

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, an Avon City Council meeting was duly held at City Hall on the 4th day of June, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

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

Jim Thares - City Clerk/Administrator

Absent: Councilor Marge Evens

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM:

No one came forward

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Council Minutes of May 1 and May 7, 2012
2. Claims Register
3. Capital Expenditures, Legal Fees, Engineering Fees Detailed Reports
4. Consider Weeds and Grass Nuisance Ordinance Revision
5. Consider Background Checks Ordinance – For City Employees (Non Criminal Justice)
6. Approval of Employment Agreement with Jim Thares, City Clerk/Administrator; Authorize Mayor to Sign
7. Approval of Election Judges

Motion by Councilor Marthaler to adopt consent agenda as presented, Second by Councilor Knox. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER MINUTES:

PC Minutes of May 22, 2012

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING - Stratford Addition Street Project (429 Process):

Mayor Grutsch opened the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. City Engineer, Randy Jenniges, provided information on the proposed street reconstruction projects. The engineering studies indicate a strong need for repair. Streets throughout the City were rated from top to low priority for reconstruction and upgrades. Stratford Addition streets were not included in the top priority. City officials kept hearing that the residents wanted to have these streets addressed at this time. Mr. Jenniges noted that it was City policy to stick to the priority ranking and if other streets were to be reconstructed at this time, to consider them but with assessments to the property owners. The assessments for the Stratford Addition would be approximately 25 percent of the total project or \$1,000 per lot. The Engineer held a neighborhood meeting in the spring and learned that there was interest in the project. The property owners were given a petition to sign indicating support for the project. At the May City Council meeting, it was learned that the residents had gathered more than the required 35 percent under state statutes and Council then authorized the Engineer to prepare an assessment roll and preliminary plans and specs for presentation at the June Public Hearing.

Question from residents about the private beach parking lot? Council members stated that this would be assessed to the Homeowner's Association, same as all other properties; \$1,000 per lot. Residents asked about the timeline of the project? Randy J. indicated that it would only take a couple weeks to complete the project; it would likely start in August. Another question was asked about the possibility of waiting on the project? Could the City patch it and make it last for five years? Mayor Grutsch asked the residents in the audience if there was consensus and many attendees spoke up and stated support for the project. Mr. Jenniges reviewed the

assessment process. Mayor Grutsch and Engineer Jenniges both responded that patches to the roads were not economical and were not efficient use of City funds.

Motion to close public hearing by Councilor Knox, second Councilor Marthaler; Motion Passed at 7:27 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – CIP STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT - Stratford East and West (No Assessments): Mayor Grutsch opened the hearing at 7:28 p.m. No one commented. Motion to close the Public Hearing by Councilor Knox, second by Councilor Marthaler at 7:29 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:

The Mayor and Council members noted the reports completed by City Engineer that recommended the need to reconstruct the worst and most worn out streets in the near future to reduce maintenance costs rather than waiting longer to improve these roads. Randy J. reviewed the street project design and drainage features. Motion by Councilor Stang, second by Councilor Marthaler to adopt Resolution 2012 - 844 Approving Plans and Specs and Ordering Advertisement for Bids for the proposed Stratford Addition Street Reconstruction Project. Motion passed unanimously

Council reviewed but took no action on the 5 – Year Capital Improvements Plan and General Obligation Bond issuance resolution due to the absence of Councilor Marge Evens.

PUBLIC HEARING – CERTIFICATION OF ASSESSMENT TO PROPERTY TAXES (Lawn Mowing):

Mayor Grutsch opened the hearing at 7:44 p.m.; no one commented; Motion to close Public Hearing by Councilor Marthaler, second by Councilor Knox at 7:44 p.m. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Councilor Knox, second by Councilor Marthaler to certify Assessment to Property taxes per the staff recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Grutsch closed the City Council Meeting at 7:46 p.m.

EDA MEETING - President Jim Stang Opened the EDA Meeting at 7:46 p.m.

President Stang reviewed the Lions Den EDA loan request recommendation letter from Traci Ryan. Motion by EDA Member Hugh Knox, second by EDA Member Kurt Marthaler to deny the EDA loan for Lion's Den. Motion passed unanimously. Members were updated on the Joseph's Improvement project. President Stang closed the EDA Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Mayor Grutsch Reopened the Council meeting at 7:56 p.m.

