

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CARO CITY COUNCIL
August 18, 2025, 6:30 P.M.
Council Chambers, 317 S. State St., Caro, MI 48723

Mayor Karen Snider called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on August 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Karen Snider, City Council: Emily Campbell, Charlotte Kish, Doreen Oedy, Heidi Parker, and Jill White

Absent:

Others: Scott Czasak – City Manager, Rita Papp – City Clerk, Brian Newcomb – Police Chief, Randy Heckroth – Fire Chief, Jon Beaupre – Code Enforcement Officer, Thomas Reese – DPW Superintendent and other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL

25-M-178

Motion by Kish, seconded by Campbell to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY - None

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Tuscola County Animal Control Officer – Tyler Ray (feral cats)

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2025
2. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – August 5, 2025
3. Invoices
4. Department Reports
 - A. Police Report – Chief Brian Newcomb
 - B. Fire Report – Chief Randall Heckroth
 - C. Code Enforcement Report – Jon Beaupre

25-M-179

Motion by Parker, seconded by Campbell to approve the consent agenda as presented including invoices and correction to the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes, Heidi Parker was absent not present.

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Emterra Contract

25-M-180

Motion by Kish, seconded by White to instruct the Mayor, City Manager, and City Clerk to sign the 2026-2031 Emterra Environmental USA Contract for refuse services as presented.

Motion carried.

2. Norman Street Project Engineering

25-M-181

Motion by White, seconded by Campbell to award the Project Engineering contract for Norman Street to MLR Engineering for a quoted price of \$157,400.00 and allow the City Manager to sign all necessary documents.

Roll call vote: Campbell – yes, Kish – yes, Oedy – yes, Parker – yes, White – yes, Mayor Snider – yes.

Motion carried.

3. Snow Pusher

25-M-182

Motion by White, seconded by Campbell to purchase and install a Snow Wing 12'-18' from Snow Works for the quoted price of \$27,490.00.

Roll call vote: Kish – yes, Oedy – yes, Parker – yes, White – yes, Campbell – yes, Mayor Snider – yes.

Motion carried.

4. Blight Fees Discussion (Parker)

Councilor Heidi Parker asked how the fees were developed, asked about the clippings cleanup cost and asked how the clippings are disposed of. Councilor Heidi Parker is concerned with the high costs and inquired if the blight mowing contract is negotiable at this point. Comments were made by Jerry Middaugh, Great Lakes Land Management during the discussion. The billing process was also discussed.

5. Recording Council Meetings Discussion (Parker)

Councilor Jill White commented on her support of recording meetings. Also commented on the first public comment on the agenda not being voted on by council, separate seating section in the council room for employees only, concerned with not having committees and committee chairpersons, and the importance of transparency.

Councilor Emily Campbell & Councilor Heidi Parker presented the idea of live streaming the meeting. Discussion followed by council. City Manager gave different options for live streaming and/or recording meetings. City Manager was instructed to investigate live streaming and/or recording meetings and bring it back to council.

ITEMS PENDING/POSTPONED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Mayor Snider) – Meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2025.
2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – Discussed adopt a highway, Chamberger Golf Outing, Ribbon Cutting on August 21, 2025 at Porzondek Law PLLC, Gingerbread Festival, and there is still an open seat on the board.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Kish) – Meeting was cancelled.
4. Fair Board (Oedy) – No report.
5. Parks & Recreation (White) – Meeting scheduled for August 19, 2025. Update given on the past Friday night event at Bieth Park, and attendance was low.

6. Planning Commission (Vacant) – City Manager gave an update. Site plan was reviewed for the former Rite Aid building split request for Wild Bill’s Tobacco. New Planning Commission member, Luke Ewald was appointed secretary, Ordinance change request regarding digital signs will be forthcoming to council.
7. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Parker) – No report. Commented that their meetings are on YouTube.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals (Mayor Snider) – No meeting.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Written report submitted.

MANAGER’S COMMENTS – Written report submitted.
Gave an update on the relocation of the lift station located by Pizza Hut.

CLERK’S REPORT – Written report submitted.
Another letter of interest for the council vacancy was received. Explained the process if the vacancy is not filled by September 5, 2025.

TREASURER’S REPORT – No report.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lori Krywko – Commented on her concerns with the sidewalk project and that no re-work has been done to her yard yet. She still has mowing issues with roots and Mikes Landscaping should not get paid until the work is completed properly.

Tyler Ray – Commented on recording of meetings and suggested reaching out to Eean Lee at Tuscola County for guidance.

Bob Struza – Commented on his support of recording meetings.

Tanya Batschke – Commented on her concerns with the possibility of changing the ownership limit of cats.

Tyer Ray – Commented on local ordinance change suggestions, IE.. Mandatory spay or neuter and microchipping.

Vince Ferreira – Commented on his support of recording meetings younger viewers. Suggested making accommodation for people with no online accessibility.

Sue Ellen Greenlee – Commented on her concern with the City Charter not being followed.

Scott Czasak, City Manager – Commented that the sidewalk project issues will be addressed Wednesday thru Friday this week.

Councilor Jill White – Inquired about the status of Tree City process. City Manager stated that the application window will open September 1, 2025.

Councilor Emily Campbell – Commented on a suggestion of pet adoption event and to incorporate 4H members for grants for pet supplies.

Tyler Ray – Commented on pet adoptions and the process and mentioned there is a pet food pantry available at the animal shelter.

25-M-183

Motion by Parker, seconded by White to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Motion carried.