

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on May 16, 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 – arrived 6:40 p.m., and Jill White

Absent: None

Others: Matthew Lane – City Manager, Rita Papp – Clerk, Michele Perry – Treasurer, Brian Newcomb – Police Chief, Randy Heckroth – Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer, David Johnson – Director of Public Works and Utilities, and other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL

22-M-77

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve the agenda with the additions of:

3 – Schedule Personnel Committee Meeting, # 4 – Schedule Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting, # 5 – Schedule Policy Committee Meeting.

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Allan Michel – Made a comment on City of Caro Marijuana Retail Licenses would like the City to amend the Ordinance to add one more license.

Jeff Molby – Promoted the Relay for Life event scheduled for September 17, 2022 at State Street Square Farmers Market.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Minutes – May 4, 2022
2. Council Budget Workshop Minutes – May 9, 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-78

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

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Schedule Public Hearing for FY 2022-2023 Budget

Public Hearing for FY 2022-2023 Budget is scheduled for June 6, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

2. Caro Chamber of Commerce Request to Close Streets for Cars & Crafts Weekend 2022

22-M-79

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to approve the request as presented from the Caro Chamber of Commerce to Close Streets for Cars & Crafts Weekend, June 3 & 4, 2022.

Motion carried.

3. Schedule Personnel Committee Meeting

Personnel Committee is scheduled for June 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

4. Schedule Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting

Finance Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

5. Schedule Policy Committee Meeting

Policy Committee Meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION: Discuss Written Legal Opinion – MCL 15.268 Sec 8(1)(h)

22-M-80

Motion by Batschke, seconded by Eschenbacher to table the CLOSED SESSION: Discuss Written Legal Opinion – MCL 15.268 Sec 8(1)(h).

Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/POSTPONED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Greene) – EDC is currently working on 45 new projects. The new owners of the Caro Strand Theatre are up and running. EDC is continuing to work on environmental assessments.
2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – Caro Chamber of Commerce is currently working on Cars & Crafts. The Caro Chamber of Commerce has elected new officers.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Hall) – Did not attend. Matt Lane, City Manager gave an update on the meeting. Rowe Engineering gave a presentation on future projects, Lauren Amellal, Farmers Market Manager gave an update on the Farmers Market, and Matt Lane, City Manager highlighted the Cultivating Community Podcast.
4. Fair Board (White) – Fair Board is busy. Colleen Russell is working with the garden club planning landscaping around Midway Hall and organizing a petting zoo at the fair. In the process of creating a decal for marketing the grandstand. Looking at upgrading the electrical hook ups for food trucks. Jim Will's funeral was today. He was a great asset to the fair board and will be missed.

5. Parks & Recreation (White) – Meeting will be held on Wednesday. They are working on prioritizing projects. The fence around the track will need attention.
6. Planning Commission (Eschenbacher) – No meeting
7. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Jones-Holubec) – Did not attend.
8. Zoning Board of Appeals (Greene) – No meeting.
9. Indianfields Township (Greene) – Did not attend. Indianfields Township appointed a clerk at the meeting. Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival requested permission to use Indianfields Township park.
10. Almer Township (Campbell) – Did not attend.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Written report submitted

Highlighted – Commissioner Bardwell mentioned that the city could request Tuscola County ARPA funds. Offered to Commissioner Bardwell the information on the Adirondack chair fundraiser and asked if Tuscola County would be interested in placing bike racks on their properties. Mayor Greene asked City Manager the status of the lease for Caro Community Schools at the recycling center.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Written report submitted

Highlighted – Dave Johnson, Director of Public Works and Utilities is currently hiring seasonal workers. Union negotiations have started. Planning Commission meeting was cancelled. Vortex has inspected the Splash Pad and will be replacing one of the features to address a leak. The Splash Pad is scheduled to be open around Memorial Day. Demolition contract has been signed and we are waiting on the utility companies to remove their equipment from the homes.

CLERK'S REPORT – Written report submitted

Mayor Greene mentioned there has been a legislative amendment to the Freedom of Information Act. Rita Papp, City Clerk will research.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Written report submitted

Continuing working on the budget and sending out Ready To Serve estimates to city residents.

CLOSED SESSION: Discuss Written Legal Opinion – MCL 15.268 Sec 8(1)(h)

22-M-81

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing written legal opinion.

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

Motion carried

Entered closed session at 6:58 p.m.

Returned to open session at 7:14 p.m.

22-M-82

Motion to accept the written legal opinion Presented by Foster Swift, RE: Tribunal Tax Appeal.

Roll call vote: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – no, Campbell – yes, Mayor Greene – yes.

Motion carried

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Allan Michel – Discussed his concerns on the marihuana licenses in the City of Caro and concerns on his removal from the Planning Commission.

Randy Heckroth, City of Caro Fire Chief – Blight mowing has started in the city. His firefighters were recognized at the Saginaw-Tuscola Medical Control Authority EMS recognition banquet. Several members received a life saving award. The fire department was complimented on their new immediate CPR response policy. The fire department participated in training at the Huron County airport. There will be a mock accident scenario at the Tuscola Technology Center on May 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. Public may observe from a safe distance. Received a grant to help purchase a fire rescue boat and fire rescue house. A command trailer is on order thanks to funding received from POET, Star of the West and the Firefighters Association. City has approved to order a grain bin rescue apparatus. The fire department will be using one of the houses scheduled for demolition for training. Mayor Greene mentioned the Fire Department Golf Outing Fundraiser is June 18, 2022. Councilor Hall offered cars if the fire department needs it for training. Chief Heckroth commented on the accident involving a milk truck. He stated that milk is considered a hazmat material.

22-M-83

Motion by Batschke, seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Motion carried

Rita Papp
City Clerk