

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on January 18, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. electronically via Zoom Video Communications (meeting ID: 959 5699 0195)

Present: Mayor Joe Greene, City Council: Bob Eschenbacher, Kory Batschke, Emily Campbell, Don Hall, Tisha Jones-Holubec, and Jill White

Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Matthew Lane – City Manager, Sara Savage – Clerk/Treasurer, Randy Heckroth – Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer, Curtis Wells – WWTP Supt., Jeffrey Graham – DPW Supt., and other guests.

AGENDA APPROVAL

21-M-007

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of #5 Set Policy Committee Meeting under the Regular Agenda. Roll call: Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS: None

COMMUNICATIONS: Noted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Council Workshop Minutes – January 4, 2021
2. Regular Council Minutes – January 4, 2021
3. Invoices
4. Department Reports
 - A. Police Report – Chief Brian Newcomb
 - B. Fire Report – Chief Randall Heckroth
 - C. Code Enforcement – Randall Heckroth
 - D. DPW/Water Reports – Jeff Graham
 - E. WWTP – Curtis Wells
 - F. Municipal Parking Violations Bureau Report – Sara Savage

21-M-008

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the consent agenda including the invoices. Roll call: Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Fire Engine #2 Repairs

21-M-009

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to approve the repairs quoted in the amount of \$5,515 by Front Line Services, Inc. to repair Fire Engine #2. Roll call: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

2. Board of Review Reappointment

21-M-010

Motion by Jones-Holubec, seconded by Batschke to reappoint April Bonk to the Board of Review with a term ending January 2024. Roll call: Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

3. Set Finance Committee Meeting

Finance Committee meeting set for Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

4. Recreational Marihuana Direction

21-M-011

Motion by Hall, seconded by Campbell to direct the City Manager to draft an ordinance on recreational marihuana. Roll call: Jones-Holubec – no, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

5. Set Policy Committee Meeting

Policy Committee meeting set for Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

Councilor Eschenbacher mentioned hiring an attorney and putting out an RFP for legal services which led to discussion.

21-M-012

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to authorize the City Manager to put out a request for proposals for legal services. Roll call: White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/TABLED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. EDC – Mayor Greene reported that the grant application for food service industries in Tuscola County begins tomorrow. EDC working projects list in the packet.
2. Chamber of Commerce – City Manager Matthew Lane reported the Chamber is reopening back up and implementing COVID restrictions. They are working on the Citizen of the Year event.
3. Historical Society – Councilor Jones-Holubec reported that she joined their Facebook page and informed them she was made liaison.
4. Parks and Recreation – Councilor White reported on the Caro Library Storybook Project. The committee is working on guidelines and signage for splash pad and dog park.
5. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners – Councilor Jones-Holubec reported that she had trouble getting into the virtual meeting and spoke with Commissioner Bardwell.
6. Indianfields Township – Mayor Greene reported the township discussed the city annexation in December and it did not appear they want to move forward with it.

7. Almer Township – Councilor Campbell stated she received the minutes and nothing to report.
8. Airport Authority – Mayor Greene reported they are working with engineers on the runway repaving project, adding field tile to the westside of grass runway and still working on the tax appeal.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Greene requested the backhoe be parked outside and listed for sale. Mentioned looking into a food truck ordinance. Will be sending out forms to review City Manager and Clerk/Treasurer. Attended conference call for the Caro Center. Encouraged people to buy local.

MANAGER COMMENTS: City Manager Matthew Lane submitted a written report.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk/Treasurer Sara Savage submitted a written report.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilor Hall commented that the 5,000 sq ft rule on vacant lots should be on the next council agenda, which led to discussion.

21-M-013

Motion by Hall, seconded by White to direct the City Manager and the Planning Commission to work on amending the 5,000 sq ft vacant lot building requirements. Roll call: Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

Councilor Eschenbacher made a comment about adding lights to the city's entrance sign. Mike Carpenter commented that the Planning Commission was working on amending the building lot size requirements and that Alvin Zavitz had done some research on it.

21-M-014

Motion by Jones-Holubec, seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m. Roll call: Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

Sara Savage
Clerk/Treasurer