

**Minutes  
Avon City Council  
August 01, 2022**

**THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT**

Jeff Manthe – Mayor, Katie Reiling, Aaron Goebel, Doug Schaefer, Jeff Meyer – City Councilors  
Corey Nellis – Chief of Police, Landon Gudim – Police Officer, Chuck Pelkey – Public Works Foreman, Justin Kurtz –  
Water Wastewater Foreman, Ethan Smith – Public Works Technician  
Jodi Austing-Traut, City Clerk-Administrator

Mayor Manthe called the Avon City Council meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Public Forum**

Angie and Justin Dalby of 101 Stratford St W were present to raise issues about concerning behaviors at the property located at 107 Avon Avenue North. Vic Ehresmann of 107 Stratford St W stated that he has felt uncomfortable as well. Mr. Dalby stated that many of the interactions last around five minutes long which does not leave enough time for the police to arrive and investigate these situations. Residents are looking for suggestions to how to make this area feel safer. There are four adult residents occupying three of the five units. Chief Nellis believes that the concerning activities occurring may not be due to the residents themselves, but rather their friends, family, and visitors. Samantha Jonas owner of Pure Bliss Salon & Spa 103 Avon Avenue S was present to attest to the same behaviors occurring at the apartments next to her business. Council discussed the potentially unsafe condition of the units themselves and council's concern for the safety of the residents living there as well as first responders. Staff will notify the property owner that the city council intends to follow up with the State Fire Marshall to begin the process of determining whether the units are habitable and safe.

Chuck Pelkey, Public Works Foreman, introduced Ethan Smith, the city's new Public Works Technician and council welcomed him aboard.

Troy Huschel was present on behalf of Claire Graham 403 Chinook Ave to discuss the drainage issue. This issue will be discussed later on the agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Council Minutes of July 11, 2022
2. Receive Fire Department Minutes of June
3. Paid Check Register, Manual Claims, Capital Expenditures, Payroll Deposits
4. Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Auditor/Acct. Fees
5. Outdoor Event Permit (Garage Sale for Community Center at Wobegon Park 8/24 – 8/27)
6. Resolution 2022-23 Approving State of MN Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Avon (PD)
7. Amendment to Court Data Services CJDN Subscriber Agreement (PD)
8. Resolution 2022-24 Accepting Donations for Pickleball Improvements and Avon PD K-9 Program
9. MESERB Membership Invoice
10. Stantec Invoice (added at meeting) \$47,98.31 for Engineering Services

Councilman Meyer expressed his concern about the minutes of July 11, 2022 as being, in his opinion, unfairly presented. Mayor Manthe stood by his comments as document in the minutes. All documentation related to this issue are on file in the city clerk's office for viewing.

*Motion Aaron Goebel to approve consent agenda second Doug Schaefer and carried with Meyer against.*

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Lions Club/Parks Forever Re: Pickleball Donation

Invoice for Lange Trenching for \$1,440 for parking lot improvements was presented. The Lions Club has indicated that their intention for their donation was that a portion of their donation would be used for the parking lot improvements. Lyn Metz, Pickleball Club Treasurer, does not feel that these funds should be paid out of the Pickleball Club funds as the original Lange quote showed closer to \$550 for the parking lot improvements.

***Motion Aaron Goebel to authorize payment of \$1,440 to Lange Trenching for parking lot repair second Jeff Meyer and carried unanimously.***

Jim Metz requested that if there are any future projects or repairs that the Pickleball Club would be expected to pay that their board would be given notification in advance and be invited to the discussion prior to project authorization.

