

**Minutes
Avon City Council
September 12, 2022**

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT

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

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

Public Hearing for Variance at 309 Suncrest Court – 42.26495.0014

The property owner Craig Huls has filed for a variance at his property located at 309 Suncrest Drive. The property is located in the shoreland overlay district in a R-1 zone. The request is to allow impervious surface coverage of 30% instead of the 25% zoning ordinance requirement. This would allow for the construction of a 16x30 garage addition and extension of the existing driveway. Findings of Fact were presented including – additional storage and driveway expansion are consistent with neighboring properties and there is currently only a single stall garage on the property.

Motion Katie Reiling to close the public hearing at 6:34 second Aaron Goebel and carried unanimously.

Motion Doug Schaefer to adopt Resolution 2022-28 Approving the Request for a Variance at 309 Suncrest Court (42.26495.0014) to allow 30% impervious surface coverage instead of 25% to allow for the construction of a garage addition and driveway extension second Katie Reiling and carried unanimously.

Public Forum

Kerwin Wolters of 109 Chinook Ave SW was present to express concerns about herbicide utilization in the city and the lack of requirement to notify residents. Wolters requested that the council implement a policy to require signage to be placed in a visible location from each property line/right of way. Mayor Manthe suggested that staff contact commercial sprayers to request that they place clearly visible signage in conspicuous locations.

Jim and Lyn Metz were present to update council on the pickleball project. The resurfacing is finished, nets and posts are several weeks out. Metz invited the public to the Pickleball Court Grand Opening on Wednesday, September 14th from 5-7 pm. Staff will work with Stearns County to determine the process for obtaining permission to place a sign on CSAH 9 to indicate the location of the new courts.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Minutes of August 1 and 15, 2022
2. Planning Commission – No quorum present/no official meeting held
3. Receive Fire Department Minutes
4. Paid Check Register, Manual Claims, Capital Expenditures, Payroll Deposits
5. Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Auditor/Acct. Fees
6. Resolution 2022-27 Accepting Various Donations

Councilman Schaefer asked for clarification on an invoice to WW Goetsch which was erroneously coded to “salaries”. Staff will make a journal entry to correct the data entry error.

Motion Aaron Goebel to approve consent agenda second Doug Schaefer and carried unanimously.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Councilwoman Reiling asked the status of the police cameras. Chief Nellis stated that he is working on sorting out some of the internet speed and capacity issues along with supply chain issues.

Levy/Budget 2023

Council discussed how to best budget for and utilize the capital funds. Councilman Goebel expressed the need to set aside funds so that when larger purchases need to be made, the city has at least some, if not all of the funds to make those purchases without having to raise taxes.

Motion Aaron Goebel to adopt Resolution 2022-26 Approving 2022 Property Tax Levy Collectible in 2023 at \$1,295,000 and Setting Truth in Taxation Meeting for December 5th, 2022 at 6:00 pm second Katie Reiling and carried unanimously.

Streets/Stormwater Update – Jeremy Mathiasen, Stantec

First Street Reconstruction

Mathiasen presented a preliminary scope of work for the 1st Street reconstruction project anticipated for 2023. Council discussed the need for stormwater management, including some curbing and various types of gutters that could be used to move surface water as desired.

Motion Doug Schaefer to authorize Stantec to complete a survey of the right of way in the First Street project area (including portions of Dolphin Ave, Barracuda Ave, and Char Ave) second Jeff Manthe and carried unanimously.

Boat Launches

Mathiasen updated council on a meeting that was held with the DNR regarding the boat launches at both Middle Spunk Lake and Ochotto Lake. Councilman Schaefer reiterated that there would be a slight pre-filtration type feature for storm water entering into Middle Spunk Lake as part of the street project.

Stormwater Pipe at 403 Chinook Ave

Council considered quotes for televising and vacuuming the stormwater pipe located at 403 Chinook Avenue (Claire Graham)

Motion Katie Reiling to authorize the Nelson Sanitation quote to jet and vacuum the stormwater pipe located at 403 Chinook Ave second Aaron Goebel and carried unanimously.

ISSUES BY STAFF

Administration

Special Meeting to Canvass Election

The Mayor and Council called a Special Meeting for Thursday November 17th at 7:30 am to Canvass Election Results

Electric Bill at Blattner Field

The difference in the cost of electricity at the ballfield between 2021 and 2022 averaged around \$20 per game since the installation of the new lighting system.

Motion Aaron Goebel to request the Lakers Ball team pay \$25 per evening game and for a review of these fees to be done in September of even years second Doug Schaefer and carried unanimously.

Public Works

Chuck Pelkey and Ethan Smith presented information including several quotes for a new lawnmower and explained how the government discount and trade-in program works.

Motion Doug Schaefer to authorize the purchase of the JDZ950R ZTrak with rear discharge for \$12,580.62 second Katie Reiling

Several quotes were present for the replacement of the black truck. Currently the black public works truck is in poor condition. The white truck needs a box. The gray one is working sufficiently for now. Councilman Schaefer suggested public works try to sell the black truck outright rather than offering it as a trade-in. Pelkey stated that a ¾ ton pickup would be important to have so that it could eventually be used for plowing snow as well. Government discount for a Ford F-250 regular cab 4x4 with an 8' box with snow plow prep package (plow itself to be purchased later) would be \$6,300 making the final cost \$41,140.

Motion Aaron Goebel to authorize the purchase of the Ford F-250 as presented and to sell the black truck outright (gov auction) rather than trade-in, second Katie Reiling and carried unanimously.

Pelkey gave an update of Avon Estates park. Sprinklers are in. Meter needs to be installed. Electric panel and box will be installed after the meter is placed. Basketball court will still hopefully be poured this fall.

Smith gave an update and offered suggestions on the compost site and the possibility of screening black dirt for use and potentially even sale. Public works will continue to look into ways to best utilize the black dirt from the compost site.

Justin Kurtz stated that the U/V system is ordered and is likely out 8-10 weeks. Water meter changeouts are still being completed. Supply chain issues are delaying the receipt of the meters themselves. The distributor is waiving shipping fees on them since they are only able to ship a few at a time. Next spring staff will plan to do a comparison of water meter change out data and compare and analyze revenue changes that could be attributable to the updating of the meters.

Police Department

Chief Nellis gave a written report and updated the council on the status of communications with the owners of the apartments at Brickstone Apartments (503 Suncrest Drive) and the apartments above the PotSpot (107 Avon Ave N). Owners of Brickstone were very responsive to law enforcement's request for assistance with the matters identified. Chief Nellis had a conversation with one of the owners of 107 Avon Ave regarding the safety issues and concerns that have been identified. One of the certified letters that was sent to the owners was returned to the police department, but the other letter was signed for. Nellis explained that while the conditions at the apartments at 107 Avon Ave are relatively poor, he is not necessarily in a position to determine whether or not they are habitable.

Officer Gudim explained to council that K-9 Maverick needed extensive dental work for a broken tooth that ultimately required a root canal. Granite City Pet Hospital performed this service at no charge to the city. Officer Gudim thanked GCPH for their continued support for and excellent care of K-9 Maverick.

Fire Department

Staff will meet with the Townships on 9/13 to discuss the fire hall project in more detail and further determine the scope of the project.

ISSUES BY COUNCIL

Adjourn

Adjourned at 9:10 pm by motion of Doug Schaefer second Katie Reiling.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jodi Austing-Traut
City Clerk/Administrator