

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council meeting was duly held at City Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 2009 at 6:00 pm.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:**

John Grutsch - Mayor, Hugh Knox, Jim Stang, Kurt Marthaler, and Margie Evens – Councilors

Jodi Austing-Traut - Clerk/Administrator

Absent: None

Truth in Taxation Hearing was opened at 6:00 pm and closed at 7:00 pm.

**TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING**

The only change since preliminary budget is +\$3,000 for Election Costs. There was discussion on how the levy is determined as well as how property values are determined.

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Grutsch and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**OPEN FORUM**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Council Minutes of November 2<sup>nd</sup>
2. Claims Register and Monthly Expenditures/Revenues, Cash Flow
3. Capital Expenditures, Legal Fees, Engineering Fees Detailed Reports
4. Approve Amendments to the Parks and Recreation section of the Comprehensive Plan per Parks Board and PC recommendation
5. Approve Lange Trenching Invoice for Alley Improvements \$32,384.01
6. Approve Letter of Engagement/Agreement to Provide Auditing Services – Larson Allen
7. Approval of naming of St. Benedicts Lane
8. Resolution 09-801 Adopting Tax Levy for 2010 at \$700,000 levy (including estimated \$30,000 MVHC)
9. Resolution 09-802 Authorizing Tax Rate for 2010
10. Resolution 09-803 Accepting Donation of Real Estate from Tamara Kleinschmidt

*Motion Hugh Knox*

*Second Kurt Marthaler*

*Passed Unanimously*

**RECEIVE/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MINUTES:**

\* PC Minutes

**Jackie Girard – RE: Spunk Days**

Jackie Girard and Mary Eisenschenk of the Avon Area Chamber of Commerce Spunktacular Days Committee requested use of the city beach for a ski show on Sunday of Spunktacular Days. There was discussion about the future of the city beach. It is in disrepair and city funds to improve the beach are limited. There was discussion about other options for the beach and some discussion about its future. Ray Schmidt was asked if the beach would be repaired in time for a ski-show. Ray anticipated that he could find volunteer help and possibly some donated funds to assist in making minor repairs to the beach for use for the summer of 2010. Avon Beach is one of a handful of public beaches in Stearns County, yet Stearns County does not assist in the funding of the Avon Beach. Taxpayers in the City of Avon pay the entire cost of beach maintenance, repair, security, etc... Council members and Parks Board members will meet with Stearns County officials to request county assistance. Council consensus that the beach can be used for ski show contingent upon Chamber of Commerce & Spunktacular Days Committee working out details with Police Department and Maintenance Department to ensure safety of the event.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS**

1. Consider Refuse Contract with Bueckers Environmental Service Transfer (BEST) contingent upon release of existing contract with Bueckers City Sanitation

*Motion Hugh Knox that the city council is willing to consider entering into a refuse contract with BEST, keeping the contract terms the same as the existing contract (currently with Bueckers City Sanitation) contingent upon maintaining current service levels.*

*Second Jim Stang*

*Passed Unanimously*

2. Consider revising established criteria for monuments on city property

*Motion Hugh Knox to adopt amended resolution 03-582 removing items 1-6 from it and adding attachments depicting acceptable approved monument styles (plaques on a large monument to be placed at Ochotto Park and picnic tables with plaques)*

*Second Jim Stang*

*Passed Unanimously*

3. Consider nominating someone to serve on the Advisory Task Force for the Freeport to St. Cloud section of the High Voltage Transmission Project. Mayor Grutsch will sit on the Advisory Task Force.
4. Consider change in personnel policy to increase to health insurance benefits from \$500/month to \$600 month maximum contribution

*Motion Margie Evens to raise \$500 maximum city contribution toward health insurance to \$600*

*Second Jim Stang*

*Passed Unanimously*

#### **ISSUES BY STAFF**

**Public Works:** Written Report

Request approval for purchase of water meters

*Motion Hugh Knox to authorize purchase of 75 water meters as proposed*

*Second Margie Evens*

*Passed Unanimously*

**Police Department:** Written Report

Discussion of administrative citations for traffic violations. Council gave police department discretion as to when to utilize administrative citations as authorized by state statute.

**Water/Wastewater:** Written Report

Joel requested approval for purchase of replacement parts and installation labor for repairs to the make up air unit at the wastewater treatment plant. Discussion about the failed design of the original system and the continual need to fix it.

*Motion Hugh Knox to approve the bid of \$2,283 for make up air unit repairs*

*Second Kurt Marthaler*

*Passed Unanimously*

#### **Issues by Council:**

Mayor Grutsch gave the council an update of the Fifth Monday meeting he attended at Albany High School last Monday. Both Krain Township and Avon Township are building town halls.

St. Benedict's Lane: There was discussion about whether this will be an alley or a street. Randy will check with Stearns County on the difference between an alley and a street. Council agreed to name it St. Benedict's.

Council received resignation of Bob Pogatschnik from Planning Commission and Joint Planning Board.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion Hugh Knox to adjourn at 8:15 pm.**

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