

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on August 16, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Mayor Joe Greene, City Council: Bob Eschenbacher, Kory Batschke, Emily Campbell, Tisha Jones-Holubec, and Jill White

Absent: Don Hall

Others: City Manager Matthew Lane, City Clerk Rita Papp, City Attorney Laura Genovich via Zoom and other guests.

AGENDA APPROVAL

21-M-162

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve the agenda with the additions of agenda items #9 Policy Committee Recommendations and #10 Clerk and Treasurer Signatories on Bank Accounts
Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Al Michele – Has concerns with a street lamp being out for 6 years. Concerned with lack of support from Council. If homeless shelter is allowed, he will no longer serve Turkey Dinners.

Karen Sonquist – Commented on the article in the Advertiser regarding Council Member's Spouse. Elected officials should be in good standing and respected. Should be looking out for the best interest of the community. Stated that your name is your only asset that is valuable.

Jeff Cramer – Representing Michigan House of Hope. Thanked the Council for revisiting the Ordinance. Assisted three homeless individual and one family so far. The need is there.

Ramon Zamora – Commented on the article in the Advertiser regarding Council Member's Spouse. He was a victim of the fraud described. He had text communication with the Council Member regarding issue with no resolution. Concerned with representation of Council Member and the City.

Steven Campbell – Response to Ramon Zamora. Has nothing to do with incident in paper along with my wife.

Mary Ashcroft Seehagen – Read her public comment letter not supporting the Homeless Shelter.

Ron Anderson – Owns home across from House of Hope. Is concerned with the Use Permit. Witnessed an incident involving police in front of Homeless Shelter. There are piles of donations in the back of the building which may have rodents. Concerned with the safety aspect in basement. He has unanswered questions.

Commented on funding & how it could change in the future.

Mike Wester, Lighthouse Baptist Church – 25 churches support the Homeless Shelter. Occupants will have to follow rules and a plan while residing there. Will transport to outside of County if necessary.

Al Michele – Mentioned the House of Hope will receive state and federal funding.

Councilor Eschenbacher – Asked for clarification on funding of the Homeless Shelter from Mike Wester. 100 percent privately funded from a group of 25 churches. Takes no funds from the state or federal government.

Art Graff – Comments on the Rezoning issue with 1181 E. Caro Rd., ALDI. Supports the rezoning. Mentioned those parcels are already zoned commercial.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Spoonfuls of Plenty

2. Public Comment Letter from Mary Ashcroft Seehagen
3. Written Public Comment from Kim Wasik.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Minutes – August 2, 2021
1. Finance Committee Minutes – August 2, 2021
2. Invoices
3. Department Reports (****Reported at Second Meeting Only****)
 - A. Police Report – Chief Brian Newcomb
 - B. Fire Report – Chief Randall Heckroth
 - C. Code Enforcement – Randall Heckroth
 - D. DPW/Water Reports
 - E. WWTP
4. Municipal Parking Violations Bureau Report – City Manager Matt Lane

21-M-163

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to approve the consent agenda as presented including invoices.

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Frankenmuth Credit Union CD's (2)

21-M-164

Motion by Batschke, seconded by Campbell to approve the Clerk to deposit the matured CD's of \$268,502.12 each respectively plus interest into a Federally Insured Cash Account with Frankenmuth Credit Union.

Motion carried.

2. Homecoming Parade Request

21-M-165

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to approve the Homecoming Parade Request from Caro HS Student Council, Allison Sira.

Motion carried.

3. Pumpkin Festival Parade Request

21-M-166

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve the Pumpkin Festival Parade Request from the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival.

Motion carried.

4. Planning Commission Recommendation: 1181 E. Caro Road - ALDI

21-M-167

Motion by White, seconded by Eschenbacher to accept the recommendation of the City of Caro Planning Commission and Zoning Administrator and approves the rezoning request as presented. Ordinance #481.

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

5. Planning Commission Recommendation: Zoning Text Amendment – Non-conforming lots and other related provisions.

21-M-168

Motion by Batschke, seconded by White to accept the recommendation of the City of Caro Planning Commission and adopt the zoning text amendments. Ordinance #482

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

Motion carried.

