

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on March 15, 2021 at 7:31 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

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: City Manager Matthew Lane, Clerk/Treasurer Sara Savage, Police Chief Brian Newcomb, WWTP Supt. Curtis Wells, DPW Supt. Jeffrey Graham, Mike Carpenter, and other guests.

AGENDA APPROVAL

21-M-042

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of #7 Mowing RFP under the regular agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Al Michele handed out copies of a blight ticket one of his employees received and spoke to the council against her receiving it. He made a comment about his vehicle fire, never being notified of the fire and having to request his own report through FOIA. Also commented on cars parking on state street.

Lauren Amellal introduced herself to the council as the new Farmers Market Manager.

COMMUNICATIONS: Noted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Policy Committee Minutes – March 1, 2021
2. Regular Council Minutes – March 1, 2021
3. Special Council Minutes – March 8, 2021
4. Invoices
5. 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-043

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

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Local Streets Projects
21-M-044
Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve the 2021 Local Street Paving Project Professional Services Proposal to prepare bidding package from ROWE Professional Services for the repaving of West Lincoln Street and Park Drive. Motion carried.
2. Lincoln Street Water Line Loop Extension
21-M-045
Motion by Hall, seconded by Eschenbacher to approve the proposed Lincoln Street Water Line Loop Extension project in an amount not to exceed \$15,000. Motion carried.
3. Lincoln Street Water Line Replacement
21-M-046
Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the proposed Lincoln Street Water Replacement project in an amount not to exceed \$14,000. Motion carried.
4. Planning Commission Recommendation for Master Plan
21-M-047
Motion by Hall, seconded by Campbell to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve, and budget for in FY 2021-22, the ROWE proposal for the master plan process at the cost of \$31,600 and to allow the City Manager to execute the necessary documents. This includes the base fee and all 8 plan add-ons and 3 of the 5 public engagement add-ons including the Public Attitude Survey, Community Visioning Meeting and Master Plan Open House. Motion carried.
5. Planning Commission Recommendation for RRC
21-M-048
Motion by White, seconded by Batshke to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission and continue to pursue Certified status through the Redevelopment Ready Communities Program. Motion carried.
6. Frankenmuth Credit Union CD
21-M-049
Motion by Hall, seconded by White to authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to deposit the matured CD of \$277,233 plus interest into a Federally Insured Cash Account with Frankenmuth Credit Union. Motion carried.
7. Mowing RFP
21-M-050
Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batshke to direct the City Manager to draft an RFP for a three-year contract for city mowing and blight mowing at his discretion. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: Discuss Written Legal Opinion – MCL 15.268 Sec. 8(h)

21-M-051

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing attorney's written legal opinion. Roll call: Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

Entered closed session at 8:51 p.m.

Returned to open session at 9:01 p.m.

21-M-053

Motion by White, seconded by Hall to have the City Manager's performance evaluation on April 19, 2021. Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/TABLED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. EDC – Mayor Greene gave an update on the grants given to business in the community. They toured Shelson Industries and touring another business in Millington.
2. Chamber of Commerce – Matthew Lane reported they are working on setting up events and he is on the Cars & Crafts Committee.
3. Parks and Recreation – Councilor White reported they are working on signage and names for the splash pad and dog park. Some of the group went to look at the bathrooms in Frankenmuth.
4. Planning Commission – Councilor Eschenbacher reported they discussed the master plan, RRC, and there was discussion on the non-conforming lot issue. Mike Carpenter gave more information on the non-conforming lot issue.
5. DDA – Councilor Hall reported they narrowed the list of names for the farmers market down to five. A representative from Michigan House of Hope spoke to them about the homeless shelter project.
6. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners – Councilor Jones-Holubec stated there was nothing to report. The clerk's office is getting a fingerprint machine.
7. Indianfields Township – Mayor Greene reported that tonight is their meeting on the master plan. The township has settled with the airport. They tabled the road millage and approved parts of the budget.
8. Almer Township – Councilor Campbell stated there was nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Greene reported that he delivered coloring pages to the schools. The city is hosting Peter Rabbit at the Strand Theater. There is a Caro in France that has reached out and students are sending letters at Schall School.

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

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

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Herb Sheardy questioned how many police cars the city owns and how many officers patrol. Also commented that the city cannot put anything in the downtown triangle that will obstruct vision. The city should work with businesses in town to help them before we lose them. Tanya Batschke asked if the city could promote in the newsletter to help make Caro beautiful. Also commented on the need for rental inspections in the city.

Councilor Batschke questioned if there were ways the city could help citizens with outside home repairs.

21-M-054

Motion by Batschke, seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m. Motion carried.

Sara Savage
Clerk/Treasurer