

CITY OF CARO COUNCIL BUDGET/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS WORKSHOP MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the Budget/Capital Improvements Workshop meeting of the City Council to order on March 15, 2021 at 6:03 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Present: Mayor Joe Greene, City Council: Bob Eschenbacher, Kory Batschke, Emily Campbell, Don Hall, Tisha Jones-Holubec (6:06 p.m.), and Jill White

Absent: None

Others in Attendance: City Manager Matthew Lane, Clerk/Treasurer Sara Savage, Curtis Wells, Mike Carpenter, Jeff Graham, Chief Brian Newcomb

Discussion Items:

1. Capital Projects for the 2021-2022 FY Budget
City Manager Matthew Lane provided handouts of FY 2021-2022 department capital requests from Police, Fire, WWTP, DPW, and administration/council/special projects. Police capital requests estimated a total cost of \$7,720. Fire department capital requests estimated a total cost of \$30,000. DPW capital requests for water, street projects, and equipment purchases estimated a total cost of \$2,012,800. WWTP department capital requests estimated a total cost of \$2,153,000. Administrative/council/special project capital requests estimated a total of \$2,103,000.

There was discussion on the cost of the city mowing in-house. The city manager handed out a memo from DPW Superintendent Jeff Graham showing the current mowing equipment on hand. It is estimated to cost a total of \$88,410 in mowing equipment investment plus additional personnel. There was discussion on maximizing contract mowing by extending the contract from one year to three years and to include language of expectations. There was consensus of the council to direct the city manager at the council meeting to put out an RFP for mowing and lawn maintenance for a three-year contract.

WWTP Superintendent Curtis Wells explained the WWTP capital requests and potential need to repair/replace the primary digester cover. The worst-case scenario would cost approximately \$2 million, but it needs to be inspected first. Curtis has tried reaching out to contractors but thinks we would have better response if an engineer put out the RFP for it. The consensus of the council was the primary digester cover needs to get fixed soon.

Mayor Greene states the city should put money towards the old recycling building, sealing the wooded walkway at Chippewa, and continuing with the Bieth Park master plan. Councilor Eschenbacher commented on putting money into parks and recreation for painting buildings in the fairgrounds. Councilor White commented on how the city could make the triangle downtown look nicer with landscaping or artwork.

The workshop adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Sara Savage
Clerk/Treasurer