

CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Mayor Joe Greene called the regular meeting of the City Council to order on April 19, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fire Hall.

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

Absent: None

Others in Attendance: City Manager Matthew Lane, Clerk/Treasurer Sara Savage, Chief Randy Heckroth, and other guests.

AGENDA APPROVAL

21-M-061

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

PUBLIC COMMENT/VISITORS:

Mike Slocum, with Michigan House of Hope, stated they have received many letters of support for the men's homeless shelter and read a letter of support from Kristen Misener from Human Development Commission.

Ron Anderson made a comment that he is not against helping homeless but does have concerns of the homeless shelter being across the street from his business.

David Wilczynski made a comment in favor of the homeless shelter.

Tracy Anderson made a comment that she is not in favor of the rezoning request.

COMMUNICATIONS: Noted.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Policy Committee Minutes – April 5, 2021
2. Regular Council Minutes – April 5, 2021
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 – Jeff Graham
 - E. WWTP – Curtis Wells
 - F. Municipal Parking Violations Bureau Report – Sara Savage

21-M-062

Motion by Batschke, seconded by Jones-Holubec to approve the consent agenda including the invoices and name spelling corrections to the Policy Committee minutes. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

1. Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment – Planning Commission Recommendation
21-M-063
Motion by White, seconded by Batschke to deny the recommendation of the Planning Commission for the Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment request from Michigan House of Hope. Roll call: Batschke – yes, Campbell – no, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – no, White – yes, Mayor Greene – no. Motion carried.

2. Caro Center Water Main Construction Agreement with State of Michigan
21-M-064
Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Hall to approve the Agreement for the Construction of a Water Main and the Provision of Water Supply Services with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (“DTMB”) as presented and authorize the Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer to sign. Motion carried.

3. Caro Center Water Main Construction Contract Award
21-M-065
Motion by Eschenbacher, seconded by Jones-Holubec to award the Water Main Extension Project to Sterling Excavation, Inc. for the bid amount of \$1,339,762 for the Caro Center Water Extension Project. Motion carried.

4. Caro Center Water Main Construction Engineering Proposal
21-M-066
Motion by White, seconded by Eschenbacher to approve the Water Main Extension to Caro Center Construction Engineering Services Proposal from ROWE Professional Services not to exceed \$150,500 and authorize the City Manager to sign. Motion carried.

5. Recreational Marihuana Discussion
21-M-067
Motion by Hall, seconded by Batschke to proceed with the Recreational Marihuana Ordinance at the council level. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION: Discuss Personnel Evaluation – MCL 15.268 Sec. 8(a)

21-M- 068

Motion by Hall, seconded by Eschenbacher to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel evaluations of the City Manager and Clerk/Treasurer. Roll call: Campbell – yes, Eschenbacher – yes, Hall – yes, Jones-Holubec – yes, White – yes, Batschke – yes, Mayor Greene – yes. Motion carried.

Entered closed session at 8:41 p.m.

Returned to open session at 8:53 p.m.

ITEMS PENDING/TABLED: None

COMMITTEE/LIAISON POSITION REPORTS:

1. EDC – none
2. Chamber of Commerce – none

3. DDA – Councilor Hall reported they named the location of the farmers market State Street Square.
4. Planning Commission – Councilor Eschenbacher reported they had the public hearing on the Michigan House of Hope zoning text amendment request and reviewed Subway site plans.
5. Parks & Recreation – Councilor White reported they are waiting on the weather to put out the dog park agility equipment. The next meeting is this Wednesday.
6. Tuscola County Board of Commissioners – Councilor Jones-Holubec reported that Health Director Ann Hepfer is retiring.
7. Indianfields Township – Mayor Greene reported there was a special meeting on Wednesday, and they approved the fire contract and discussed streets.
8. Almer Township – none

MAYOR’S REPORT: Mayor Greene submitted a written report.

MANAGER COMMENTS: City Manager Matthew Lane submitted a written report.

CLERK’S REPORT: Clerk/Treasurer Sara Savage submitted a written report.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Carpenter thanked Caro staff and tech center staff for organizing the previous planning commission meeting. He also stated the concrete contractor will be coming this week to finish the sidewalk project and pour concrete at the dog park.

Mike Slocum questioned what language could be changed to revisit the zoning text amendment request for the homeless shelter and questioned the possibility for a special use permit.

Ron Anderson commented that he is interested in purchasing the old Police Department building.

21-M-070

Motion by Hall, seconded by White to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Sara Savage
Clerk/Treasurer