

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on May 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. electronically via Zoom Video Communications (meeting ID: 969 5122 6654)

Present: Mayor Joe Greene, City Council: Alvin Zavitz, Bob Eschenbacher, Don Hall, Tisha Jones-Holubec, and Jill White

Absent: Brian Rickwalt

Others in Attendance: Matthew Lane - City Manager, Alexis Schultz – Deputy Clerk/Treasurer and other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL:

20-M-082

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the agenda with the addition of adding the Tuscola County Resolution – Moving Tuscola County Forward as regular agenda item # 12. Roll call: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Brian Rickwalt had some concerns on some agenda topics. He asked about the Caro Center water supply, invoice from Gambles Gun Shop, payment to Chris Olsen, and the splash pad.

COMMUNICATIONS: Noted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Minutes - May 4, 2020
2. Invoices
3. Department Reports
 - A. Police Report – Chief Brian Newcomb
 - B. Fire Report – Chief Randall Heckroth
 - C. Code Enforcement – Randall Heckroth
 - D. DPW/Water Reports – Jeff Graham
 - E. WWTP – Curtis Wells
 - F. Municipal Parking Violations Bureau Report – Sara Savage

20-M-083

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Zavitz to approve the consent agenda including the invoices. Roll call: Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Open Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance #476 – Amending Blight Ordinance

Mayor Joe Greene opened up the Public Hearing on proposed Ordinance #476, an Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Caro, Michigan, by amending Section 14-42. This ordinance will change the time allowed to place out trash, refuse, and/or rubbish out for collection from 72 hours prior to collection day to 24 hours prior to collection day.

2. Public Comment/Council Discussion

City Manager received an email from Randall Heckroth – Code Enforcement Officer informing him that since the ordinance lists time and day, there is no way of knowing what time someone’s trash has been picked up or if it could be from the previous week. He would have to enforce it after hours.

3. Close Public Hearing

20-M-084

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to close the Public Hearing on Proposed Public Hearing Ordinance #476 Amending Blight Ordinance. Roll call: Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

4. Action on Proposed Ordinance #476

20-M-085

Motion by Zavitz, seconded by Eschenbacher adopt Ordinance #478 as presented. Roll call: Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – no, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

5. Water Main Extension to Caro Center Design Engineering Services Proposal

20-M-086

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Zavitz to approve the professional services agreement with ROWE for design engineering of the water main extension to the Caro Center, allow City Manager Matthew Lane to sign and execute the agreement and complete a budget adjustment in the Water Fund in the amount of \$25,000 from fund balance to professional services to cover the cost of the survey phase in this fiscal year. Roll call: White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

6. Vortex Splash Pad – Parks & Recreation Recommendation

20-M-087

Motion by Hall, seconded by Zavitz to approve the design specifications and proposal from Vortex, as presented by the Parks and Recreation Committee and to move forward with the project, join NPPGov to receive the member discount and direct the City Manager to establish a work plan for demolition of the tennis courts and to work with Vortex to schedule preparations and installation of the splash pad. Roll call: Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

7. Fire Hydrants Purchase

20-M-088

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the purchase of three fire hydrants from EJ USA for \$7340.22. Roll call: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

8. Blight Mowing
20-M-089

Motion by Hall, seconded by White to award the Blight Mowing contract to Chris Eskelson for \$60 per 8,000 square feet and \$15 for each additional 2,000 square feet. Roll call: Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

9. 3rd Quarter Financial Report – Finance Committee Recommendation
20-M-090

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to accept the 3rd Quarter Financial Report as presented to the Finance Committee. Roll call: Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

10. Water/Sewer Rates Increase – Other Rates
20-M-091

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to raise blight mowing administration fee to \$100.00 as of July 1, 2020 and publish in the paper. Roll call: White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – no, Rickwalt – absent, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

11. Set Public Hearing – FY 2020-2021 Proposed Budget
20-M-092

Motion by Hall, seconded by Jones-Holubec to set Public Hearing on FY 2020-2021 proposed budget for Monday June, 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall. Roll call: Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

12. Tuscola County Resolution – Moving Tuscola County Forward
20-M-093

Motion by Jones-Holubec, seconded by Eschenbacher to support the Tuscola County Resolution – Moving Tuscola County Forward. Roll call: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/TABLED:

1. First Read on Amending Medical Marihuana Ordinance/Set Public Hearing
20-M-094

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to set a Public Hearing on June 1, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall on Ordinance to amend Section 8-29(h) of Medical Marihuana Ordinance with revisions to change the distance from a state licensed day

care to 500 feet instead of 1,000 feet. Roll call: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Parks and Recreation – Council member Jill White recommended best placement for the dog park is Chippewa Landing by the sledding hill. There was discussion on fencing and the grant money.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Mayor Greene reported he sat in a call with the state and said they are planning on a fall construction for the Caro Center.

MANAGER COMMENTS – City Manager Matthew Lane submitted a written report.

CLERK’S REPORT – Clerk/Treasurer Sara Savage submitted a written report.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Tanya Batschke thanked the council for going ahead with the splash pad. There are a couple changes that the Parks & Recreation Committee wants to discuss, but happy to see it moving forward.

Sean Smith thanked everyone for there hard work on the splash pad and the dog park.

Herb Sheardy informed that the grass at the parking lot across from the American Legion has gotten too high and would like it mowed.

Don Hall would like to see a requirement for council members to be a City of Caro tax payer.

20-M-095

Moved by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Roll call: Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – absent, Rickwalt – absent, White – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

Alexis Schultz
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer