

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on September 20, 2021, at 7:30 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, Rita Papp – Clerk, Michele Perry – Treasurer, Jana Brown – Deputy Clerk, and other guests.

AGENDA APPROVAL

21-M-188

Motion by White, seconded by Batschke to approve the agenda as presented, with the addition of: Agenda Item # 11 – Tower Automotive Water Bill

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Rita Papp, City Clerk introduced the Deputy Clerk, Jana Brown to the public in attendance.

Received letter from Theron Atwood Post #7 regarding suggested future improvement to the City of Caro.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2021 & August 10, 2021
2. City of Caro Water/Sewer Adjustment Policy
3. City of Caro Residential Swimming Pool Filling Policy
4. Hometown Heroes Banner Program Presentation

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Regular Council Minutes – September 7, 2021
2. Policy Committee Minutes – September 7, 2021
3. Invoices
4. Department Reports (****Report 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 –
 - F. Municipal Parking Violations Bureau Report – Rita Papp

21-M-189

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

Motion Carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Open Public Hearing – Public Hearing started at 7:40 p.m.

2. Public/Council Comments on 2021 Sidewalk

Rita Papp. City Clerk read letter from Michelle Carter, 506 S. Almer Street – opposes sidewalk project, financial reasons.

Katrina Skelton, 331 E. Bush Street – Opposes the project. City Manager & Rowe Engineering to review issues brought forth.

Homeowner, 301 E. Bush Street – Verbal comment to Mayor regarding limited funds and can't afford.

Homeowner, 668 Court Street – Commented on the sidewalks in front of Community Garden not being edged and maintained.

3. Motion to Close Public Hearing

21-M-190

Motion by Batschke, seconded by White to close public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

Motion carried.

4. Decision on Necessity for Repair/Replacement

21-M-191

Motion by White, seconded by Hall to approve the Necessity for Repair/Replacement of Sidewalks and to proceed with the project.

Motion carried.

5. Hometown Heroes Banner Program

Schedule for presentation to the Downtown Development Meeting on October 13, 2021.

6. Council Committee Re-Assignments

Mayor Greene presented Council Committee Re-Assignments

Finance Committee – Removed Tisha Jones-Holubec and replaced by Kory Batschke.

Policy Committee – Removed Tisha Jones-Holubec and replaced by Joe Greene. Jill White becomes Policy Committee Chair.

Capital Projects – Removed Kory Batschke and replaced by Tisha Jones-Holubec.

7. Banner Request – Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival

21-M-192

Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve Banner Request from the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival for placement September 22, 2021 to October 4, 2021.

Motion carried.

8. Gilford Road Resurfacing Project

21-M-193

**Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Batchke to approve the Gilford Road Resurfacing Plan as presented by Rowe Engineering.
Motion carried.**

9. Tuscola County EDC – City of Caro 2021 Allocation Invoice

21-M-194

**Motion by Jones-Holubec, seconded by Campbell to approve the City of Caro 2021 Allocation Invoice from Tuscola County EDC.
Motion carried.**

10. Water Tower Generator - Purchase

21-M-195

**Motion by White, seconded by Campbell to accept the recommendation of the City Manager and approve the purchase of a 10Kw Automatic Generator from Ken Martin Electric in the amount of \$6,100.00.
Motion carried.**

11. Tower Automotive Water/Sewer Bill Discussion

Council discussed Tower Automotive Water/Sewer Bill. No action taken at this time.

ITEMS PENDING/POSTPONED:

City of Caro Resolution Setting Wastewater and Drinking Water Rates

21-M-196

**Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by White to approve City Manager to update resolution for a one-year implementation and present to next City Council Meeting.
Motion carried.**

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. Economic Development Corporation (Greene) – Attended meeting that was held last week. Highlighted several EDC projects that were discussed at the meeting.
2. Chamber of Commerce (Manager) – Attended meeting that was held last week. New Director has been hired and they are working on planning events.
3. Downtown Development Authority (Hall) – No meeting was held.
4. Fair Board (White) – Met with Parks & Recreation for 5-year plan. Survey is coming out. Fall clean up is scheduled for November 6, 2021, at the fairgrounds.
5. Parks & Recreation (White) – Met with the Fair Board for 5-year plan. Survey is coming out.
6. Planning Commission (Eschenbacher) – Met last Tuesday to start Masterplan. Survey will be coming out in late October. Council is invited to Planning Commission Meeting in February 2022.
7. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners (Jones-Holubec) – Read the meeting minutes. County hired a Health Officer. County is transitioning to a new Building Codes Company. West Nile Virus was found in Denmark Township.

8. Zoning Board of Appeals (Greene) – Meeting was held last week. Approved a zoning request for a shed.
9. Indianfields Township (Greene) – Attended meeting last Monday. Township is getting re-staffed and is back in business.
10. Almer Township (Campbell) – No update.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Written report submitted

MANAGER'S COMMENTS – Written report submitted – Highlighted items: Bidding process for moving the two City owned houses behind City Hall. Stated that we have \$36,000.00 in the budget for demolition of houses if necessary. Farmer's Market Manager and City Manager are working on a bus route pilot program with Thumbbody bus for the month of October 2021. City Manager is looking into Grant opportunities with MMRMA Insurance. Grant is available for the City of Caro Masterplan. Working with the County on MSP annexation. Putman Development has hired a new attorney.

CLERK'S REPORT – Written report submitted

TREASURER'S REPORT – Written report submitted

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Joe Greene inquired on the potential sealing of the wooden walkway near Chippewa Park. Also commented on a book received from Jim Will for ordering trees for the city.

21-M-197

Motion by White, seconded by Hall to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Motion carried.

Rita Papp
City Clerk