

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on February 21, 2022, at 6:33 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, & other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL

22-M-28

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Campbell to approve the agenda with the addition and/or deletion of: Remove Item # 6 – Additional Road Funding through Small Urban Task Force, Add Item # 7 – Set Policy Committee Meeting.

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Bill Campbell – Commented on the Amended Indianfields Township Water Franchise Agreement that was presented to the Council.

Ona Clinesmith – Supports the medical facility being built outside of Caro.

PRESENTATION: Caro Exchange Club – June Kennedy presented to the Council the annual report of the Caro Exchange Club. She highlighted some main projects that were completed last year and commented on future plans for the forest trail. Their trail walk is scheduled for August 20, 2022.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Caro Roadhouse Museum and Historical Society Annual Report
2. DDA Meeting Minutes (unapproved) – February 9, 2022

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Minutes – February 7, 2022
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 – None
 - E. WWTP – None
 - F. Municipal Parking Violations Bureau Report – Rita Papp

22-M-29

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

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Indianfields Township Water Franchise Agreement

Discussion followed. No action taken.

2. Resolution Establishing Election Commission

22-M-30

Motion by Batschke, seconded by White to approve the Resolution Establishing Election Commission as presented by Rita Papp, City Clerk.

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

Motion carried.

3. Appointment to Election Commission and Set Election Inspector Pay

22-M-31

Motion by Jones-Holubec, seconded by Batschke to approve and appoint to the Election Commission, Council Member Bob Eschenbacher as the city official and Terry Ewald as the qualified elector, and to pay \$200 per day per election inspector, \$250 per day each chair, \$50 for attending necessary training and no compensation paid to the Election Commission.

Motion carried.

4. Downtown Development Authority Appointments

22-M-32

Motion by Batschke, seconded by White to approve and accept the recommendation from the Downtown Development Authority to appoint Megan Bartolowits, Harvest Your Craft, for a partial term, expiring November 2025 and appoint Randy Whittaker, R & R Technical Services, for a three-year term, expiring November 2026.

Motion carried.

5. Parks & Recreation Committee Appointment

22-M-33

Motion by White, seconded by Campbell to approve and accept the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee and appoint Colleen Russell to the Parks and Recreation Committee for a three-year term expiring November 2025.

Motion carried.

6. Well #3A Status and Water Capacity Strategy

22-M-34

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to approve and accept the recommendation of the City Manager and direct administration to pursue proper abandonment of Well #3A and begin the process to research and develop a new water well.

Motion carried.

7. Set Policy Committee Meeting for March 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.

ITEMS PENDING/POSTPONED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Greene) – No meeting. Updated council on the downtown power poles project.
2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – Unable to attend meeting. Caro Chamber of Commerce joined the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. Caro Chamber of Commerce adopted their budget. They are continuing to work on Cars & Crafts. The Citizen of the Year banquet date has been postponed.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Hall) – Unable to attend meeting. City Manager updated that DDA approved new appointments, approved their meeting schedule, and did their election of officers.
4. Fair Board (White) – No report.
5. Parks & Recreation (White) – Met last week. They had a productive meeting discussing priorities and their future plans.
6. Planning Commission (Eschenbacher) – Meeting is tomorrow, February 22, 2022.
7. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Jones-Holubec) – No report.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals (Greene) – No report.
9. Indianfields Township (Greene) – Attended meeting. Discussed at the meeting the water franchise agreement.
10. Almer Township (Campbell) – No report.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Written report submitted

Highlighted – The airport will be constructing a new runway, cameras will be installed on the weather station, and commented on future of electric airplanes. Had a conference call with the Caro Center and they are on schedule for construction. Distributed information on the opportunity for the Rotary Club to plant trees in and around the city. Registered for the Michigan Municipal League Capital conference in March.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Written report submitted

Highlighted – Attended a meeting with the MSU extension to discuss possible collaboration for Parks and Recreation programming. Interviewed a candidate for Director of Public Works and Utilities. ALDI's has been given their zoning permit and are working on permits from EGLE and MDOT. Marshalls permits have been approved. Adult Use Marihuana application are in process. The 300-foot resident letters will be mailed soon.

CLERK'S REPORT – Written report submitted

No changes to the report.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Written report submitted

Highlighted – Frankenmuth Credit Union banking has started with no issues. City is now using WEX fuel cards instead of Speedway cards. As of meeting date, there are 5 more days of tax collection. Presented a report on CD’s and discussed if this report was sufficient to renew CD’s without presenting to council for approval. The only approval needed will be if CD’s are changing financial institutions.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

William Putnam – Commented on an item on the mayor’s report. Commented on the water usage of the City of Caro. Commented on the medical facility. Thanked the council for the support thus far. Commented on the Indianfields Township Water Franchise agreement.

Michael Clinesmith – Commented on the water agreement process.

Billy Putman – Commented on community involvement. Commented that marihuana should be illegal. Commented that this is election year.

Blake Putman – Commented on the lack of communication and the lack of working together. Commented on community cooperation. Commented on the safety of the water. Commented on city growth.

Kayla Sturm – Commented on the need for water in the pharmacy and the need for water to pass the inspection.

Joanna Samuelson – Commented on the lack of dump accessibility for Almer Township residents. Commented on the water project.

22-M-35

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Motion carried.

**Rita Papp
City Clerk**