

**Minutes
Avon City Council
March 06, 2023**

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT

Jeff Manthe – Mayor, Katie Reiling, Aaron Goebel, Doug Schaefer, Mark Schulzetenberge - City Councilors
Corey Nellis – Chief, Chuck Pelkey – Public Works Foreman, Justin Kurtz – Water Wastewater Foreman
Jodi Austing-Traut, City Clerk-Administrator

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was opened at 6:30 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – ASSESSMENT HEARING FOR 2023 STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Jeremy Mathiasen - Stantec, City Engineer, presented a slide show summarizing the street project planned for 2023 as well as the assessments being proposed for benefitting residents. The public was invited to comment. Mike Kleinschmidt asked about the bulb (mini-cul-de-sac) feature at the end of Stratford Street. Mathiasen stated that there would be a surmountable curb and each driveway would have a curb cut. Jon Habben asked how many benefitting properties the assessments would be distributed among. Mathiasen stated that there are thirteen properties, two of which are city properties and therefore not assessed. Habben stated that his property and a great portion of his frontage, upon which the assessment is based, abuts the boat launch and yet he is being assessed the maximum amount. Kleinschmidt asked if there was a listing of the benefitting property owners. Austing-Traut presented the list.

Motion Reiling to close the public hearing at 6:55 second Schulzetenberge and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Kevin Cox of C&L Excavating / CLC Development presented an update on the lots in Avon Estates Southern View there have been 23 sold, 2 on hold, 17 remaining, 10 homes built in 2022, 8 more to be built in 2023. Cox presented a proposal for the purchase of three more phases of Avon Estates. Council will set up a workshop with Kevin Cox and Jason Murray.

Eric Linn, owner of Suncrest Apartments, was present to discuss the council's recent increase to water and sewer rates. Linn explained how these types of increases adversely affect senior citizens that are on fixed incomes. Judy Dirkes of Angelfish Ave stated that inflation has affected everyone and raising water rates will have additional impact, especially to young families and businesses. Samantha Jonas, owner of Pure Bliss Salon & Spa, stated that as a high user of water, these increases can negatively affect her costs of services. Austing-Traut gave some background on the water and sewer rate study that was done as well as some history about the wastewater plant and its financing. Shirley Smith of Chinook Ave stated that she needs to run her water at a trickle in order to stop her domestic line from freezing but she only receives a \$30 credit from the city. Mark Schulzetenberge explained that while he did vote against the increase, as he would prefer it to be more incremental, he understands that the increase is needed. Aaron Goebel stated that the council could reconsider and implement a smaller increase this year and then another increase next January. Judy Dirkes suggested a half cent sales tax. Mayor Manthe explained that the city already has a half-cent sales tax in place for transportation projects.

Al Wimmer was present to request the city consider allowing chickens. Staff will present a draft ordinance to planning commission for consideration.

Aaron Goebel suggested council reconsider moving some funds from the water fund to the sewer fund in order to reduce the increase to the sewer rate that was made at the last council meeting.

Motion Goebel to move \$100,000 from the water fund to the sewer fund and change the sewer usage fee from \$5.03 per 1,000/gallons to \$6.03 per 1,000/gallons and leave the water increase at .37 cents second Reiling and carried unanimously.

Staff will continue to communicate with utility users that there could likely be another increase effective January 1, 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Minutes of February 6th, 2023
2. Receive Fire Department Minutes of January 30, 2023

3. Paid Check Register, Manual Claims, Capital Expenditures, Payroll Deposits
4. Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Auditor/Acct. Fees
5. Resolution 2023-06 Authorizing Signers for Real Estate Transaction Lot 04 Block 01 Serenity at Avon
6. Resolution 2023-07 Authorizing Signers for Real Estate Transaction Lot 09 Block 01 Serenity at Avon
7. FYI – Notice of Pay Equity Compliance
8. Outdoor Event Permit Application for Avon Community Church 7/30/2023

Staff will look in the Xcel invoice and correct as necessary. UPDATE: Upon further investigation staff notified council that the entries for both Xcel and Centerpoint appeared to be double entered, but rather, were split partially into 2022 budget and partially into 2023 budget due to the invoice crossing over from one year to the next.

