

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on March 21, 2022, at 6:30 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, Jana Brown – Deputy Clerk, Michele Perry – Treasurer, Brian Newcomb – Police Chief, Randy Heckroth – Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer & other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL

22-M-36

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to approve the agenda with the addition of: #4 - Set Policy Committee Meeting and #5 – Complaint Against Sitting Planning Commission Member
Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Bill Campbell – Expressed concern regarding arsenic disposal from a City of Caro well/holding tank.

Randy Heckroth – Questioned Mayor Greene regarding the new runway at the airport. Mayor Greene indicated the runway was a rebuild of a current runway – the size is not changing.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Charter Communications (2)

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

22-M-37

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

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA:

1. Parks & Recreation Committee Appointment Recommendation

Recommendation made to appoint Jeff Hartel to Parks & Recreation Committee.

22-M-38

Motion by White, seconded by Hall to approve and accept the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee and appoint Jeff Hartel to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Motion carried.

2. Director of Public Works and Utilities Employment Agreement

City Manager presented information regarding David Johnson who currently works in the Engineering Department with the City of East Grand Rapids and holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. Discussion held on amount of time to obtain required licenses and the 20 mile move radius.

22-M-39

Motion by Batschke, seconded by White to approve the hiring of David Johnson as Director of Public Works and Utilities.

Motion carried.

3. Manager Compensation/Bonus Determination 2/3

22-M-40

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve placing the \$5,000.00 bonus in abeyance for the third-year bonus and budget a 3% salary increase.

Motion carried.

4. Set Policy Committee Meeting for April 18, 2022, at 5:45 p.m.

5. Complaint Against Sitting Planning Commission Member

Councilperson Eschenbacher explained an incident at Premier Provisioning with Planning Commission member Allan Michel demanding an inspection. Police were called and made a report. City Manager indicates Allan Michel's actions were consistent with violation of the newly adopted ethics ordinance in addition to potentially state law for misconduct in office. City Manager presented Council with options of removing Allan Michel from planning commission and the procedure for doing so; and/or, forwarding the police report to the Tuscola County Prosecutor's office for investigation of possible charges.

22-M-41

Motion by Hall, seconded by White to proceed with the process, as explained by the City Manager, to remove Allan Michel from the Planning Commission.

Motion carried.

22-M-42

Motion by Batschke, seconded by Jones-Holubec to forward the police report to the Tuscola County Prosecutor's office for possible charges.

Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/POSTPONED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Greene) – Theatre is moving forward with servicing of equipment and the updates on said equipment with the help of the EDC.

2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – Continue to work on Cars & Crafts. Caro Chamber has joined the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. They have been interacting and getting more information from statewide organizations and access to training and professional development. The Citizen of the Year banquet will be held April 23, 2022.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Hall) – No meeting.
4. Fair Board (White) – No report.
5. Parks & Recreation (White) – Fair board representation was at last meeting and both committees discussed different projects taking place at the Fairgrounds. Approved to recommend Jeff Hartel to Parks & Recreation Committee. Adirondack chair sales are doing well. 36 chairs are available at the cost of \$350.00 each. Preparing for April 9th Easter egg hunt.
6. Planning Commission (Eschenbacher) – Meeting is tomorrow, March 22, 2022, 7:00 p.m. at the Tuscola Technology Center.
7. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Jones-Holubec) – Renee Wood’s letter to the Advertiser editor was read. Putman’s presented regarding a City of Caro well and arsenic contamination.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals (Greene) – No report.
9. Indianfields Township (Greene) – Attended meeting. Passed out and discussed power point presentation regarding emergency services. Indianfields Township approved budget for upcoming year. There was discussion regarding the Putman project and water.
10. Almer Township (Campbell) – Reports reviewed, and discussion held about mulch covering for trails.

MAYOR’S REPORT – Written report submitted

Highlighted – Attended the Michigan Municipal League conference in Lansing where there was discussion about ARPA funds and affordable housing. Discussion of housing development ensued. Elected Officials Academy Core Weekender is coming up April 8th & 9th. Started planning Easter egg hunt and presented information to the Parks & Recreation Committee.

MANAGER’S COMMENTS – Written report submitted

Update provided regarding the new water meter reading system.

CLERK’S REPORT – Written report submitted

Highlighted – Clerk currently attending the Clerk’s Institute in Mt. Pleasant. Absent voter applications and ballots being processed.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Written report submitted

Highlighted – Transition to Frankenmuth Credit Union went well. Received two proposals for the City of Caro audit which will be presented at Finance Committee.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pam Iseler – Questioned whether the City of Caro has operational civil defense siren. Fire Chief Heckroth verified the City of Caro does currently have operational civil defense sirens (fire station, old police department, one by medical care and another by the DPW building on Hooper St).

Pam Iseler - Commented regarding publicizing Mr. Hartel's personal information from his appointment application to the Parks & Recreation Department.

Bill Campbell – Commented on dumping of contaminated water.

Tisha Jones-Holubec – Announced her support for World Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

22-M-43

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Motion carried.

Jana Brown

Deputy City Clerk