



# City Voice

January 2017

City of Caro  
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## MAYOR MINUTES

**BY:  
MAYOR JOE GREENE**



Change. Alter. Modify. Transform. Switch. Vary. These words all mean to make someone, someplace, or something different. These are not scary words and you shouldn't be afraid of any of them, especially the

word change. Change will make the form, nature, content, future course, etc., of something different from what it was, what is is, or what it would be, if left alone. Change is a natural part of life. Change is a good thing.

The New Year of 2017 will definitely bring changes to the City of Caro. On the administrative side of things the new City Manager, Ryan Piche, will be starting the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, the Mayor's gavel has been passed, a new member of the City Council, Herb Sheardy has been appointed to fill the vacancy, and Council liaisons to various Boards and Committees have been changed.

There are also several new projects scheduled for the upcoming year that will bring change to Caro. Frank Street, from Almer to Hooper Streets, will be redone, as Almer Street was in 2016. The water tower will be repainted. Sidewalks will be replaced in various areas of the city. A new sidewalk from State Street up to the Turner Apartments will be installed. The Luder Road Bridge is scheduled for repairs. A new police vehicle has been purchased and will soon be patrolling our streets.

The Caro Parks and Recreation Plan is in the final

development stages. A public hearing related to the Plan will be announced and your input is important. A new software system for Caro has been installed. The City's website will be updated with a new look and information, and will be more user friendly. A cooperative plan between the City, Chamber of Commerce, and Downtown Development Authority is being developed to assist current Caro businesses with their needs, along with attracting new businesses to fill our vacant storefronts.

Another change will be having a more open door policy with Caro residents or business owners. Beginning in February, I will be available the first Monday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Council Room at City Hall for "Mondays with the Mayor" to meet informally with our constituents. I will be there to answer any questions or to address any concerns you may have. Feel free to bring your lunch!

Other ways to contact me are via City Hall at 989-673-2226 to set up an appointment, by messaging me at Mayor Joe Greene on Facebook, or by sending me an e-mail at [mayorjoegreene48723@gmail.com](mailto:mayorjoegreene48723@gmail.com)

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As I stated during the election campaign, “It’s time for a change”; however, we all need to remember that change is a process and it can seem to be a lengthy process at times. Changes usually don’t happen overnight, but they will be happening here in Caro.....so be sure to watch for them!!

**THE MANAGER’S CORNER  
BY: KAREN SNIDER,  
ACTING MANAGER**



There have been many changes in the past few months and as your Acting City Manager, I can say that they have had numerous effects on administration as well as other staff and residents. We had to say goodbye to our City Manager who worked very close with us on a day

to day basis and to our past Mayor of several years. I would like to personally say “Thank You both for what you have contributed for the City of Caro and for teaching me so many things during your service for the residents of the city”.

We have hit the ground running with the many new and exciting changes coming in 2017. Many have already begun and are in full bloom. Administration and staff are looking forward to our new City Manager arriving on February 1<sup>st</sup> and working with our new Mayor.

In this upcoming May/June our 2016 Scrap Tire program will come to a conclusion. This project was put on hold in October 2016 due to the contractor not being able to get the GRT material that goes into the asphalt mixture to be used to do the paving of several designated streets in the city before the bad weather arrived.

The city has submitted a Letter of Interest to MDEQ for a 2017 Scrap Tire Grant. Approved applicants will be invited to submit a full application by February 10, 2017. It is anticipated that the DEQ Director will be making a final funding recommendation in March or early April 2017. This grant is a 50/50 grant for local street paving.

The total request would be for \$414,000 with the city paying \$207,000 (50%) and the grant paying \$207,000. The total asphalt quantity is estimated at 3,680 tons and from this it is expected that 3,680 scrap tires will be incorporated into the asphalt binder mix. All materials will come from one of the approved Michigan Scrap Tire Processing plants. If the City of Caro is awarded this grant, it will be the third scrap tire grant for the city. This is a humongous savings which allows for many more streets to be paved. The streets targeted for the 2017 project will be a portion of Van Geisen Road, W. Congress, Fremont, Palmer, Sheridan, Monroe and Hamilton Streets.