**Streets/Stormwater Update – Jeremy Mathiasen, Stantec**

Claire Graham's 403 Chinook Ave property still has a pending drainage pipe project that Jeremy Mathiasen has been working on. Council discussed how to best deal with the drainage issues along Chinook Avenue. Troy Huschle, representing Claire Graham stated that he would like to see the water moved off of the driveway. There is a city stormwater pipe that is heaving on Graham's driveway that needs to be corrected. The other side of the issue is that this could be an opportunity to expand the project to move water from the baseball field and parking area. Jeremy Mathiasen believes that there is enough grade to move stormwater from the ballfield area out to Middle Spunk Lake but suggested that the issue is complex and would require further investigation. Councilman Meyer expressed many concerns about the idea of moving stormwater in this way and would rather see the water moved to the south side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Council discussed at length whether to add this to the proposed 2022 street reconstruction program or make it a separate project. There are significant stormwater issues to be addressed throughout town. Meyer stated that at a minimum, he believes that pipes should be dug in at the time of street reconstruction projects. Mathiasen advised that pipes can be directionally drilled as an alternative. Representatives from the Lakes Association stated that they are adamantly opposed to putting any untreated water into Middle Spunk. Councilman Schaefer stated his opinion that the pipe at 403 Chinook Avenue does need to be improved, but the water from the ballfield/parking lot area should be treated before it goes into Middle Spunk and should probably be a separate project. Councilman Meyer suggested that utilizing the wetland to act as a sponge would be ideal as it would have adequate capacity for high rain events. Mathiasen will continue to investigate the best way to move forward and will report back to council.

**ISSUES BY STAFF**

**Administration:**

Reminder: Budget Workshop to be held 8/15 with Jason Murray

Fire Hall Update – Chuck Swenson presented draft plans and asked the council for direction on the scope of the project. The original project was for a 60x60 addition with three truck bays at an estimated cost of about \$1.4M (plus \$77K engineering). The second option is for a larger facility 81x102 with four bays and room for two apparatus deep at a cost of approximately \$2.2M for construction (plus \$145K engineering). The second option could include future options for the police department to expand into this space at some point as needed. The building committee is asking for direction from council as to which option the council would like to go ahead with so that the group can meet with the townships to begin discussions of how the project will be funded. Councilman Meyer suggested the committee go to the townships for their input on the scope of the project as well as to have discussions about the possibility of some level of upfront payment contribution in order to reduce the ongoing bonding costs for all three entities. Chuck Swenson stated that the 60x60 building works for now. It is enough space to move the apparatus that the fire department has. Anything larger would be more for future needs. Committee will meet with the townships and get their feedback and report back to city council.

**Public Works:**

Chuck Pelkey gave an update on the Avon Estates park project. Grading has been done. Electrical wiring is in and pulled up to the pavilion. Electrical box needs to be mounted and wiring needs to be pulled up to basketball court. Sprinklers and concrete work need to be coordinated. Crack fill and spray patch have been ordered and patching will be done shortly. Chuck updated council on several ongoing issues at the beach. There are many people coming to the beach from out of town. The doors to the bathrooms are bad. They are rusty and do not operate well. Pelkey requested council consider automatic locks for the bathrooms so they can be locked at night.

Justin Kurtz gave his written report and requested approval for Avon Body Shop for \$1,633.66 for brakes, shocks, pads, rotors, oil change, & a rear seal and to Core & Main: \$1,948.34 for hydrant near Evie's Gardens

***Motion Doug Schaefer to approve payment of \$1,633.66 to Avon Body Shop and approval to pay \$1,948.34 to Core & Main as requested, second Aaron Goebel and carried unanimously.***

**CONSIDER – UV System for Wastewater Plant**

There is \$32,000 in ARPA funds available. Great Northern Environment Trojan UV had the low quote at \$62,370. There is also electrical work that would need to be done as part of the project. Council will consider at a later date.

**Police Department**

Chief Nellis presented his written report. Chief stated that Verizon wireless is down in Avon. This does impact the squad car service. The Police Department is looking at some options with other providers. Ben and Sarah Grutsch have offered the PD and FD access through their property to Avon Estates during the CR 54 construction. National Night Out is Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. PD will do a demonstration of less lethal options around 7:00 pm. Chief Nellis gave an update on the body cameras.

**ISSUES BY COUNCIL**

Councilman Meyer asked whether council is interested in imposing a moratorium on THC/Edibles. Chief Nellis stated that most of the St. Cloud area cities have passed moratoria already. Council consensus to direct staff to develop a moratorium document for council consideration.

Mayor Manthe wanted it entered into the record that Senator Jeff Howe has been recognized as the League of Minnesota Cities Legislator of Distinction for 2022.

**Adjourn**

*Adjourned at 10:05 pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jodi Austing-Traut  
City Clerk/Administrator