**Minutes**

**Avon City Council**

**February 5, 2024**

**THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT**

Jeff Manthe – Mayor, Aaron Goebel, Katie Reiling, Doug Schaefer, Mark Schulzetenberge - City Councilors

Justin Kurtz – Water Wastewater Foreman, Chuck Pelkey – Public Works Foreman, Corey Nellis – Chief of Police

Jodi Austing-Traut, City Clerk-Administrator

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Hunter Winderski of Boy Scouts Troop 31 was present to talk about a proposed Eagle Scout improvement project at the Lower Spunk Boat Landing. The property he is planning to improve is owned by the State of Minnesota. Winderski will check with MN DNR and report back if necessary.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Council Minutes of January 8th 2024
2. Receive Fire Department Minutes of December 18th, 2023
3. Paid Check Register, Manual Claims, Capital Expenditures, Payroll Deposits, Quarterly Reports
4. Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Auditor/Acct. Fees
5. Resolution 2024-06 Accepting Donation
6. Pay Application W. Gohman $38,892 for Fire Hall Expansion
7. Resolution 2024-07 Authorizing Fund Transfers from General Fund 101 to Capital Fund 550

***Motion Goebel to approve consent agenda as presented***

***Second Schulzetenberge***

***Motion carried unanimously***

COUNCIL BUSINESS

**Engineering**

Jeremy Mathiasen, Stantec - Engineering Update

Mathiasen gave an update on the City’s Local Road Improvement Plan grant application. There were over 350 applicants, nearly 80 of which are from our district. These dollars are incredibly competitive. This is Avon’s second submission for the grant. We should hear something by the end of March or early April. Council stressed the importance of continuing with the half-cent sales tax and making sure the public is aware that when the vote “*yes*” in November they understand that this is not a new tax, but rather a continuance of the one that has been in place since 2019.

**ISSUES BY STAFF**

**Administration**

Consider PayStar and Banyon Data Systems coordinated web-based bill payment system. Austing-Traut stated that it would cost $795 to set up plus $615 per year to have online bill paying set up on the city’s website. This could be used for utility bills, building permits, and other credit card payments.

***Motion Goebel to authorize contract agreements with PayStar and Banyon Data Systems for online payments***

***Second Reiling***

***Motion carried unanimously***

Fire Hall Soil Testing Quotes – Recommendation to Accept CVT Quote for $5,980

***Motion Manthe to accept CVT Quote for testing $5,980***

***Second Reiling***

***Motion carried unanimously***

**Financial**

Jason Murray – David Drown Associates, City Financial Advisor

Presented Fire Hall Bond / Resolution 2024-05 Providing for the Competitive Negotiated Sale of $2,530,000 GO Capital Improvement Bonds Series 2024A. The city would receive the bids and award the bonds at the March 4th meeting. Interest rate would be around 3.7914%. Annual payment amount would be around $190,000 with both townships participating based on the formula in the Fire Service Contract.

***Motion Goebel to adopt Resolution 2024-05 Providing for the Competitive Negotiated sale of $2,530,000 GO Capital Improvement Bond Series 2024A***

***Second Schaefer***

***Motion carried unanimously***

Jason Murray presented some information related to MRWA Financing for Water Tower Maintenance. Murray stated that our best opportunity is to look both at a competitive sale and the MRWA funding. The city’s bond rating has improvement quite a bit over the past several years and may prove more beneficial than the MRWA financing. Both will be evaluated at the time that the city would plan to start on the water tower project.

Murray advised that the 2014A Avon Estates bonds are now callable. Murray would like to review the 2023 audit and then present to council options for refunding or calling those bonds depending on the cash savings potential.

**Public Works**

Kurtz and Pelkey presented their report. Pelkey stated that Char Ave is in very poor condition. Public Works will fill potholes as they can, but it will not hold. Council may consider milling it up and pouring a section similar to what was done in Stratford. Pelkey mentioned the idea of having a safe exchange zone at City Hall for people to utilize when exchanging goods.

Kurtz brought the quotes for the fence repair and possible new gate at the wastewater plant.

***Motion Reiling to authorize both Bemboom quotes (fence repair and gate) total cost of $5,505***

***Second Schaefer***

***Motion carried unanimously***

**PFAS**

Reiling asked about PFAS also known as “forever chemical” levels in Avon. Our most recent test was done in 2021 and PFAS was undetectable.

**Police Department**

Chief Nellis presented his report and request a temporary waiver of the two dog maximum due to a temporary living situation.

***Motion Reiling***

***Second Schaefer***

***Motion carried unanimously***

Nellis requested council consideration of an alternative connectivity option for wifi in the squad cars. The PD has been utilizing jetpacks for a number of years, but they are not technically made for that type of constant and long-term use.

Nellis presented information about Nextivity Shield MegaFi which the PD is currently demoing. They are $980 each and the PD needs two of them. Request is for up to $3,000 of forfeiture funds to be used toward purchase and installation of these units.

***Motion Goebel to authorize up to $3,000 of DWI Forfeiture Funds for two Nextivity Shield MegaFi units and installation***

***Second Schulzetenberge***

***Motion passed unanimously***

**ISSUES BY COUNCIL**

**Adjourn**

***Adjourned at 8:30 pm.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Jodi Austing-Traut

City Clerk/Administrator