

**Minutes
Avon City Council
December 2, 2024**

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was opened at 6:00 pm.

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

Austing-Traut explained to council and those in attendance that Stearns County adjusted the city's LNTC in late September after preliminary levy figures had already been voted on by council and submitted to the county. On September 4th the city was given a LNTC figure of \$2,535,641 resulting in tax rate 63.8 which is what the council based the preliminary levy on at the meeting on September 9th. On October 7th we received a report from Stearns County showing an adjusted LNTC amount of \$2,306,084 and resulting tax rate at 70.1. Staff has made budgetary adjustments that will result in a final tax rate of 65.0 for 2025.

Motion Reiling to close public hearing at 6:07

Second Goebel

Passed Unanimously

Consider Resolution 2024-43 Adopting Final Budget

Council reviewed the budget and changes being recommended. Austing-Traut pointed out that while receipts fall short of expenditures, this is because the debt service payment for Bond 2014A will utilize a transfer from the sewer department of \$104,250 and a transfer from the water department of \$85,184. In addition, the debt service payment for Bond 2019A will utilize \$22,251 from existing fund balance in 2025.

Motion Goebel to adopt Resolution 2024-43 Adopting Final 2025 General Fund, Special Revenue Fund, and Enterprise Fund Budgets

Second Schulzetenberge

Passed Unanimously

Consider Resolution 2024-44 Adopting Final Property Tax Levy

Council discussed the number of projects and improvements being made and expressed that residents are seeing their tax dollars at work with the new fire hall, various street projects, drainage projects, and park projects. The city council's goal is to continue to decrease or level off the taxes while working toward the pay off of existing debt. Property tax levies presented include \$1,063,000 for general levy (this is \$57,000 less than 2024) and debt service levies totaling \$437,000 including the new fire hall payment.

Motion Schaefer to adopt Resolution 2024-44 Adopting Final Property Tax Levy of \$1,500,000

Second Reiling

Passed Unanimously

Public Forum

None Present

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Minutes of November 4th and November 12th, 2024
2. Receive Planning Commission Minutes of November 19th, 2024
3. Receive Fire Department Minutes of October 28th, 2024
4. Paid Check Register, Capital Expenditures, Payroll Deposits
5. Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Auditor/Acct. Fees
6. Resolution 2024-45 Decertifying Certain Parcels for TIF District 1-4 (Avon Estates)

7. Resolution 2024-46 Reassigning Special Assessments in the Avon Estates TIF District
8. Statement of Work – Audit Services for Audit 2025 – Clifton Larson Allen
9. Pay Application 10L (\$83,344.45 Labor)
10. Pay Application 8M (\$64,282 Materials)
11. Resolution 2024-49 Amending the Boundaries of Tax Increment Financing District No. 1-6

Motion Goebel to approve consent agenda as presented

Second Schulzetenberge

Motion Carried Unanimously

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Engineering:

Jeremy Mathiasen of Stantec – Gave a brief engineering update and stated that the county is once again looking at Ditch Number 25. There is a possibility of the county making a redetermination as to which properties are actually benefitting. There will be continuing studies and some follow up meetings held at the county. Mathiasen will stay abreast of this and keep the council informed. Mathiasen also presented a Scope of Services for 2025 Trunk Storm Sewer Improvements. Council discussed possibly utilizing reclaimed aggregate to resurface an alley if possible. Ken Pflipsen had sent an email indicating that the end of his driveway is still holding about a two-foot-wide section of water after a heavy rain. Mathiasen had indicated that the problem is that to fix this would require going deeper and deeper which will create challenges at the next two driveways and will require a larger project footprint and restoration area. It was noted by council that there are other properties around town that also have similar amounts of standing water for a short period of time after a rain. Council consensus that the improvements made were substantial enough and to do any further work would create a problem for other residents.

Motion Goebel to approve the 2025 Trunk Storm Sewer Improvement Project Scope of Services

Second Reiling

Motion Passed Unanimously

ISSUES BY STAFF

Administration

Council reviewed for consideration Ordinance 240 Regulating Cannabis Businesses. Austing-Traut gave an update on a change that was made after the planning commission meeting. It was noted that cannabis retail businesses including cannabis mezzo businesses and micro businesses could potentially have manufacturing components to their operations. For this reason, Austing-Traut suggested that cannabis retail businesses other than exclusive lower-potency hemp retailers be located in a C-2 district while lower-potency hemp retail sales be allowed in both C-1 and C-2 districts. Additionally, corrections were made to the ordinance wording to clarify that while there are no city-imposed application fees, there are registration fees.

Motion Reiling to adopt Resolution 2024-47 and Ordinance 240 with revisions as presented

Second Schulzetenberge

Motion Carried Unanimously

Polar Plunge will be held at Avon Beach on Saturday February 15th, 2025

Council considered and administrative subdivision and Certificate of Compliance as presented for the Jeff Lange property PID # 42.26559.000/

Motion Schaefer to approve the Administrative Subdivision and Issue a Certificate of Compliance

Second Goebel

Motion Carried Unanimously

Council considered authorizing additional survey work and the establishment of an easement over an existing utility line that crosses the Jeff Lange property, PID #42.26559.000.

*Motion Goebel to engage O'Malley and Kron Surveying to establish an easement over the property as presented
Second Reiling
Motion Carried Unanimously*

Public Works

Kurtz presented his written report and stated that lift station #2 is experiencing some issues. The recent work that was completed on it is still under warranty. A hydrant near the hotel was spraying water over the weekend. It appears to be operating correctly at this time.

Police Department

Written Report was presented. Chief Nellis explained that Officer Gudim has received a conditional offer of employment with the City of Sauk Centre. Sauk Centre has expressed interest in purchasing Officer Gudim's SWAT gear. Council consensus that K-9 Maverick is of retirement age and should be retired from duty and released to live out his retirement with his handler, Officer Gudim. Gudim was thanked for his years of service and while the council and staff do not wish to see him leave, we do wish him the best in his potential future employment with Sauk Center PD.

Council considered Resolution 2024-48 Declaring SWAT Related Property as Surplus and Authorizing Sale to Sauk Centre.

*Motion Goebel to adopt Resolution 2024-48 Declaring Property as Surplus and Authorizing its Sale to the City of Sauk Centre contingent upon an employment offer for Officer Gudim from the City of Sauk Centre
Second Manthe
Motion Carried Unanimously*

*Motion Manthe to decommission and retire K-9 Maverick and sell him to Officer Gudim for \$1 upon Gudim's final employment date with City of Avon
Second Schulzetenberge
Motion Carried Unanimously*

*Motion Reiling to authorize Chief Nellis to promote an existing part-time officer to a full-time position contingent upon receipt of Gudim's letter of resignation
Second Manthe
Motion Carried Unanimously*

ISSUES BY COUNCIL

Goebel stated he had received a resident request to allow maple tree tapping in Avon Estates. There was concern expressed about the potential difficulty and fairness in attempting to determine who would be allowed to participate.

Mayor Manthe thanked Doug Schaefer for his time on city council and wished him the best.

Adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jodi Austing-Traut - City Clerk/Administrator