

The Carl Junction City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

1. Roll Call

Mayor Tom Paul called the meeting to order with the following present: Anita Francis, Hollie LaVigne, David Pyle, James Shanks, Roger Spencer, and Carole Wofford. Walter Hayes and Bob McAfee were absent. Also present were City Administrator Steve Lawver, City Attorney Mike Talley, and City Clerk Alaina Wright.

2. Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation

3. Approve Agenda

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

4. Consent Agenda

Carole Wofford motioned to approve the consent agenda. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.

a. Approval of minutes of previous meeting (08/04/26)

b. Approval of disbursements

5. Public Forum

- Gary White, 302 Meadow Lake — He was present to discuss the fire that was started last week in the area south of his home. He said he had two wooden fences with scorching and was outside for about two hours keeping watch. Gary said he and his neighbors feel Schuber Mitchell has a responsibility to the residents there, and he is requesting that Schuber Mitchell remove the debris or get a wood chipper to take care of the trees or keep the burn pile only at the far end of the land away from the houses. He said on Sunday, both burn piles were still smoking all day. He would like to have this on a future agenda to hear a response from the city for oversight to ensure a safe process.

Steve Lawver said those responsibilities fall to the fire protection district, not the city. He said there's been communication with Schuber Mitchell and the concerns of the residents were forwarded to them. Steve said they were upset with the contractor responsible and would be in contact with each of the residents affected by this. Gary White said he understands the city and fire district are separate and the fire protection district issues the burn permits, but the city should be responsible for ensuring Schuber Mitchell safely and effectively clears the area.

- Jessica Garcia, 207 W Briarbrook Ln — She was present to discuss her high water bill from August. She said the water bill she received was around \$1600, which reflects usage of around 300 gallons per hour for a month. Jessica said she doesn't understand how it spiked because she had no leaks and wasn't using any extra water. Hollie LaVigne said she was in favor of discounting the bill. Mike Talley told the board that they have to live with the decision they make. James Shanks made a motion to reduce the bill to the resident's average monthly rate of usage. Anita Francis asked if there's a way to make it so that if the resident has this same issue in the future, the amount from the excess usage wouldn't be suspended again. Mike Talley said he felt that was essentially pushing a decision down the road. Hollie LaVigne seconded James Shanks' motion to reduce the bill to the average monthly rate of usage. Anita Francis, Hollie LaVigne, Roger Spencer, Carole Wofford, and James Shanks were in favor. David Pyle was opposed with two absent.
- David McCune, Land Development Group — He said Dirks Construction works for them, and he was present to take full responsibility for what happened with the fire in Briarbrook. He said they are going to move the burn piles south to keep them as far away from structures as possible. He said Dirks Construction has taken responsibility and

have been proactive about making amends with residents and said he will get in touch with Gary White.

- Arturo Elivo, Schuber Mitchell — He said Schuber Mitchell has been in contact with residents and will be on site for future burns.

6. Public Hearings

a. Public Hearing on 2026 Tax Levy

Mayor Paul opened the public hearing at 7:28 PM. Hollie LaVigne asked for more information and Alaina Wright explained the pro forma comes from the state auditor with the levy amount they will allow, and the levy proposed in the ordinance matches the allowed amount in the pro forma. The public hearing was closed at 7:30 PM.

7. Presentations

a. Presentation of Federal Home Bank Community Services Grant by Community Bank & Trust

Melissa Beck, Branch Manager with CBT, presented a check from the Federal Home Bank Community Services Impact Fund Grant for \$40,000 to assist with architectural and engineering costs to assist with expanding and upgrading the Community Center.

Robert Reeves, Executive Vice-President with CBT, said Federal Home Bank reached out with the grant to help municipalities with projects to improve the community.

b. Presentation by Silver Sage Renaissance Festival and request to use Center Creek Park

Jacque and Cindy run the Silver Sage Renaissance Festival, which Jacque said is an immersive educational experience. She said the organization is a 501c3 that started in 2020 in western Kansas. She said she and Cindy both live in this area and moved the festival to Joplin two years ago to Landreth Park. Jacque said they ran into logistical issues, and they would like to have trees for their performers. She said they would like to have interaction and a long-term commitment in Center Creek Park because it would serve their needs expeditiously.

Hollie LaVigne said she thought this was a wonderful idea and Center Creek Park would be a perfect place for it.

Jacque said vendors are required to dress in period accurate clothing because they want the visitors to feel like they stepped back in time. She said the festival would be on the 5th & 6th of June. James Shanks asked if they've ever had to move dates because of the weather and Jacque said that would be an issue once they have vendors and performers booked.

Jacque said one of their requirements is that all vendors use solar power and all food trucks use generators.

Steve Lawver said they would need access to the park on June 3rd. Jacque said it's not a pop-up event and it requires significant set up. Carole Wofford asked about police officers. Cindy said they have private security that will be there for the entire festival and that someone is available on site around the clock.

Jacque said there needed to be a discussion about alcohol in the park and about vendors staying in the park overnight. Mayor Paul said if the proposal were approved it would allow people to stay overnight with their items. Hollie LaVigne asked if they have liability insurance and they said yes. Chief McCall said the motion to approve the proposal would need to include them having 24/7 access to Center Creek Park, or they would be in violation of the ordinance that states city parks close from 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM in the spring and summer.

