

## **CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES**

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on January 20, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Caro City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Joe Greene, City Council: Brian Rickwalt, Bob Eschenbacher, Don Hall, Megan Calvin and Tisha Jones-Holubec

Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Don Duggar – Interim City Manager, Sara Savage – Clerk/Treasurer, and other guests

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

#### **20-M-007**

**Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the revised agenda as presented with the addition of #4 EDC under Committee/Liaison Reports. Motion carried.**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:**

Chuck Dennis questioned what the update was on the water issue on Van Geisen Road property and the request to move the speed limit sign.

**PRESENTATION:** Caro Exchange Club Forest – Ron Laeder gave an annual report on the Caro Exchange Club Forest. He handed out a forest guide that showed where the benches, bird, bat and squirrel houses are located and what and where different trees are located. They are continuing to make improvements to the forest, such as adding new benches, new welcome sign, and trash bins at the entrances. There has been an increase in walkers now that the new walkway was added to connect the forest to Chippewa Landing Park. The Caro Exchange Club host an annual Trail Walk and they had 178 walkers this last year. Their future goals are to obtain a speed limit reduction sign next to the trail, removing leaning trees, upgrading signs, and planting new trees.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Noted.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Regular Council Minutes – January 6, 2020
2. Council Workshop Minutes – January 13, 2020
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

#### **20-M-008**

**Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Calvin to approve the consent agenda including the**

**invoices. Motion carried.**

**REGULAR AGENDA:** (action required)

1. Caro Exchange Club Forest Stewardship Agreement Renewal  
**20-M-009**  
**Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to approve the Caro Exchange Club Forest Stewardship Agreement renewal for another 6 years and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement. Motion carried.**
2. CLEMIS Agreement with Oakland County  
**20-M-010**  
**Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to approve the Agreement for IT Services with Oakland County for CLEMIS and authorize the Interim City Manager to sign the agreement. Motion carried.**
3. Firetruck Request for FDIC International  
**20-M-011**  
**Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Calvin to allow the use of the new firetruck at the FDIC International show in Indianapolis, Indiana from April 20 – 25, 2020. Motion carried.**
4. Caro Winter Fest Banner Request  
**20-M-012**  
**Motion by Rickwalt, seconded by Jones-Holubec to approve the banner request for the Caro Winter Fest to hang banners from January 27 – February 10, 2020. Motion carried.**
5. Information Technology Consultant & Support Services RFP  
**20-M-013**  
**Motion by Hall, seconded by Calvin to approve the IT services bid from R & R Technical Services, LLC and authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to enter into a contract for services. Motion carried.**
6. Water Department Asset Management  
Interim City Manager Don Duggar stated he was within his purchasing authority at \$4,800 to hire HRC as professional services for the water department's asset management plan, but wanted a consensus of council before moving forward. It was the general consensus of the council to approve hiring HRC for the water department's asset management plan.
7. Second Wave Media Network  
It was the general consensus of council to join the coalition of Tuscola County stakeholders and to contribute at most \$2,625 to be a Thumb Regional Partner to the Second Wave Media Network.
8. Caro Center
  - a. Indianfields Township Resolution Approving Water Utility Franchise with the City of Caro  
**20-M-014**

**Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the Limited Water Utility Franchise and Consent Agreement with Indianfields Township contingent upon the township having an election in August 2020. Roll call: Calvin – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Hall – yes, Rickwalt – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.**

b. ROWE Engineering

The council discussed having ROWE Engineering resume working on the water main extension to the Caro Center. The council determined more information was needed from the state before moving forward.

c. Financing

Mayor Greene stated he has been in talks with rural development regarding loan funding for the water main extension. It was discussed that more information was needed from the state on how they planned to pay for the water line.

d. Water Agreement with the State

The council discussed the importance of getting a water purchase agreement with the state prior to getting started on the water line extension in the event the Caro Center ever closed before fully paying for the water line.

9. Discussion of Alternate Sign Location

Mayor Pro-Tem Rickwalt stated to the council the idea of placing the second entrance sign on the north end of M24 close to the technology center and Michigan State Police Post instead of at the desired location on the south end of M24 in front of the Exchange Club Forest. The Interim City Manager will look into possible locations on the north end.

**ITEMS PENDING/TABLED:** None

**COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:**

1. Airport Authority – The Mayor reported the authority is accepting bids for a tractor to be used for snow removal.
2. Planning Commission – Minutes in the packet. There is a public hearing scheduled for February 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. on the site plans for the proposed medical marihuana facility permits.
3. Parks & Recreation – Councilor Jones-Holubec stated there will be a special meeting on January 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Vortex, a splash pad company, will be presenting to the committee.
4. EDC – The Mayor reported they are working on a lot of projects, such as Land Bank, Quality Roast, Indianfields Township park expansion, Caro Dam purchase, and Walboro job fair.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** The Mayor submitted a written report.

**MANAGER COMMENTS:** The Interim City Manager submitted a written report.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The Clerk/Treasurer submitted a written report.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mark Perez questioned the council on status of blight issues that have been discussed over the past months.

Jill White made a comment regarding the lack of housing available in Caro due to high delinquent taxes.

**20-M-015**

**Motion by Hall, seconded by Calvin to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. Motion carried.**

Sara Savage  
Clerk/Treasurer