he specifically seems to interrupt and stop the women from speaking. His comments on the audit of "I wasn't aware" are concerning. As a mayor it is his job to be aware and know the laws. She says he is inconsistent in his position since he has been elected. She doesn't see someone who has Carterville in mind, just someone that is arrogant and defensive.
- d) **RONDA WHISNER**—See Discussion of Nuisance Code Improvements.
- e) **CRYSTAL BUCKNER**—states that her issues that she has had began in March of 2025 with a missing trash can. That she knows of 3 blocks on Lewis that have multiple issues of nuisance and ordinance violations and nothing has been done. She says the water is not fit for use, and something needs to be done. As a former council member, she stated that it took 3 months before the mayor would put something on the agenda. She also says it's embarrassing that the Code Book is not codified and easy to search. She talks about going to the MML meeting in October of 2025 with the Mayor and City Administrator. The mayor introduced himself to State Representative Lane Roberts saying he was from Carterville otherwise known as "Craterville" and said it is a good thing it wasn't named after Mr. Daugherty because then it would be called "Dirtyville". She says it is time for the Mayor to step down. He read his apology letter at last council but then was disrespectful after council negating the apology. Crystal states the Council lied to citizens about what Missouri American Water could do for the water system and censored them. She also mentions how embarrassing the KZRG interview with the mayor about the

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State Audit was with his “I don’t know’s” and saying council was toxic. Crystal says, “No mayor, you are toxic.” She says there is a lack of respect and leadership.

Mayor Griffin commented that he did not introduce himself, that State Representative Lane Roberts knew him by name. And that at the last council meeting, he came in and left by the back door.

*At the 5-minute mark, Crystal asks for more time to speak. Vanessa Summers-Norton makes a motion to allow Crystal 3 more minutes to speak. Dalyn Waite 2nd the motion with Council in agreement. Motion passed.

- f) **TONJA DOKE**—states that she is concerned with code enforcement. She has neighbors with tall yards. And the scaffolding on main street is a huge hazard. She has been coming to council meetings to see if the Mayor and Council will accept responsibility. She is looking for accountability and transparency. She encourages Council to have discussions, ask questions and get clarification before making decisions. And to make sure they listen to their constituents. Tonja asks that the mayor consider resigning. She states that he is not conducting meetings effectively and as professionally as he should as mayor. She is asking that Council take responsibility for the Mayor and vote to have him removed.
- g) **ANDY MARTIN**—states that he has spoken to 6 out of the 8 Council Members and they want the Mayor to resign. And they are speaking not only as Council Members but for their constituents as well. He says the Mayor says he was not aware of state law, street plan requirements, water loss audits to be completed, that employee bonuses were illegal, that buying salt spreader or playground equipment from single sources was not correct, or police car usage was an issue. Andy said, “Mayor, the buck stops with you.” He says everyone asking you to resign is thinking of what is right for Carterville. And you need to ask the same. Fair rating is not acceptable. The water system is falling apart and Andy does not want it to become like Purcell and be a mandated take over. Think of what Public Works could be doing if they did not have to worry about the water. Increase the Curb Appeal of Carterville.

*At the 5-minute mark, Andy asked for more time to speak. Vanessa Summers-Norton makes a motion to allow Andy 3 more minutes. Dalyn Waite 2nd the motion with Council in agreement. Motion passed.

Brenda Cupp again thanked the visitors for coming to speak and that she has respect for them.

8) NEW BUSINESS –

- a) **PARK COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**—Dalyn Waite reached out to both nominees about past due taxes and got clarification on them. Warren Myers asked to make sure that there won’t be “bad blood” brought to the park committee meetings. The Briley’s stated they are upset over the personal attack at Andrea but they will not let it effect being on the committee. The missed taxes was on the Trolley part of Supertam. It was sent to a wrong address. As soon as they were notified, they took care of it. The taxes due on Famos property do not belong to Kayla Amos as she rents the property. Cody Franks makes a motion to accept the nominations of Kayla Amos and Andrea Parsons-Briley to the park committee. Judy Martin 2nd the motion with Council in agreement. Motion passed.
- b) **DISCUSSION OF BUDGET WORK SESSION DATE AND TIME**— A Special Council Meeting will be held Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the trash contracts. A Budget work session will be held Tuesday, September 22, 2026 at 6 p.m.
- c) **COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS OF MAYOR**—
- Brenda Cupp states that the Visitors have covered most of the concerns. She read a letter asking for the Mayor’s resignation. She states that there is a season for everything and it is the season for the Mayor to leave. 7 out of 8 council members are stating that they have no confidence in the Mayor. That the reason the previous administration quit was due to her pressuring for more transparency. And stated that the Mayor had said he had given one a glowing letter of reference. Then the mayor pressed to hire a City Administrator that Council did not

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agree with to pursue his agenda. She also expressed concerns over the Mayor using the City Hall car for personal use.

