

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on November 23, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. electronically via Zoom Video Communications (meeting ID: 948 7878 2093)

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

Absent: None

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

20-M-204

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

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Allen Jones submitted a written public comment congratulating the new council members and encouraging council members to read and follow the city charter.

Herb Sheardy questioned the status of a jake breaking ordinance.

PRESENTATION: City of Caro Pension Plan – Jane Hagen, Tri-Star Trust Bank

Jane Hagen and Stephanie Anderson from Tri-Star Bank gave an overview of current economic environment and the city's pension plan performance. The current market value is \$1,643,209.73 with the investment portfolio consisting of 60% equity and 40% fixed income.

20-M-205

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to continue the City of Caro's pension plan investment policy with Tri-Star Bank. Roll call: Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: Noted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Minutes – November 9, 2020
2. Invoices
3. 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-206

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

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Open Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance #478 – Consumers Power Company Gas Franchise

Mayor Greene opened up the Public Hearing on proposed Ordinance #478, An Ordinance granting to Consumers Energy Company, its successors and assigns, the right and authority to lay, maintain and commercially operate gas lines and facilities including but not limited to mains, pipes, services and on, under, along, and across public places including but not limited to highways, streets, alleys, bridges, and waterways, and to conduct a local gas business in the City of Caro, Tuscola County, Michigan, for a period of thirty years.

2. Public Comment/Council Discussion

Councilor Eschenbacher commented in favor of the ordinance.

3. Close Public Hearing

20-M-207

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to close the Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance #478 Consumers Power Company Gas Franchise. Roll call: Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

4. Action on Proposed Ordinance #478

20-M-208

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to adopt Ordinance #478 Consumers Power Company Gas Franchise. Roll call: Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

5. Mayor Pro Tem Appointment

20-M-209

Motion by Hall, seconded by White to approve Mayor Greene's appointment of Councilor Bob Eschenbacher as Mayor Pro Tem. Roll call: White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

6. Council Committee/Liaison Appointments

20-M-210

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to accept the council committee/liaison appointments as presented. Roll call: Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

7. Other Board Reappointments

20-M-211

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to reappoint the members whose terms are ending November 2020 for another term as presented. Roll call: Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

The following members were reappointed for another term:

DDA – Rick Farris, Evan Osentoski

Parks and Recreation – Tanya Batschke, Sue Ellen Greenlee

Planning Commission – Bill Bortel, Michael Laethem

8. Planning Commission Appointment

20-M-212

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to appoint Alvin Zavitz to the Planning Commission for a term ending November 2022. Roll call: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

9. Signature Authorization on Checks

20-M-213

Motion by Hall, seconded by White authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to remove Brian Rickwalt on both the payroll account and accounts payable account and to add the new Mayor Pro Tem Bob Eschenbacher as an authorized signature on both accounts. Roll call: Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

10. Snow Removal Bids

20-M-214

Motion by Hall, seconded by Jones-Holubec to accept the recommendation of the City Manager to approve the snow removal bid from Great Lakes Land Management for the contract price of \$280 per hour, as needed. Roll call: Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

11. Soil Borings for Caro Center Water Main

20-M-215

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to accept the recommendation of the City Manager to approve the Soil Boring bid Snyder & Staley Engineering, PLC for the lump sum price of \$8,950. Roll call: White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

12. TCF Bank CD Renewals

20-M-216

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to invest the four \$250,000 certificates of deposit plus their present interest that are maturing on 12/1/20 with TCF Bank for a period of 18 months year at an APY of 0.26% and also to invest the four \$250,000 certificates of deposit plus their present interest that are maturing on 12/3/20 with TCF Bank for a period of 12 months at an

APY of 0.21%. Roll call: Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

13. Independent Bank CD Renewal

20-M-217

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to Council authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to invest the \$250,000 certificate of deposit plus its present interest with Independent Bank for a period of 12 months at an APY of 0.20%. Roll call: Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/TABLED:

1. DPW Equipment Replacement

20-M-218

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the purchase of the Michigan CAT Backhoe Loader with extended warranty for \$116,600 and to finance the equipment through an interfund loan from the General Fund from the Equipment Fund over a five-year term at 0% interest. Roll call: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

There was discussion on selling the old backhoe to offset costs.

2. Set Finance Committee Meeting

A Finance Committee meeting is set for December 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

- 1. Parks and Recreation – Councilor White stated the committee is looking at different dog park equipment, discussing fundraiser ideas, and discussed ordering benches in spring.**

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Greene reported that he met the new Indianfields Township Supervisor. Attended airport meeting and state landbank meeting. He encouraged council members to attend MML's newly elected officials training.

MANAGER COMMENTS: City Manager Matthew Lane submitted a written report. He also reported that the owners of the house behind the municipal building on Madison Street are preparing to sell the house and offered the city the right of first refusal. The consensus of the council is for the city manager to get more information on purchasing the house.

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

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Councilor Eschenbacher questioned the status of the Roadhouse and questioned the Vortex splash pad concrete work. Two groups of council members with no more than three in a group will be meeting to go look at the splash pad concrete.

20-M-219

Moved by Hall, seconded by Eschenbacher to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. Roll call: Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

Sara Savage
Clerk/Treasurer