CONSIDER EDA RECOMMENDATION – No action needed:

CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO BLATTNER JOBZ AGREEMENT:

Mayor Grutsch said he believed that there was no significant impact to the City or Blattner as the amendment is purely a technical fix. Motion by Councilor Stang to approve the Amendment to the Blattner JOBZ Agreement, second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.

AVON ESTATES UPDATE:

Mayor Grutsch reported that Serenity Development will be hosting an Open house event on June 10, 2012 in their newly completed home in the development. Work continues on new permitting and development steps to streamline the process with appropriate follow-up as required.

PUBLIC WORKS: Written Report - Beach Progress and Summer Help proposal; Public Works Director Ray Schmidt prefers to have authorized 40 hours per week for summer help although that full allotment of hours may not be used each week by the summer help staff. There may be some weeks that the summer help will only work 34 or 35 hours. Ray indicated he is having trouble keeping up with tasks. Council Members voiced

support for Summer Help. Motion by Councilor Stang, second by Councilor Marthaler to approve Summer Help hours in the amount of 40 hours per week. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the Compost Site hours; Ray explained that it was previously open only Wed. and Sat. and now it is open seven days per week. It was locked one day recently and there is no explanation as to who locked it. There has been some minor dumping of timber and a bathroom vanity at the site; this is an issue. A grant application needs to be completed. Township residents will need to pay for the use of the compost site. The goal is try to keep it open for easy access.

POLICE: Written Report – Police Chief Corey Nellis presented a bid packet to Council regarding creating a new desk and cabinet system for the Chief in the current conference room. Discussion about conference meetings and awareness of possible need for the room by others. Motion by Councilor Knox, second by Councilor Marthaler to approve the low bid by Creative Cabinets and Furniture in the amount of \$2,995.00. Motion passed unanimously. Corey also updated Council on the Beach Patrol, concessions, a donated fridge, limited bike racks at the Beach and noted that Blattner Energy donated ribbon to cordon off the grass area.

He also reported that the forfeited vehicle did sell for \$21,551.00. After expenses, Avon police department gained \$8,335.40 in this transaction.

WATER/WASTEWATER: Written Report – Jon Forsell reported that a new type of alarm call out system is a good safety feature that should be considered in the future. He stated that staff is concerned about the potential for problems with the older dialer alarm system. A new alarm could save some overtime costs for the City. It would cost \$6,900 plus tax. The current budget would be squeezed but it could be done creatively with dollars from two years of budgets. Preferred Controls is the vendor of choice selling this system. Jon asked for Council approval for fixing the mixer. Motion by Councilor Knox, second by Councilor Stang to approve \$2,100 to repair the mixer. Motion passed unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Verbal Report by Fire Chief Eric Linn regarding the assistance provided to the City of Sartell at the Verso Paper Mill fire. Discussion on cost and Mutual Aid agreement language. Avon Fire Department had a truck and 10 fire fighters at the Verso Mill on Monday and Tuesday and a truck and five firefighters there on Wednesday and Thursday. Avon's cost so far is \$2,282. Fire Department Treasurer Gary Schmitz reported the year to date activity; 63 calls in 5 months. This is an increase of 30 percent over 2011. Assistant Fire Chief Joel Richter said the Fire Department would like to revise its Policy Handbook at the upcoming July Council meeting.

OTHER: City Clerk/Administrator Thares updated Council on September Labor Day Holiday meeting conflict and recommended that the Council consider meeting a week later on September 10, 2012. Motion by Councilor Knox, second by Councilor Marthaler to move the September 3rd (Labor Day Holiday) City Council meeting to Monday September 10, 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on inquiry by resident on acquiring the small parcel on Chinook; Council discussion noted that the City may need to utilize this parcel to extend services south of Interstate – 94 in the future. Council took no action and directed staff to maintain this property if the adjacent neighbor, who has been doing so, stops for any reason.

Clerk/Administrator Thares also noted that the City received a small settlement claim check from Lakeland Construction Finance, LLC. in the amount of \$15,997.24

COUNCIL ISSUES/REPORTS:

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilor Marthaler, second by Councilor Stang to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Thares, City Clerk/Administrator