

CARTER LAKE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, December 15, 2025

Mayor Cumberledge begins the meeting by remembering former Mayor Emil Hausner, a long-time community supporter, and asks for a moment of silence. Mayor Cumberledge calls for the roll call, Aaron Grell, Jacob Hanika, Jason Gundersen, Victor Skinner, and Jackie Wahl. Also present, City Administrator Cameron Gales, City Attorney Clint Fichter, City Clerk Jackie Carl.

Mayor Cumberledge asks for approval of the agenda. Councilmember Wahl requests to add a discussion about the planning board's packet receipt. Cameron Gales suggests removing a no-show item from the agenda. Gundersen moved to approve the agenda with the changes, seconded by Grell; unanimously approved.

Mayor Cumberledge calls for approval of the consent agenda. Councilmember Wahl asked to discuss issues with overtime and comp time records. Mayor Cumberledge suggests pulling overtime and comp time for further discussion. Gundersen moved to approve the agenda seconded by Hanika; unanimously approved.

Mayor Cumberledge conducts the swearing-in ceremony for new city officials, including Mayor Jason Gunderson, along with Victor Skinner and Matthew Seminara as city council members.

Engineer Elizabeth Hunter discusses the manhole bids, noting that only one bid was received, which was significantly higher than the estimated cost. The bid from Backland Plumbing was 42% higher than the engineer's estimate. Elizabeth suggests negotiating with the bidder to bring down the cost and mentions USDA's approval is pending. The council decides to table the issue to allow for further negotiations. Motion by Grell, seconded by Hanika, unanimously approved.

Engineer Elizabeth Hunter presents photos and information about the storm water drain issue, noting erosion and a sinkhole. Jeffrey Gales explains the history of the repairs and the issues with the corrugated section installed by the city. The council discusses potential solutions, including replacing the pipe and improving the seawall. The issue is tabled to allow for further investigation and cost estimates.

City Attorney Clint Fichter provides an update on the alley vacation process, noting the need for county approval and the involvement of six property owners. The council discusses the possibility of the city covering the costs and the potential need for new legal descriptions. The issue is tabled to allow for further discussion and approval at the next meeting.

Gundersen moved to approve Travis Shaw as new fire department volunteer, seconded by Skinner; unanimously approved.

City Administrator Cameron Gales provides an update on the splash pad, noting the high cost of repairs and plans to seek future grant funding for improvements. Cameron explains the reorganization of the Public Works department, focusing on fleet management and building and grounds maintenance.

Skinner moved to approve the appointment of Jeremiah Poole as the maintenance supervisor, seconded by Grell; unanimously approved.

Wahl suggests adopting the planning board's recommendation to receive agendas a week earlier. The council discusses the possibility of receiving complete packets with all necessary documents in one package. The issue is tabled to allow for further discussion and implementation at the next meeting.

Attorney Clint Fichter provides an update 122 Carter Lake Club, trial date for 6/22/2026 the case covers

the whole property. The homeowner has agreed to allow inspections on the home interior and exterior. This will create a compliance list of what needs to be done to remedy that property and to bring it into code compliance, which is the requirements for the action that we have scheduled for trial. The owner will have to address this list to be successful at the trial. It was asked if there was an update on the cat house issue, noting the need for further follow-up.

Gundersen moved to approve hydrant meter policy, seconded by Wahl; unanimously approved; Gundersen moved to approve the annual urban renewal report, Clerk explaining its purpose and the status of various TIF funds, seconded by Grell; unanimously approved.

The council tables the memorandum of understanding with Landscapes Unlimited for further review. The meeting concludes with public comments, including thanks to Mayor and Jackie for their service and condolences for the recent passing of Johnny Pinkerton and Mike Hawkins.

Grell moved to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(j) for confidential discussions related to real estate transactions, followed by any appropriate action, seconded by Gundersen; unanimously approved at 8 p.m. Gundersen moved to come out of closed session, seconded by Grell at 8:20 p.m. Skinner moved to adjourn.