

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Work Session Meeting
February 24, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Ridge on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Council members Dyer, Mayor Pro-Tem Armitage, Weissenborn, Baker, McRae, Mayor Ridge, City Clerk Terpstra and City Manager Guetschow.

ABSENT: Council member Hoogstra.

CARA -DISCUSSION -OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

DPW Director Gilson explained the CARA board was dissolved earlier with the townships as they no longer wanted to participate. However, Carmel Township is still contributing to the support the recycling center. Recycling revenues are going down because of the prices going down for the materials. Quinn Underwood is the director. She is always looking for new markets and ways to increase revenues. One of the challenges is the increasing minimum wage. There are not as many volunteers. Some of things they do to raise more revenue are the annual spaghetti dinner (March 6, 5-7:30 p.m.) and the Trash Dash, 5K run/walk (May 16th 9 AM at Bennett Park).

City Manager Guetschow explained that CARA is treated as another part of the City. There is another year or two before the agreement expires, however it is a non-functioning board.

Director Gilson stated that the director is applying for a grant to try to obtain a portable ramp for the center that will cost around \$10,000.

AIRPORT – DISCUSSION -OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

Bryan Myrkle explained that the airport board was formed in 2008 and consists of local residents, users and a township resident. Joe E. Pray is the chairman of the board. Community Development Director Myrkle stated that they are currently working on a new airport layout plan with Prein & Newhof. They are working on a business core for future growth. The hangar rent and fuel is what the city gets from the airport. There is aging infrastructure there, bad roof and the lights are extremely fragile and need replacing on a regular basis. There is an issue with trees growing into the approach areas. They are in the process of gaining aviation easements for trimming the trees. The AWOS system is located at the airport. This is the Automatic Weather Observation Service. Todd Cotter is the airport manager. There is a flight school there run by Grant Emfield.

Joe E. Pray stated that the subsidy from the City has decreased quite a bit in the last few years. There has been more activity at the airport with fuel sales and rental income from the hangars. He stated that the airport is easy to get in and out of and therefore many pilots stop there for fuel. He stated that some pilots used their own funds to renovate the lobby area along with some of the funds from the annual pancake breakfast. He stated that they are considering building a build assist center in which a mechanic could help pilots work on their aircraft. They are considering an extension of the runway.

COUNCIL MEMBER DYER- DISCUSSION ON SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE:

Council member Dyer stated that he had previously started a Sustainability committee when he was on council earlier, however, the current council did not extend that committee. He would like to reinstate this committee if there is interest with the current council.

Council member Armitage would like to have a work group to create strategies for social media guidelines for staff to approve and engage in communication.

City Manager Guetschow mentioned two more boards. One being Board of Review. He stated that they meet three times per year for tax appeals. Randy Jewell and Sandy Osborn are always looking for people for that board.

The other being the Compensation Commission. This board meets in January of the odd years. This board is for the purpose of setting the compensation for the City Council.

He stated that some of the boards like the Cable Access board will be dissolved.

Council member Armitage would like to see a work session to follow up on discussions of a Zoning Board of Appeals and DDA Board.

Mayor Ridge asked council to mark their calendars for the work session scheduled for March 16, 2020 for the Vision 2025 presentation. She stated that she would also be rescheduling the February 17th work session that was cancelled.

Mayor Ridge adjourned the work session at 7:04 P.M.

Mayor Yvonne Ridge

Ginger Terpstra, City Clerk, CMMC