

**CARO CHARTER COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING 2/23/09**

Richard Ransford, Chair. Al Jones, Vice-Chair. Don Duggar, Clerk

Members Thomas Baird, Wm Bortel, Kerwood Crutchfield,
Joe Greene, Debra Lung-Lipan, David Mattlin

The Public Hearing of the Caro Charter Commission was called to order by Commission Chair Richard Ransford at 7:00 P.M. on February 23 2009 at the Caro Municipal Building 317 S State St Caro MI 48723.

In attendance were Richard Ransford, Joe Greene, David Mattlin, Don Duggar, Tom Baird, Kerwood Crutchfield and Debra Lung-Lipan. Also in attendance were Caro Clerk Karen Snider, Village Manager Don Beavers, several village trustees and other members of the public.

Excused absence: Wm Bortel and Al Jones.

The Chair introduced the Charter Commission members and gave a background of the work of the commission to this point. Responding to a question from the audience he noted that the taxing powers of the proposed city would be about the same as the village taxing powers and that the City Council would determine the millage rates in the same fashion as the Village Council now does. The millage roll backs imposed by state law would also be imposed on the new city. He also noted that the proposed charter states that No City Income Tax would be allowed. It was noted that property owners in the new city would not be paying township taxes. Also all elections, property assessments, assessment appeals and other government functions would be handled by a single layer of government.

Another question from the audience was in regard to the timeliness of the clerk in checking signatures of nominating petitions for city council. The proposed charter uses the word "immediate" and perhaps "forthwith" would be better.

Also discussed was the current method of notifying the public about upcoming meetings and particularly notices regarding future Charter Commission meetings before the election. Currently the village uses the village hall bulletin board and front door, the semi-weekly newspaper, the bi-monthly newsletter and the digital sign in front of village hall. Village officials will review this procedure and make improvements if possible.

Another question from the audience was why the proposed charter places all department heads under the authority of the city manager. The commission responded that they wanted to establish a clear line of authority and responsibility through the manager to the council. Also a department head has the right to appeal his or her dismissal to the city council.

Other discussion followed on the importance of maintaining the authority and responsibility of the elected council.

The commission closed the public hearing and discussed the minutes of the meeting of 2/5/09. Baird/ Greene move to approve the minutes of 2/5/09. Motion carried.

Crutchfield/Greene move to adjourn at 8:42 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted

Don Duggar
Clerk of the Charter Commission