



City Voice

January 2012

City of Caro
317 S. State St.
Caro, Michigan 48723

(989) 673-2226
(989) 673-7310 (Fax)
Web Page: www.carocity.net

Volume 6, Issue 1

THE MANAGER'S CORNER BY BRENT D. MORGAN



Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe that we are now closing a door on 2011 and opening a new one with 2012. We open the door with Richard Pouliot as the Mayor and one new Council Member Gordon Taggett for the City of Caro.

As we embark on the New Year, one can say the cornerstone of local government lies in volunteer service to city boards or commissions. These individuals can be referred to as *"unsung heroes"* that expend numerous hours by rolling up their proverbial sleeves to attend meetings, become educated on the issues at hand, communicate with residents and perpetuate the city forward in one form or another depending on the board or commission they serve.

The truth of the matter is that without volunteer service on boards and commissions, local government could not accomplish the wide range of services necessary for a desirable, flourishing community. We would like to thank those existing volunteers already serving on the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historical Commission, Board of Review and Parks & Recreation for their service in 2011. With the door wide open in 2012 maybe service on one of these boards or commissions is in your future.

Looking back on 2011 one can say the City of Caro has demonstrated fiscal prudence, openness and transparency in government, and increased existing levels of cooperation, collaboration and consolidation with other jurisdictions. Just visit the City of Caro Website at www.carocity.net and check out our Performance Dashboard, Citizens Guide and Cooperation Plan. These

documents will enable you to gain a better understanding of not only the costs associated with government service but our fiscal health which will ensure our city will thrive rather than just survive in 2012.

January is a time when people set resolutions and goals with the intention to strive for improvement in one area or another. Cities are no different and are constantly setting goals and objectives which are implemented via resolutions and policies with the intention to improve the city or the services it provides.

Hopefully your New Year's resolution is to participate in local government because the City of Caro has a long history of promoting the public trust of the people. We encourage you to attend a meeting of a board or commission and consider promoting the public trust of the people. Only you can enable the City of Caro to do anything.

*"With public trust we can do anything.
Without it we can do nothing"*
Abraham Lincoln



**Don't Forget To Vote
February 28, 2012**

Inside This Issue:

Manager's Corner	1
Word from the Clerk	2
Greeting by Mayor Pouliot	2
Caro Public Works Department	3
Caro Fire Department	3
Caro Police Department	3
Caro Wastewater Treatment Plant	4
Caro Ordinance Enforcement	4
Upcoming Meetings	4
City of Caro Council Minutes	5

A WORD FROM THE CLERK BY KAREN J SNIDER, CMC



How times fly! It has been a little over two years since the Village of Caro became a City and we are entering the New Year with exciting things ahead.

The City of Caro will be conducting at least three elections in 2012 and possibly a fourth. The Presidential

Primary is February 28 so please mark your calendar. There will be three ballots available, Republican, Democratic and a No Party Declaration ballot which will contain the county millage proposal. You must either declare the party you are voting for or if you do not desire to do so, you can vote on just the proposal. The ballots will be available to view on the county website at www.tuscolacounty.org. The next election will be the August 7th primary followed by the November 6 General election, unless a special election is scheduled.

Governor Snyder signed into law on August 9, 2011 the state's congressional Redistricting Plan that established new State House of Representatives, State Senate and U.S. Congressional Districts. Following the release of census information, counties created new County Commissioner districts. The City of Caro's Congressional district changed from District 5 to District 10; however the commissioners district remains the same. This will go into effect after the general election in 2012 but the newly elected legislators do not take office until January, 2013. As part of the redistricting, the Bureau of Elections is in the process of making changes to reflect new district alignments (U.S. Congressional, State House of Representatives, State Senate, County Commissioners, Ward and Precincts). We are fortunate in the City of Caro that our boundaries and election precincts are not affected by the plan.

The City (past village) has been working diligently on codifying our existing ordinances and making them available to the public. An ordinance is defined as the rules established by the governing body for the City of Caro that dictate what should or should not happen within the City. If the codification ordinance is passed by Council on January 3, 2012, the public will be able to gain access to these documents on the City website

at www.carocity.net. This process is used to keep the citizens better informed as to the actions of their governing body. Also, as the Council adopts new ordinances, they will be published on the web as supplements.

The City of Caro will continue to collect summer and winter 2011 taxes through February 29, 2012. After that time, they will be turned over to the Tuscola County Treasurer's office for collection.