The West Frank Street Reconstruction Project is scheduled to begin July 5, 2017. This will be a total reconstruct project, the same as Almer Street that was just completed. Approximately 2,600 feet of existing 4” water main will be replaced and upgraded to 8” PVC water main. It is anticipated that there will be extensive sanitary sewer mains or service lines replaced in addition to 6 manholes. Every consideration will be given as to maintaining local resident access, minimizing utility service disruptions and mail service and trash collection in the work area. The Caro Area District Library will remain accessible at all times unless unusual circumstances arise.

The City will be looking at repairing/replacing sidewalk through a special sidewalk assessment for 2017 and this project will begin this spring. The property owner shall be assessed 25% of the cost based on lineal footage and the City pays 75% of the assessment. Streets targeted for this project are Quinn, Alexander and Howard as well as installing new sidewalk on Gilford Road from State Street to Quinn Street. Property owners will be given proper notice prior to the work beginning and provided an opportunity at a public meeting prior to the final adoption of the special assessment roll being adopted by City Council.

This is just a portion of the projects planned for 2017.

Administration and staff asks that you join them by welcoming Caro’s new City Manager, Ryan Piche and feel free to stop in and extend a friendly greeting.

**A WORD FROM THE CLERK  
BY KAREN J SNIDER, CMC**

Administration has recently updated their financial software system to give them more flexibility and options to better serve the residents. They are in the process of looking at electronic options for bill payments and hope that a process can be in place before the end of the fiscal year which ends June 30. The City has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Tuscola County for their IT work. Administration is working on getting their website updated to be more user friendly and welcome any comments or suggestions from the public. Please direct your comments to Karen Snider at [caroclerk@centurytel.net](mailto:caroclerk@centurytel.net) or (989) 673-7671.



**Help me, help you!! If you have a fire hydrant near your home, please help your local firefighters by keeping the area around the hydrant clear of snow and ice. Thank you!**

**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 cool 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.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT  
BY CURTIS WELLS, SUPT**



Your staff at the Caro Waste Water Treatment Plant want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope everyone had a great holiday season.

Request for Proposals (RFP's) for concrete work and furnace replacements were sent out however very little response was received. RFP's will be sent out again in the near future for work to be done in the spring.

We have also just finished a biosolids haul and land application for an area farmer who will benefit greatly from this resource.

As a seasonal reminder our RV dump will be closed as soon as the roads become icy and snow covered.

We would like to thank everyone in advance for being vigilant of what you are flushing down your toilets, because disposable on the package, does not mean flushable.

Before closing, the entire staff at the WWTP would like to wish everyone a Blessed and Prosperous New Year!

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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

## CARO POLICE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF BRIAN NEWCOMB



The Caro Police Department wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The “Shop with a Hero” night was held at Walmart in Caro. This was organized by Officer Strasz and participating Caro PD Officers

Robert Gaiser, Michael Fowler, Anthony Jobs, Brian Ducolon and Joshua Bandur were there to help the children pick out and wrap their gifts for Christmas. The money for this program is donated by Walmart Foundation, Coca-Cola Company, with donations from the Michigan State Police and Tuscola County Sheriff Department. Approximately 35 children were helped by this program. Among the participating agencies were Caro PD, Caro Fire Department, Cass City PD, Mayville PD, Michigan State Police- Caro post, Tuscola County Sheriff Department, and MMR.

With winter weather here, please use caution while driving. Slowing down helps, and keep in mind not to use “cruise control” when roads are snow covered and slippery.