Motion Schaefer to approve consent agenda second Schulzetenberge and carried unanimously.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Streets/Stormwater Update – Jeremy Mathiasen, Stantec – City Engineer

Jeremy Mathiasen, presented a written update of street and stormwater projects. Mathiasen stated that work is being completed on the feasibility study for the proposed First Street SE street project which is expected to include small areas of Dolphin Ave SE, Char Ave SE, and Barracuda Ave SE. Mathiasen anticipates presenting the findings at the regular meeting on April 3rd. Mathiasen present Resolution 2023-08 Adopting Assessment Roll for 2023 Capital Improvement Project

Motion Reiling to reduce Habben assessment (PID 42.26235.0000) from \$2841 to \$2556 due to the property's proximity to the boat launch itself, second Schaefer and carried unanimously.

Motion Goebel to approve Resolution 2023-08 Adopting Assessment Roll for 2023 Streets/CIP Project with the change to the Habben property (PID 42.26235.0000) second Schulzetenberge and carried unanimously.

ISSUES BY STAFF

Administration

Half Cent Sales Tax Update

Austing-Traut gave an update on the Half Cent Sales Tax bills that have been drafted and are being carried through the legislative process. Mayor Manthe updated the council on his meeting with the Senate Tax Committee. Manthe explained that he felt that he had received positive feedback from the committee and is hopeful the bills will pass.

Fire Hall Contract Update

Austing-Traut, Chuck Swenson, and Mayor Manthe met with City Attorney and W. Gohman to go over the proposed contract. Austing-Traut explained that all parties appear to be at a point of agreement on the terms of contract so a contract will be drafted. Austing-Traut has reached out go Gohman to see if they are willing to being the preliminary design phase of the process while contract is being finalized. Swenson stated that he does not see a need for the Fire Hall Building Committee to meet until the Fire Department meets with the architect first to get their preliminary design on paper.

Planning / Zoning

Building Inspection Services Contract – Inspectron Inc. The city has been working with Inspectron since spring of 2022 under the contract that we originally had with Dan Marthaler. The company has changed hands three times since then. The proposed contract is the same one being used by Inspectron clients in the area including the City of Melrose and the City of Albany.

Motion Goebel to enter into contract with Inspectron Inc, as presented, second Reiling and carried unanimously.

Public Works

Chuck Pelkey presented his written report and updated the council on the massive amounts of snow that are needing to be moved. Pelkey stated that more diesel fuel is being used than was planned for. He also stated that state bid is not a viable

option for the purchase of a truck. Dealers have advised that buying a used truck would be a better option since it is very difficult to get new vehicles and the state bid is not being offered at this time. Pelkey requested approval for \$2209.99 for a Skid Loader Broom/Brush Attachment purchased on auction. Pelkey also presented a quote for a higher priced item of similar style.

Motion Schaefer to authorize \$2209.99 for the skid loader broom/brush attachment second Schulzetenberge and carried unanimously.

Justin Kurtz presented his written report. The UV system has arrived. Rice Lake will come out this week and the installation will be coordinated for next week. The system must be up and running by April 1st. A hydrant froze up on Windsor Way. It has been thawed and it is working. We have replacement parts for it if needed. There seems to be an issue with one of the rotors at the wastewater plant. We are not getting enough voltage out of it, but it is running for now. There may be a short between the VFD and the master controller or possibly the VFD itself. Staff will continue to troubleshoot and hopefully we will know more in a week or two.

Police Department

Written report was presented by Chief Nellis. Chief Nellis requested that council open the meeting for public comment on a Portable Recording Systems (bodycam) Policy. Schulzetenberge asked how many cameras would be in use. Chief Nellis stated that there would be five cameras, including one backup. One resident, Al Wimmer, as present to speak in favor of the body cameras. A few comments were received on Facebook and appeared to be in favor of body cameras.

Motion Goebel to adopt a Portable Recording Systems Policy, second Reiling and carried unanimously.

ISSUES BY COUNCIL

None

Adjourn

Adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jodi Austing-Traut
City Clerk/Administrator