A HEARTY HELLO BY DICK POULIOT, MAYOR



First of all, I would like to thank all of you who participated in the City election in November and for your efforts and support to your community! Although I am new to the position of Mayor for the City of Caro, I have 21 years of experience on the governing body for the Village/City of Caro, serving 8 years as Mayor Pro tem and 10 years as Finance Chair. I am proud to be a part of the positive and major changes that our community has seen over the years.

On a personal note, I am 56 years old, being born and raised in the Caro area. I have been a resident of Caro for 30 years. My wife, Teri, and I have been married for 32 years and have two children; Nelson, an intern at college; and Annalisa, who is in her first year at college. One of my hobbies is hunting, and I enjoy working with local government.

Now, onto the business of the City of Caro and Council activities. New appointments are being made to committees for the upcoming year. We are looking for interested citizens who would like to share in the honor of serving on committees by filling vacancies that were posted in the local press. I believe that we live in a GOOD community, but by our volunteering for service, we are able to make it a GREAT community. For example, much of the success of the Gingerbread Village (which had a great turnout) and the Pumpkin Festival is attributable to the number of volunteers. If you missed out on the opportunity to volunteer for these activities, you will have another opportunity during the upcoming Winterfest 150, scheduled for January 20, 21, and 22. I ask that you please take the opportunity to serve and volunteer in our community.

If you find the winter weather wearing on you, I encourage you to try one of the many winter activities Caro has to offer: taking a walk on one of our many great

Con't on page 3

Greetings by Dick Pouliot con't from page 2

trails (which we are working on expanding), sledding on our sledding hill, snowmobiling - the Cass River makes for a great snowmobile trail, ice fishing, or hunting on the thousands of acres available around the area. Keep in mind the full slate of school sports, our great library, movie theater, shopping or enjoying one of our many fine restaurants. These are just a few ideas...home projects also make the time fly as is my time with you.

By the time you read this article, either the clock will be winding down on 2011 or you will be winding down from Christmas celebrations. I hope you had a blessed year and that 2012 will be another blessed year for us all. I look forward to serving you as mayor and serving our GREAT community in which we live, work and play.

CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF DAVID MATTLIN



We are now at the beginning of the winter season. We would like to remind everyone to make sure your smoke detectors are working properly. Make sure they are clean and have fresh batteries. Have your furnaces checked by a licensed technician to ensure they are in good working condition. We encourage everyone to have a digital carbon monoxide detector installed in their homes. As we have mentioned before, carbon monoxide is the silent killer and having a carbon monoxide detector provides an extra measure of safety for your family. Make sure your chimney is in good repair and free of soot and creosote.

With the approach of the Christmas and holiday season we would like to remind folks of some safety tips regarding decorating. Make sure your lights are UL listed, that you follow the manufacturer's instructions for use and that your natural Christmas trees are well watered. When burning candles, make sure they are kept away from combustibles and that you blow them out when retiring for the evening.

Finally, we would ask that if there is a fire hydrant in front of your house, that you would help us out by keeping it free from snow. I know we don't want to think about snow on the ground but we know it will come. It would be appreciated if the fire hydrants were accessible. Thank you in advance for your help and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

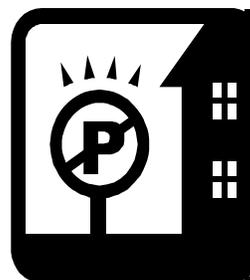
PUBLIC WORKS HIGHLIGHTS BY CHARLIE SUNDBLAD DPW SUPERINTENDENT



Winter will be soon upon us and that means that we should remember to drive carefully. Remember that there is no parking on any city street from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. during the months of December through March.

Also, there is an ordinance against shoveling or blowing your snow into the street. Remember to protect yourself when it gets cold outside, and to have fun skiing, sledding, or riding snowmobiles. When the city crew is plowing please remember to give them consideration because they cannot always see you. Brush pickup has ended for the year.

*The Caro Police
Department wants to
wish everyone a safe
and prosperous
New Year!*



**Please remember there is
NO PARKING
on any City street from
2 am—5 am
December—March**

WASTEWATER TREATMENT BY CURTIS WELLS WWTP SUPERINTENDENT

Wow another year has come and gone. The staff at the Wastewater Treatment plant is as always happy to serve its community. We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a blessed and prosperous New Year. The RV dump is now closed until the warmer temperatures return.



