

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CARO CITY COUNCIL
June 16, 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 June 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Absent:

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

25-M-127

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

PRESENTATION:

1. Brian Farkas, Allen Edwin Homes – Van Geisen Road Housing Property

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. City of Caro Parks & Recreation Summer 2025 Schedule

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2025
2. Invoices
3. Department Reports
 - A. Police Report – Chief Brian Newcomb
Chief Brian Newcomb announced that Officer Bob Gaiser received the State of Michigan 2025 Liberty Bell Award.
 - B. Fire Report – Chief Randall Heckroth
 - C. Code Enforcement Report – Jon Beaupre
Councilor Doreen Oedy asked if the blight information could be added to the website.

25-M-128

Motion by Oedy, seconded by Parker to approve the consent agenda as presented including invoices.
Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. First Reading – Ordinance No. 488. In-City Camping & Set Public Hearing

25-M-129

Motion by Kish, seconded by Campbell to consider Ordinance No. 488, relating to camping in the City read for the first time, and schedule a Public Hearing on the Ordinance and Second Reading of the Ordinance for Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Motion carried.

2. First Reading – Ordinance No. 489. Drive Through & Set Public Hearing

25-M-130

Motion by Hutchison, seconded by Campbell to consider Ordinance #489 relating to drive-throughs read for the first time, and schedule a Public Hearing on the Ordinance and Second Reading of the Ordinance for Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Motion carried.

3. First Reading – Ordinance No. 490. Accessory Buildings & Set Public Hearing

25-M-131

Motion by White, seconded by Campbell to consider Ordinance #490 relating to accessory buildings read for the first time, and schedule a Public Hearing on the Ordinance and Second Reading of the Ordinance for Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Motion carried.

4. Purchase Request – Air Compressor for Fire Department

25-M-132

Motion by Kish, seconded by White, to accept the quote from Baur Legacy to purchase and install a new air compression system for the quoted price of \$45,816.68.

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

Motion carried.

5. FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment Resolution No. 2025-5

25-M-133

Motion by Kish, seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. 2025-5, FY 2024-2025 Budget Amendment as presented.

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

Motion carried.

6. Investment #1

25-M-134

Motion by Hutchison, seconded by Campbell to keep the CD in the amount of \$252,911.36 at Independent Bank for a 6 month term at 4.15%.

Motion carried.

7. Parks & Recreation Committee Appointment

25-M-135

Motion by Parker, seconded by White to approve the recommendation of Mayor Karen Snider and appoint Mary Beth Greene to the Parks & Recreation Committee to fulfill the vacant term until November 2025.

Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/POSTPONED:

1. DPW Superintendent Contract 2025-2028

25-M-135

Motion by Oedy, seconded by Campbell to allow the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the renewed employment agreement with Thomas Reese, DPW Superintendent as amended.

Motion carried.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Mayor Snider) – Hired a new EDC Director, Alisha Proctor, EDC must be out of their current office location by June 30, 2025. No June meeting.
2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – Discussed financial reports, upcoming events, and there is a vacant seat on the board.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Kish) – Had their Informational Meeting, working on updating their By-Laws, and the repairs at the bus stop at the Farmers Market will be completed soon.
4. Fair Board (Oedy) – No report.
5. Parks & Recreation (White) – Meeting will be Tuesday, June 17, 2025. They will discuss future budgeted items.
6. Planning Commission (Hutchison) – No meeting.
7. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Parker) – Passed a resolution for a drain that borders Tuscola County. They are looking into recruiting organizations for their search of a Controller/Administrator. Approved a new K9 for the sheriff's office.
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 Caro Dam Meeting, Well #6, LJ Garage, and Busy Bee Cleaning Contract.

CLERK'S REPORT – Written report submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT – None

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Duane Hornbacher – Commented on his concern with blight mowing and costs. He was concerned he received no notice. Requested Council to review the policy and the costs.

Judy Cockerill, Juniata Township Trustee – Commented on her concern with the multiple firefighter loss. She encouraged the council to have conversations with the departing firefighters and investigate the issues.

Tanya Batschke – Thanked the council for appointed a member to the Parks & Recreation Committee. Commented on her concerns with blight mowing costs.

CLOSED SESSION:

GELC & POLC Union Contracts

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-136

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: Campbell – yes, Hutchison – yes, Kish – yes, Oedy – yes, Parker – yes, White – yes, Mayor Snider - yes

Motion carried.

Entered Closed Session 7:53 p.m.

25-M-137

Motion by Parker, second by White to reconvene to Open Session at 8:14 p.m.

Motion carried.

Reconvened to Open Session 8:14 p.m.

25-M-138

Motion by Parker, second by Oedy to approve the Closed Session Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

25-M-139

Motion by Parker, seconded by White to approve the POLC Union Agreement as amended.

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

Motion carried.

25-M-140

Motion by Parker, seconded by White to approve the GELC Union Agreement as presented.

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

Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilor Heidi Parker – Commented on the recent increase in the Tuscola County Sheriff and Undersheriff's wages by the Tuscola County Commissioners. Inquired about the Public Comment process. Inquired about the recent WWTP leak and if it was repaired, will there be a follow up communication on the leak. Inquired about the recent multiple firefighter loss and if any statement was going to be released to the public. Inquired about the purchase of the tanker truck tank and status of the repair.

Councilor Doreen Oedy – Inquired about the blight mowing contract & pricing.

Councilor Greg Hutchison – Inquired about how many times the DPW Superintendent tested for the required water licenses.

Mayor Karen Snider – Commented on the blight fees.

Councilor Jill White – Commented on the blight fees.

City Manager Scott Czasak – Commented on the blight mowing bid process.

Councilor Emily Campbell – Requested a meeting to discuss blight.

Councilor Charlotte Kish – Commented on the fire hall training room renovations and asked if council would supplement the cost of flooring.

Mayor Karen Snider – Commented on purchase requests made prior to the end of the Fiscal Year and billed into the next Fiscal Year.

Councilor Emily Campbell – Inquired about paperwork being passed around to other council members in the meeting.

City Manager Scott Czasak – Announced that the asphalt should be completed in the new parking lot tomorrow.

25-M-141

Motion by Hutchison, seconded by Parker to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Motion carried.

Rita Papp
City Clerk