- Dalyn Waite started coming to Council meeting in late 2025. He saw mismanagement of Council meetings by the mayor then and even more so now as a Council member. He also asked the Mayor to resign.
- Vannessa Summers-Norton stated that the Mayor cannot silence this request for resignation. That the citizens and council will not be silenced any longer. The matter is "too loud" now. There has to be a change somewhere and that change starts with the Mayor resigning.
- Devin Keeling says that he can see it is a main concern but the Mayor can choose not to resign. If he chose to stay in office, then Devin asked for endurance from the Council and Citizens until April. Devin states that we all are human and make mistakes. He would support the resignation if citizens were able to get a petition and a recall vote but feels that an impeachment would be too costly.
- Warren Myers mentioned that in past council that the Mayor asked for a vote of confidence and stated that if there was no confidence in him that he would step down. At that time, the council still had confidence. But at this time he no longer has that confidence from Council or citizens and should step down as he previously stated he would.
- Dwayne Cupp asks for a show of hands from the room of those who would like the Mayor to resign. Majority of the hands raised.
- Mayor Griffin then asked for a show of hands from the room of those who would like him to not resign. Few hands raised.

Mayor Griffin replied to the Council and citizens that he would not resign. His three reasons for not resigning are as follows: 1. State Audit was Fair. How many cities get a Fair vs other ratings? 2. His wife supports him staying as Mayor. 3. He will not be intimidated, bullied or threatened. Mayor Griffin showed Council and citizens a threatening letter left in his mailbox and a voicemail. He stated that he has the police involved but has not pressed charges or asked for an investigation yet.

- Crystal Buckner, a visitor, pointed out that none of his reasons to stay have mentioned Carterville.

9) **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Dalyn Waite presented Council with PowerPoint of August expenses and incomes.

10) **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**— City Administrator Jon Cook read from a section of his report. The City Administrator is asking the Council to recognize the serious challenges facing Carterville's infrastructure, City operations, and staff. While residents' frustration with the condition of the water and sewer systems is understandable, the Administrator emphasizes that decades of deferred maintenance cannot realistically be corrected within a few years. Carterville has extensive infrastructure needs involving water, sewer, stormwater, streets, sidewalks, drainage, and other public property issues. These responsibilities are being handled by only four Public Works employees, creating significant staffing and workload pressures. The Administrator also expresses concern that continued criticism and hostility toward City staff over system failures are damaging morale and making it increasingly difficult to retain qualified employees. The current situation is described as unsustainable.

The report presents two possible paths forward:

1. Continue municipal ownership of the water and sewer systems but recognize that doing so will require substantial long-term commitments, including higher rates, grants, financing, additional staffing, capital investment, difficult project priorities, and a timeline of 10–15 years or more.
2. Formally evaluate selling or transferring the systems to an outside provider. The Administrator acknowledges the potential benefits of outside investment but also stresses that any proposal must be evaluated for its impact on rates, local control, and protections for residents.

The Administrator believes Carterville should make this decision deliberately and while the City still has negotiating leverage, rather than waiting until a financial crisis or major system failure forces the issue. The report also recommends that, if outside ownership is reconsidered, the process should be as public and transparent as legally possible, allowing residents to understand the facts, costs, risks, and tradeoffs.

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- Dalyn Waite responds that this report should be a “wake-up call” to the council. Council needs to determine the direction for Carterville exploring every reasonable option in a transparent manner with the citizens. Carterville comes first.

11) **ADJOURNMENT** – Devin Keeling makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dalyn Waite 2nd the motion with Council in agreement.

Yeas-8 Nays-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Mayor Alan Griffin

Date:

JuLinda Deither, City Clerk