

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on October 18, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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

Absent: None

Others: Matthew Lane – City Manager, Rita Papp – Clerk, Michele Perry - Treasurer, and other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL

21-M-212

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of: Amended Invoices, #3 – Communications - Westen Opportunities, LLC & #12 – Personnel Committee Recommendations.

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Al Michel – Commented on light post being out for six years and thanked the City Clerk and City Manager for fixing it.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2021
2. Fall Clean Up Day – Tuscola County Fairgrounds, November 6, 2021
3. Westen Opportunities, LLC. – William Putman II and Dr. Blake Putman gave a brief presentation on the Putman's Medical Center and water hook up concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Minutes – October 4, 2021
2. Policy Committee Minutes – October 4, 2021
3. Invoices
4. Department Reports (****Report at Second Meeting Only**)
 - A. Police Report – Chief Brian Newcomb
 - B. Fire Report – Chief Randall Heckroth
 - C. Code Enforcement – Randall Heckroth
 - D. DPW/Water Reports – None
 - E. WWTP – None
 - F. Municipal Parking Violations Bureau Report – Rita Papp

21-M-213

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve the consent agenda as presented including invoices.

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. **Open Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 485 – City of Caro Code of Ethics Ordinance**
Public Hearing opened at 7:58 p.m.

2. Public/Council Comments on Ordinance No. 485

Herb Sheardy – Questioned what the Ordinance is for.

Council Member Jones-Holubec – Thanked the Council for Sections: 2-10, 2-12, and 2-13 in the Code of Ethics Ordinance No. 485.

3. Motion to Close Public Hearing – Ordinance No. 485 – City of Caro Code of Ethics Ordinance

21-M-214

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to close public hearing on Ordinance No. 485 at 8:02 p.m.

Motion carried.

4. Action on Ordinance No. 485 – City of Caro Code of Ethics Ordinance

21-M-215

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve Ordinance No. 485 – City of Caro Code of Ethics as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Mayor Greene – yes.

Motion carried.

5. Open Public Hearing – Special Assessment Roll Sidewalk Improvement Project 2021

Public Hearing was opened at 8:03 p.m.

6. Public/Council Comments – Special Assessment Roll Sidewalk Improvement Project 2021

Letter received 9/20/21 and read by Clerk:

Ashley Osborne – Opposing Sidewalk Improvement Project 2021.

Letter received 10/18/21 and read by Clerk:

Michelle Carter – Opposing Sidewalk Improvement Project 2021.

Council Member Batschke – Commented on interest charges on spreading the fees out.

Council Member White – Commented on interest fees and the need to cover additional administrative fees to set up payment plans.

7. Motion to Close Public Hearing – Special Assessment Roll Sidewalk Improvement Project 2021

21-M-216

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to close public hearing at 8:06 p.m.

Motion carried.

8. Action – Special Assessment Roll Sidewalk Improvement Project 2021

21-M-217

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the Special Assessment Roll Sidewalk Improvement Project 2021.

Motion carried.

9. Banner Request – Human Development Commission – Domestic Violence Awareness Month

21-M-218

Motion by Batschke, seconded by White to approve the Banner Request – Human Development Commission – Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Placement will be October 19, 2021 thru October 31, 2021.

Motion carried.

10. Civic System Software Upgrade and Additional User License

21-M-219

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Campbell to accept the recommendation of the City Treasurer and approve the purchase of the new version of Civic Systems, the additional user license, and the additional module at a total cost of not more than \$14,950.00.

Motion carried.

11. DPW Truck Purchase Change

21-M-220

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to approve the change in the DPW Truck purchase to a 2022 Ford F250 XL 4X4 Crew Cab 6.5' Box from Moore Motors for the total cost not to exceed \$33,577.00.

Motion carried.

12. Personnel Committee Recommendation – DPW/WWTP Open Positions

21-M-221

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to authorize City Manager to advertise for a combined DPW/WWTP Superintendent position with wage range of \$70,000.00 to \$100,000.00.

Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/POSTPONED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Greene) – Meeting is next week.
2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – Chamber is working on Gingerbread Festival and collaborating with the Farmer's Market Manager. Chamber has a new Executive Director. City Manager was asked to sit on the Budget & Personnel Committee for the Chamber.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Hall) – Meeting was held on October 13, 2021. The Master Plan was presented.
4. Fair Board (White) – Met this week on 5 Year Master Plan. Continuing to work on the roofing project and removal of dirt pile.
5. Parks & Recreation (White) – Same as Fair board notes, #4.
6. Planning Commission (Eschenbacher) – Met on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. Representative from ALDI presented their detailed plans. Tentative breaking ground date is April 2022.
7. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Jones-Holubec) – Spoke with Commissioners about the ambulance service issue. Mayor Greene attended commissioner's meeting. City Manager scheduled a meeting with stakeholders on October 22, 2021.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals (Greene) – No meeting held.
9. Indianfields Township (Greene) – Attended meeting. Their audit was presented at the meeting.
10. Almer Township (Campbell) – Attended meeting. They had an update on their 5-year plan and had an open hearing on their Solar Ordinance.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Written report submitted

MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Written report submitted

CLERK'S REPORT – Written report submitted.

Council Member Eschenbacher requested Clerk to advertise for all vacancies on Boards and Committees.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Written report submitted.

City of Caro audit will be presented at the 2nd meeting in November 2021.

Financial Reports will be presented to the Council in December 2021.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Al Michel – Commented on Putman's Medical Center water request and the impact on the community. Inquired if anyone knew what the fair profit was this year.

Westen Ash – Supports the Putman's Medical Center and had concerns with ambulance services.

Council Member Campbell – Discussed the water agreement process with Indianfields Township and City of Caro for water hook up to Putman's Medical Center to the public in attendance.

William Putman II, Dr. Blake Putman, Brandon Putman, and Billy Putman – Had an in-depth discussion with questions/answers regarding the collaboration with the City of Caro and Indianfields Township with water hook up to the Putman's Medical Center. Discussed concerns with the arsenic levels in the water.

Amanda Kiss – Support the Putman's Medical Center. Had concerns with the delay in opening the center and the delay in job opportunities.

Dave Nichols – Questioned if the water is safe to drink.

Mary Herdell – Concerned with arsenic levels in the water. Supports the water hook up to Putman's Medical Center.

Bryan Eschenbacher – Had concerns with pay scale of combined DPW/WWTP Superintendent position.

21-M-222

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to form a committee to collaborate with Indianfields Township and consult attorney regarding water hook up to the Putman's Medical Center. Committee shall consist of: City Manager Matt Lane as Chairperson, Council Member Kory Batchke, Council Member Emily Campbell, and Mayor Greene.

Motion carried.

Westen Ash & Barb Putman – Inquired on a timeline for completing the collaboration with the City of Caro and Indianfields Township regarding the water hook up. City Manager will communicate with updates.

21-M-223

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Motion carried.

Rita Papp
City Clerk