There is a new traffic law that will take place in 2017. In some areas of Michigan, the posted speed limit will become 75 mph on the expressways and in some areas, 65 on trunklines. The exact date has not been determined. I will update this on the Caro Police Department facebook page.  
Happy Holidays...



Winter is a beautiful season but with it comes the danger of slipping and falling. Please remember it is the homeowners responsibility to keep your sidewalks and walks to your

mailbox clear of ice and snow. The mail delivery people must be able to get to your mailbox to deliver your mail.

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE BY: MAYOR GREENE



According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the definition of recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products. Recycling can benefit your community and the environment.

- Benefits to recycling include:
- Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and combustion facilities
- Conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals
- Prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials
- Saves energy
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change
- Helps sustain the environment for future generations
- Helps create new well-paying jobs in the recycling and manufacturing industries in the United States

The EPA estimates that 75% of America’s waste is recyclable, but we only recycle about 30% of it. Recycling pick-up is included in your water/sewer/sanitation bill. Recycling bins are free and available at the Department of Public Works Building on Hooper Street. Please, before you throw your newspapers, plastic, or glass in the trash; think twice and RECYCLE!!



*Looking for some family fun? Why not go sledding at Chippewa Landing!!*

## CODE ENFORCEMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



Winter is here – at last and does not appear to be going anywhere soon. Please be mindful of the winter rules within the City limits. There is no parking on the street

throughout the night time hours. This allows for our snow plows to do their job while we sleep, to awake to clean plowed streets. Also, it is the responsibility of all our residences to keep the sidewalks open. This creates a safe passage for everyone, including our children that need to get to school.

Keeping hydrants near your house cleared out is always a great way to help your local fire department. Being able to get a water connection fast and easy allows the firefighters to do their jobs better and more effective. It does not go unnoticed. Thank you!

Please feel free to meet with me at my office for a copy of any ordinance, or you may go online to the City of Caro website for a complete version.

In the event, you should receive a notice from this office, please follow the instructions and please keep in mind, that it is never the intention of this office to insult any property owner for any situation that may be found on their property. It is my purpose to educate the residents of the City of Caro of the Blight Ordinances and work with them to help keep our City clean and blight free. The Blight Officer is aware that in some situations, the time set may not be sufficient to accomplish the task. It is therefore imperative that you contact my office to acquire; if so allowed, an extension of time.



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

## CARO FIRE DEPARTMENT BY CHIEF RANDY HECKROTH



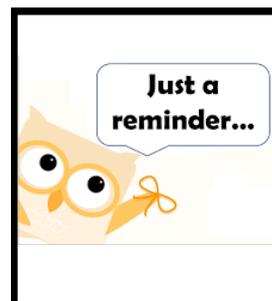
The City of Caro Fire Department is currently seeking applicants for firefighters

The Fire Chief would like to help you pick out the perfect gift for Christmas – a smoke detector. Not expensive, but the capability is priceless when needed. It has been proven time and time again that smoke detectors save lives. So please give the perfect gift for that special loved one. And remember to check yours too. Clean off the dust and replace the battery. Another great idea is a detector for the silent killer – Carbon Monoxide. Every home should have a working detector to alert of the presence of this odorless deadly gas.

The department does ask that anyone wishing to burn brush piles outside the City limits to please call 989-673-2002, to register for a free burn permit. Just leave the information asked for on the answering machine, and the permit is issued. Please listen closely to the message, for rules and possible bans that may exist for that time frame. For fires inside the City limits of Caro, please leave a contact number and the Fire Chief will call you back to explain the rules for burning safely and legally within the City limits.

The State of Michigan only allows the burning of leaves and tree branches. No garbage, no lumber, no pallets, and no tires are to be burnt in any manner, at any time. The laws are intended for safety and environmental reasons.

The department will always accept applications, please call 989-673-2002 or stop in at the station.



The last day to pay 2016 taxes to the City is Tuesday, February 28, 2017. After that date they will need to be paid at the Tuscola County Treasurers office.