If you have read my articles in the recent past you have read the phrase "disposable doesn't mean flushable". Articles and committees are now surfacing around the country over flushable wipes and other non disposable paper and woven fabrics causing clogging problems in pump stations as well as gravity sewers and inverted siphons. Public education is a vital piece of the solution to keep cost of collection and treatment down. So please remember if it is not toilet paper, please put it in the trash can. Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation in this matter.

ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT BY JERRY THORP



Happy Holiday season from the Ordinance Enforcement desk.

The New Year always brings thoughts of starting over, or beginning on a new slate.

I would like to mention my appreciation to the City of Caro, its administration and work force, for the support and direction over these past 10 plus years.

From the "enforcement" side of my activities, I would like to remind all Main Street businesses and property owners of the snow/ice removal requirements. The City needs your attention and cooperation in keeping our shoppers and business people free of hazardous conditions, accidents and injuries.

NOTICE CITY OF CARO RESIDENTS

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012
THE RESIDENTIAL
RUBBISH AND TRASH CHARGES
WILL BE INCREASED FROM
\$10.80 PER MONTH TO
\$11.10 PER MONTH
and
THE COMMERCIAL
DUMPSTER FEE WILL
INCREASE BY 2% ROUNDED PER
MONTH

TO BE REFLECTED ON THE
FEBRUARY 1, 2012 UTILITY BILL

UPCOMING MEETINGS

	Council	Jan 3 & 16 Feb 6 & 20 March 5 & 19	7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
	Planning	Jan 10 & 24 Feb 14 & 28 March 13 & 27	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
	DDA	Jan 11 Feb 8 March 14	Noon Noon Noon
	Historical	Jan 25 Feb 22 March 28	6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
	Parks & Rec	Jan 19 Feb 16 March 15	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.

SYNOPSIS OF CITY OF CARO REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Regular meeting called to order December 5, 2011, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Dick Pouliot

Present: City Mayor Dick Pouliot, City Council: Mike Henry, Joseph Greene, Amanda Langmaid, Rick Lipan, Charlotte Kish, Gordon Taggett

Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Brent Morgan – City Manager, Karen Snider – City Clerk/Treasurer and other guests

AGENDA APPROVAL: Moved by Kish, seconded by Langmaid to approve the agenda with two changes: Add under Regular Business: 1. Resignation from Planning Commission of Gordon Taggett and remove original item #6 from business items. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Greene, seconded by Langmaid to approve the consent agenda including the invoices as presented. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA: (action required)

Resignation from Planning Commission – **Moved by Henry, seconded by Langmaid to accept the resignation of Gordon Taggett to Planning Commission. Motion carried.**

Appointment of Council Committees/Liaison Positions – **Moved by Lipan, seconded by Langmaid to accept the recommendations of the Mayor to appoint the following members to committees: Finance (Chair – Mike Henry) Amanda Langmaid and Gordon Taggett; Personnel (Chair – Joe Greene) Amanda Langmaid, Mike Henry; Policy (Chair – Charlotte Kish) Rick Lipan, Joe Greene; Capital Projects (Chair – Rick Lipan) Charlotte Kish, Gordon Taggett and Council Liaison Positions as follows: CDC – Mayor Pouliot, EDC – Brent Morgan, Chamber of Commerce – Brent Morgan, DDA – Mike Henry, Fair Board – Rick Lipan, Historical – Charlotte Kish, Parks & Recreation – Amanda Langmaid, Planning Commission – Gordon Taggett, Zoning Board of Appeals – Mayor Pouliot. Motion carried.**

Other Committee/Commission Appointments – **Moved by Greene, seconded by Langmaid to direct the clerk to post the following positions: DDA, Parks & Recreation, Zoning Board of Appeals, Historical and Planning. Motion carried.**

Set Finance Committee – Agreement with Poet – **Moved by Kish, seconded by Langmaid to set a Finance Committee meeting for December 9, 2011 at 10 a.m. Motion carried.**

Pension Plan Contribution – **Moved by Kish, seconded by Lipan that the City of Caro will not make a contribution to the Village of Caro Retirement Plan (sponsored by the City of Caro) for plan year ending July 31, 2012 (with Tri-Star). Motion carried.**

Set Personnel Committee – Fire Chief – **Moved by Greene, seconded by Lipan to set a Personnel Committee meeting for December 9, 2011 at 9 a.m. Motion carried.**

CLERK REPORT: Moved by Langmaid, seconded by Lipan to authorize the purchase of the meat and beverage for the event in an amount not to exceed \$500. Motion carried.

Langmaid moved, seconded by Kish to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Karen J. Snider, City Clerk