6. Planning Commission Recommendation: Zoning Text Amendment – Residential Use in Basement by SCU permit only.

21-M-169

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to accept the recommendation of the City of Caro Planning Commission and adopts the zoning text amendments. Ordinance #483.

Roll Call Vote: Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – absent, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – no, Batschke – yes, Campbell – yes, Mayor Greene – yes.

Motion carried.

7. Direction on Adult Use Application and Annual Fees – Marijuana

21-M-170

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batschke to leave Ordinance as is.

Motion carried.

8. Water and Sewer Rates

21-M-171

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Campbell to approve City Manager Matt Lane to develop a resolution for the Water and Sewer Increases.

Motion carried.

9. Policy Committee Recommendations

21-M-172

Motion by Batschke, seconded by Jones-Holubec to authorize City Manager Matt Lane and Attorney Laura Genovich to develop a draft of an Ethics Ordinance and present to the Policy Committee for review.

Motion carried.

Set Policy Committee Meeting for September 7, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.

10. Clerk and Treasurer Bank Signatories

21-M-173

Motion by Batschke, seconded by Campbell to remove Prior Clerk/Treasurer Sara Savage from all bank accounts, and add Clerk Rita Papp and Treasurer Michele Perry as signatories to all bank accounts.

Motion carried.

ITEMS PENDING/TABLED: Zenner Pilot Agreement

21-M-174

**Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve the Zenner Pilot Agreement as presented.
Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Greene) – No meeting in August.
2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – Currently updating Personnel Policy, Finalist for Director has been selected, continue to do fundraisers, working on Junior Citizen of the Year and Citizen of the Year, recently held Golf Outing.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Hall) – No Meeting in August.
4. Fair Board (White) – Developed committees, Working with Parks and Recreation – Splash pad.
5. Historical Society (Jones-Holubec) - Watching posts on new items, Facebook page is up and running.
6. Parks & Recreation (White) – Working with the Fair Board, Splash pad has been successful.
7. Planning Commission (Eschenbacher) – Voted on all recommendations, City Manager is scheduling the Master Plan and the Council needs to be prepared.
8. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Jones-Holubec) - Reviewed Commissioners minutes, no updates.
9. Zoning Board of Appeals (Greene) – No updates.
10. Indianfields Township (Greene) - Issues at the township. Looking for Clerk and Treasurer.
11. Almer Township (Campbell) – Did not attend meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Greene submitted a written report. Presented information from the Michigan Association of Mayors conference.

MANAGER'S COMMENTS – City Manager Matt Lane submitted a written report.

CLERK'S REPORT – City Clerk Rita Papp submitted a written report.

Mayor Greene presented the Notice of 2021 Cass River “Clean Up” Day – September 18, 2021.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Herb Sheardy – Inquired on Department Reports on agenda.

Mike Carpenter – Gave update on Caro Water Main project. Made the connection to the Caro Center today.

Guest – Thanked the Council for the interest in the Community. Supports the House of Hope.

Herb Sheardy – Questioned how many people are watching online.

Ramon Zamora – Made additional comments on article in the Advertiser to remind Council of the issue.

Councilor Batschke – Commented on the calendar on the website. Need to add meeting dates and times. Parks and Recreation commented on businesses suffering without festivals and events being up town.

Mayor Greene – Commented on the new Social Districts other cities that have this concept including Bay City and Alpena. Three Oaks has blocked parking spaces off and fenced them in for outdoor dining.

Councilor White – Has received several comments about article in paper regarding Council Member's spouse. Mentioned that the Council can not do anything about that position.

20-M-175

Motioned by White, seconded by Eschenbacher to ask for the resignation of Councilor Tisha Jones-Holubec.

Roll Call Vote: Hall – absent, Jones-Holubec – abstain, White – yes, Batschke – no, Campbell – no, Eschenbacher – yes, Mayor Green – yes

Motion carried

21-M-176

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Motion carried.

Rita Papp

City of Caro Clerk