

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CARO CITY COUNCIL
February 17, 2026, 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 February 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Absent: Heidi Parker

Others: Scott Czasak – City Manager, Rita Papp – City Clerk, and other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL

26-M-28

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

Motion Carried.

PRESENTATION:

1. Exchange Forest Annual Report – June Kennedy
2. WSP Presentation – Well 9 & 10

PUBLIC COMMENTS – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

June Kennedy – Commented on the proposed addition to the Exchange Club Forest Stewardship Renewal.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Letter from Tim Murphy, Publisher, The Advertiser

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2026
2. Invoices
3. Department Reports
 - A. Police Report – Chief Brian Newcomb
 - Police 2025 Annual Report
 - B. Fire Report – Chief Randall Heckroth
 - C. Code Enforcement Report – Jon Beaupre

26-M-29

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

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Exchange Club Forest Stewardship Renewal

26-M-30

Motion by Campbell, seconded by White to strike clause 7 from the 2026-2031 Exchange Club Forest Stewardship agreement and authorize the City Mayor and City Clerk to sign the revised agreement.

Motion carried.

2. DDA Budget Line-Item Adjustment Request

26-M-31

Motion by Kish, seconded by Riley to approve to transfer \$1,775.00 from the Electric Budget Line (248-728-920-000) to the DDA Building Rent Budget Line (248-728-943-001) to cover increased rental costs associated with the new DDA office location.

Roll call vote: Campbell – no, Kish – yes, Oedy – no, Parker – absent, Riley – yes, White – no, Mayor Snider – yes.

Motion failed – Tie Vote

3. Well 9 & 10 Drilling Bids

26-M-32

Motion by Oedy, seconded by Campbell to award the Well #9 and #10 drilling contract to Brown Well Drilling for the bid price of \$394,134.00 and instruct the City Manager to sign all necessary documents.

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

Motion carried.

4. Mid-Year Budget Adjustments Request

26-M-33

Motion by White, seconded by Campbell to approve the budget adjustments as presented.

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

Motion carried.

5. 2025/2026 Sidewalk Special Assessment Role

26-M-34

Motion by White, seconded by Campbell to approve the draft assessment roll and schedule the sidewalk special assessment open house for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026, and set the public hearing for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, 2026.

Roll call vote: Parker – absent, Riley – yes, White – yes, Campbell – yes, Kish – no, Oedy – yes, Mayor Snider – yes.

Motion carried.

6. Investment Maturing

26-M-35

Motion by Riley, seconded by Oedy to keep the CDARS at Northstar Bank in the amount of \$621,119.93 for 52 weeks at 3.35%.

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

Motion carried

ITEMS PENDING/POSTPONED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Mayor Snider) – Attended the meeting. Two businesses were awarded Small Business Grants, Hanby Bread and Thumb Meat Market. EDC is working with the CDBG Grant Program. EDC is working with DDA for Redevelopment Ready Community process. EDC is participating in Retention calls with the City Manager. Next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – New Board Member was selected, Marie Green from Biggby Coffee. Parks & Recreation Superintendent Carrie Will gave a presentation to the board. Chamber discussed future events.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Kish) – DDA Assistant Paige Rushlo is the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival Secretary. A Food Safety Grant has been applied for. Discussion on moving the Farmers Market to the fairgrounds during the Pumpkin Festival. Discussed purchasing benches for the downtown area. Paige Rushlo's employment evaluation has been completed, and they approved a recommended 4% raise and changed her job title to DDA Director. New officers were elected.
4. Fair Board (Oedy) – Mounted Division has been reserved for security at the fair. Grant has been applied for and approved. Discussed camping in the fairgrounds.
5. Parks & Recreation (White) – Re-Allocation of funds was completed.
6. Planning Commission (Vacant) – No meeting.
7. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Parker) – No meeting.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals (Mayor Snider) – No meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Written report submitted.

Committee of the Whole Meeting is February 19, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Written report submitted.

\$10,000.00 grant was approved for cybersecurity.

CLERK'S REPORT – Written report submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Written report submitted.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Randy Heckroth – Commented on budget requests and the timing of quoted figures.

Zach (resident) – Commented on his concern of the property tax increase at his residence.

Councilor Jill White – Inquired on the status of the appraisal on the Van Geisen Road property.

Councilor Charlotte Kish – Inquired the status of the WWTP project.

26-M-36

Motion by White, seconded by Oedy to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Motion carried.

Rita Papp

Rita Papp, MiPMC2
City Clerk