Mike Talley said he would have to investigate the ordinance, but they need to include in the motion that they have unrestricted access to the park for the duration of the event.

Hollie LaVigne motioned to allow Silver Sage Renaissance Festival to use Center Creek Park from June 3rd through June 6th and to allow unrestricted access by authorized personnel in the park during that time frame. Carole Wofford seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent. Roger Spencer asked if there's something the city could give authorized people to prove they have access. Jacque said the vendors and performers will have their own identification, so it will be easy to distinguish who is supposed to be there.

Mike Talley said that per city ordinance 240.030.A, the park hours can be extended in writing by the Board of Aldermen, which will be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

8. Ordinances

a. Ordinance establishing the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2027

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TAX LEVY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 ESTABLISHING SAID LEVY \$0.7067 PER HUNDRED ASSESSED VALUATION ESTABLISHING THE ALLOCATIONS OF SAID FUNDS TO GENERAL FUND AND GENERAL OBLIGATIONS SINKING FUND

- Roger Spencer motioned to put the ordinance on first reading by title only. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.
- David Pyle motioned to put the ordinance on second reading by title only. Carole Wofford seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.
- David Pyle motioned to put the ordinance on final passage. Roger Spencer seconded.

Yes Votes: Anita Francis, Hollie LaVigne, David Pyle, James Shanks, Roger Spencer, Carole Wofford

No Votes: None **Absent Votes:** Walter Hayes, Bob McAfee

Motion on Ordinance 26-19 was approved by electronic vote, signed by the Mayor, attested by the City Clerk and made a part of the permanent records of the City of Carl Junction.

9. Bid Approval

a. Bid approval for Tesla charging station at 302 N Main

Steve Lawver said we now have three Teslas in our fleet, but we only have one charger, so we need a new charging station that will charge two vehicles. He said JAG Electric was low bid, including all parts & labor. David Pyle asked if it would be marked and secured in some way to only be available to city vehicles and Steve Lawver said there is a camera that will cover the charger so they can see if anyone else tries to charge their vehicles.

Mayor Paul said JAG electric was the least detailed of the quotes. He said one of the contractors quoted a 50-amp charger, one quoted a 30 amp-charger and asked if we knew what JAG Electric would install. Chief McCall said he believed it would be a 60-amp. He said JAG Electric installed the original charger and they've had no trouble.

Steve Lawver said JAG Electric and Rooted Renovations are Tesla certified.

Anita Francis asked if the cameras would be monitored and Steve Lawver said the camera would be on the screen in dispatch. Hollie LaVigne motioned to approve the bid from JAG Electric. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.

10. Reports

a. Long-Term Project report

Steve Lawver said he summarized all the projects identified by SAPP Designs and included the dollar amount and handed out a list of the projects for the Aldermen and some staff to prioritize. He asked for the Aldermen to return their lists once completed so he could put everyone's thoughts together and have a better idea of the priorities. Carole Wofford asked if there could be a work session and Steve Lawver said if everyone got together, it would have to be a meeting. Hollie LaVigne asked if the estimate for the splash pad parking lot was really \$350,000 and Steve Lawver said that was their estimate. Tom Paul asked when some of these projects could be started and Steve Lawver said there are several that we could already do.

b. Treasurer's report

No discussion.

c. Department reports

Police Department: Chief McCall said he turned in his retirement letter and September 30 will be his last day.

Public Works: Harvey Kitzberger had nothing to report.

d. Committee reports

Budget & Finance — Hollie LaVigne said the tax levy was passed earlier.

Code & Nuisance — Carole Wofford had nothing to report.

Human Resources — Roger Spencer had nothing to report.

Public Facilities — David Pyle would like a meeting at 6:00 PM on September 1st.

Economic Development — Hollie LaVigne had nothing to report.

James Shanks asked if the new animal control officer would work with David Wehmeyer and Steve Lawver said yes.

11. Unfinished Business

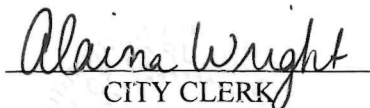
- Anita Francis said the mural looks wonderful, and she's happy it's done. Steve Lawver said the camera was adjusted so you can see if someone walks up to the mural.
- David Pyle said he voted no earlier on the water adjustment because he doesn't feel it's the Board's job to decide on individual water issues and that there should be rules that are followed each time.
- James Shanks said he agrees with David. Alaina Wright said there are utility procedures and internal policies that can be changed if that's what the Board chooses to do.
- Steve Lawver said Mayor Paul issued an emergency road repair for the bridge at Center Creek Park. Roger Spencer motioned to ratify the emergency repair. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent.
- Chief McCall said he finalized the background on the part-time police clerk and that position is now filled.

12. New Business

- Hollie LaVigne said school starts Monday and asked everyone to be mindful of the traffic.

13. Adjournment

Hollie LaVigne motioned to adjourn the meeting. David Pyle seconded. All in favor. No opposed with two absent. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.


CITY CLERK


MAYOR