

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on April 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. electronically via Zoom Video Communications (meeting ID: 229 229 729)

Present: Mayor Joe Greene, City Council: Brian Rickwalt, Alvin Zavitz, Bob Eschenbacher, Don Hall, and Tisha Jones-Holubec

Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Matthew Lane – City Manager, Sara Savage – Clerk/Treasurer and other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL:

20-M-054

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Zavitz to approve the agenda as presented.

Roll call: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – yes, Zavitz – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Mary Gray – Co-owner and Infant/Lead Teacher of Growing Hearts Child Care Center – submitted a written public comment against the proposed medical marihuana facility next to the daycare.

COMMUNICATIONS: Noted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Minutes – March 2, 2020
2. Invoices

20-M-055

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

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Resolution Approving COVID-19 Operational Response Plan

20-M-056

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the Resolution Approving the City's COVID-19 Operational Response Plan. Roll call: Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

2. Resolution Approving COVID-19 Emergency Sick Time

20-M-057

Motion by Rickwalt, seconded by Hall to approve the Resolution Approving COVID-19 Emergency Sick Time. Roll call: Rickwalt – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

3. Resolution of Support for Actions Taken by City Manager to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

20-M-058

Motion by Jones-Holubec, seconded by Eschenbacher to approve the Resolution of Support for Actions Taken by City Manager to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19.

Roll call: Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

4. WWTP Budget Adjustment for Biosolids Removal

20-M-059

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Rickwalt to approve the budget amendment for spring biosolids removal for WWTP in the amount of \$30,000. Roll call:

Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – yes, Zavitz – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

5. South Almer Street MDOT Resolution

20-M-060

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve Resolution for City of Caro and MDOT Contract Number 20-5097 for South Almer Street and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign all documents required to execute the contracts.

Roll call: Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

6. City Council Vacancy Letters of Interest

The council discussed wanting to meet with Tiffany Behrends as she is the only candidate the council has not previously met. The council set the special meeting for Monday, April 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to interview Tiffany Behrends and make a decision on the council vacancy between the following candidates: Tiffany Behrends, Mark Perez, Jill White, and Kory Batschke.

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

20-M-061

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Zavitz to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing attorney's written legal opinion. Roll call: Rickwalt – yes, Zavitz – yes,

Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

Entered closed session at 8:11 p.m.

Returned to open session at 8:32 p.m.

ITEMS PENDING/TABLED:

1. Special Use Permit – Premier Provisioning Medical Marihuana

Ray Murad, Premier Provisioning medical marihuana facility license applicant, asked the council for the opportunity to relocate his proposed facility. He has submitted a

new application for a medical marihuana provisioning center at a new location and asked the council to withdrawal his first application and pursue his new application at a different location.

20-M-062

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to accept the withdrawal of Premier Provisioning's medical marihuana provisioning facility license application. Roll call: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – yes, Zavitz – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. EDC – Included in the Mayor's report.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Greene submitted a written report thanking all essential employees and city employees. Seven Caro businesses recently received grants through Tuscola County EDC and business loans are also available through the EDC. Participated in a webinar from U.S. Congressman Paul Mitchell regarding the CARE Act. Participated in a telephone conference regarding the Caro Center. Received dog fencing quotes and sent splash pad information to council. Also, has received calls from concerned citizens about groups of youth out and about in the city and asked our police officers to watch out for them to ensure guidelines are being met.

MANAGER COMMENTS – City Manager Matthew Lane thanked city staff during this pandemic. The city is still working on the Caro Center project and the Farmer's Market Project and working to ensure that citizens know the city is still operating and is responsive.

CLERK'S REPORT – Clerk/Treasurer Sara Savage reported that two RFP's for seasonal city lawn services and blight mowing's were published and bids will be received until April 29, 2020. Reviewed water service accounts to have water restored to occupied residences that were previously shut off due to non-payment. Received filling packets for city council seats that are up for election November 2020 and they are due by August 4, 2020 by 5:00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Carpenter made a comment regarding the bids received for South Almer Street in comparison to the budgeted amounts. The costs received are lower than the budgeted amounts coming from the streets fund, water fund, and sewer fund. Also, thanked Ray Murad for cooperating with city council.

Mark Vollmar questioned if the planning commission will have a Zoom meeting.

Councilor Jones-Holubec asked what residents can do about large brush.

Councilor Eschenbacher thanked Ray Murad.

Mayor Greene thanked Ray Murad and stated garbage cans in city parks are overflowing.

20-M-063

Moved by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Roll call: Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, Rickwalt – yes, Zavitz – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

Sara Savage
Clerk/Treasurer