

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CARO CITY COUNCIL
March 17, 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 March 17, 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: Greg Hutchison

Others: Scott Czasak – City Manager, Rita Papp – City Clerk, Tammy Ries – City Treasurer, Brian Newcomb – City Police Chief, Randy Heckroth – City Fire Chief and other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL

25-M-48

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

Scott Czasak, City Manager introduced Trent Stockman as the new WWTP Superintendent.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Charter Communications – Upcoming Changes
2. Elected Officials Academy
3. Planning Commission Annual Report

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2025
2. Council Committee of the Whole Minutes – March 10, 2025
3. Invoices
4. Department Reports
 - A. Police Report – Chief Brian Newcomb
 - B. Fire Report – Chief Randall Heckroth
 - C. Code Enforcement Report – Randall Heckroth

25-M-49

Motion by Campbell, seconded by Kish to approve the consent agenda as presented including invoices.
Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Budget Adjustment – Clerk Office Training

25-M-50

Motion by White, seconded by Campbell, to approve the budget adjustment of \$1,800.00 from Election Office Supplies and place \$700.00 into Clerk Education and \$1,100.00 into Clerk Travel to allow Jana Brown, Deputy Clerk to attend training.

Motion carried.

2. Earned Sick Time Leave Act Handbook Policy Amendment

25-M-51

Motion by Kish, seconded by Campbell to approve the Earned Sick Time Act Handbook Policy Amendment as presented.

Motion carried.

3. Financial Audit Bids

25-M-52

Motion by White, seconded by Oedy, to award the three-year auditing contract to Anderson, Tuckey Bernhardt & Doran for the bid amount of \$63,000.00 and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents to execute the contract.

Motion carried.

4. 2024/2025 Sidewalk Special Assessment Project

25-M-53

Motion by Kish, seconded by White to accept and approve the initial scope of the sidewalk special assessment project and schedule the sidewalk special assessment open house for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025, and set the public hearing for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

5. Website Rebuild Proposals

25-M-54

Motion by Kish, seconded by Campbell, to accept the proposal from Revize of Troy, MI to rebuild and maintain the City of Caro website for an initial cost of \$17,700.00 and an annual cost of \$ 3,900.00 and authorizes the City Manager to sign all documents required to facilitate the project.

Motion carried.

6. Fire Department Replacement Tank

25-M-55

Motion by White, seconded by Parker, to purchase and install the replacement tank for the Fire Department's Tanker Truck for the quoted price from Great Lakes Public Safety Equipment of \$22,000.00.

Motion carried.

7. Blight

25-M-56

Motion by White, seconded by Oedy, to authorize the City Manager to post and hire a Part Time Blight Officer as soon as possible and schedule a Committee of the Whole Meeting April 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss potential amendments to Blight/Code Enforcement Ordinances.

Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/POSTPONED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Mayor Snider) – No report.
2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – Guest speaker was Paige Rushlo, Part Time DDA Assistant, Discussed Adopt a Highway, Citizen of the Year, ESTA, and upcoming events. New secretary was selected.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Kish) – Training series for DDA Members was shared. The board discussed budget and Capital Improvements.
4. Fair Board (Oedy) – No report.
5. Parks & Recreation (White) – Snowman Burning will take place Thursday, March 20, 2025. Spring Clean Up will take place April 5, 2025. Easter Egg Hunt will take place April 12, 2025. Looking into purchasing a PA system for events.
6. Planning Commission (Hutchison) – City Manager reported that they adopted their annual report, worked on camping ordinance, and worked on amending Sugar Tree site plans.
7. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Parker) – Hired a new magistrate, Sheriff's department looking into getting another canine, and purchased safety gear for the sheriff's department.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals (Mayor Snider) – No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Written report submitted.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Written report submitted.

Commented on an update to the city email system.

CLERK'S REPORT – Written report submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Written report submitted.

CLOSED SESSION # 1:

GELC Union Contract

Section 8(c) of the OMA – “For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.”

25-M-57

Motion by Parker, second by Kish to go into closed session pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act – “For strategy and negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement if either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.”

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

Motion carried.

Entered Closed Session #1: 7:55 p.m.

Reconvened to Open Session #1: 10:01 p.m.

Motion by White, second by Campbell to reject the Tentative Agreement as presented and direct the City Manager to renegotiate with instructions.

Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION # 2:

City Treasurer Evaluation

Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act – “To consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing.”

25-M-58

Motion by Kish, second by Parker to go into closed session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act – “To consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing.”

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

Motion carried

Entered Closed Session #2: 10:03 p.m.

Reconvened to Open Session #2: 10:22 p.m.

25-M-59

Motion by Kish, second by Oedy to increase the compensation of the City Treasurer to \$66,000.00/year effective March 25, 2025.

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

Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rita Papp, City Clerk – Commented on her evaluation process from last year.

25-M-60

Motion by Parker, seconded by Oedy to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Motion carried.

Rita Papp
City Clerk