

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, an Avon City Council Meeting was duly held at City Hall on the 6th day of July 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

Hugh Knox – Mayor; Jeff Manthe, Jeff Meyer – Councilors
Jim Thares, City Clerk/Administrator

ABSENT: Chuck Pelkey, Councilor

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENTATION OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY GRANT, CenterPoint Energy Staff

Jake Schwietering, CenterPoint Energy, presented a check to the City in the amount of \$2,275. The grant funding was awarded to the Fire Department and the Police Department for public safety equipment improvements.

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM: Elmer Keppers, 34503 Angelfish Avenue, spoke about the excavation work that occurred in the road ditch accessing the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He would like better notice and communication on these projects. He is also concerned about the portrayal of farm wells in the Wellhead Protection Plan literature. Paul Fisher, 710 Chinook Avenue SW, reported an issue with drainage and debris flowing onto his property. Small bits of wood chips and other tiny garbage items from the Barrel Mill parcel end up being deposited in his yard during heavy rainfalls. He would like to see something done about this issue. City Engineer Randy Jenniges clarified that the historic drainage patterns do have some precedent and rights and there are not large changes that can be forced onto the Barrel Mill. The City is aware of the drainage issues along Chinook and is addressing them and others throughout the City in incremental steps as funds are available. There may be some small adjustments that can be done at the Barrel Mill property to keep water from overflowing onto Mr. Fisher's yard. He will look into this.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Council Minutes of June 1, 2015
2. Claims Register
3. Capital Expenditures, Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Detailed Reports
4. Approve reimbursement to Casey Jansky for personal truck repairs
5. Approve Fire Relief Association By Laws Amendments
6. Approve Resolution #2015-20 Vacating Drainage and Utility Easements in Blocks 5 and 6 of Avon Estates
7. Appoint Margie Evens to Avon Economic Development Authority

Motion by Councilor Manthe to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Councilor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Discussion/Review of Wobegon Park Expansion Concept, Art Diedrich

Art Diedrich, Parks Board Chairperson, presented concept plans for a proposed land swap between the City and Bill Kelly with a goal of enlarging Wobegon Park. He noted the limited function and value of the City properties as the City currently spends money mowing these properties and gets no tax receipts from them. The parcel that Mr. Kelly owns would be a nice way to expand the Wobegon Park and enhance the usability of that park. Art asked for authorization to negotiate and enter into an agreement facilitating the swap. The parcel sizes were discussed with Councilors recommending that a title commitment, boundary survey and phase 1 environmental study be obtained for all parcels involved in the proposal. **Motion by Councilor Manthe to authorize Art Diedrich to negotiate and enter into an agreement for a land swap of City property along the north side of**

County Road 54 and east of Barracuda Avenue with property owned by Bill Kelly situated on the south side of Wobegon Park. Second by Councilor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.

Art also provided information on a revised Parks Board structure asking the City Council to review and act on this in the future if it is deemed appropriate,

**Consider Variance for Jesse and Lisa Springer, 615 Chinook Avenue, SW
Motion by Councilor Meyer to approve a 12 foot setback variance request for Jesse and Lisa Springer, 615 Chinook Avenue, SW. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consider Revised Purchase Agreement with Partners Senior Living Options, LLC (Assisted Living Facility)

City Clerk/Administrator Thares noted the minor changes to the Purchase Agreement. **Motion by Councilor Manthe to approve the revised purchase agreement with Partners Senior Living Options, LLC. Second by Councilor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consider Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Request from Partners Senior Living Options, LLC

Councilor Manthe asked if this proposal was consistent with previous requests for TIF assistance. City Clerk/Administrator Thares indicated that it is in line with previous requests and that based on the number of jobs being created, it is a supportable request. The analysis metric is approximately \$27,000 of TIF assistance per new job. Generally, assisted living facilities cannot be built without TIF or Tax Abatement assistance. **Motion by Councilor Meyer to approve a request for \$450,000 of TIF assistance or 12 years of annual increment payments, whichever occurs first, for Partners Senior Living Options, LLC. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discuss Process to fill vacant Council Seat

City Clerk/Administrator Thares noted the two applicants who applied for the vacant Council seat, Julie Jarnot, 1020 Hamlet Drive North and Jesse Springer, 615 Chinook Avenue, SW. **Motion by Councilor Manthe to hold a Special Council meeting to conduct interviews with the two applicants on Tuesday, July 14th at 6:30 p.m. Second by Councilor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.**

Avon Estates Marketing Update

Matt Indieke, Central Minnesota Realty, reported on the marketing efforts and results. Activity is a little slower than 2014. The cost of new construction is way up versus 18 months ago. It is easier and more economical to purchase an existing home and do some updating than it is to build new. Many prospects fall into this situation. Compared to other rural communities, including St. Joseph, activity in Avon is stronger than all of them. Matt continues to work with a builder to market "To Be Built Homes" in Avon Estates. Council is supportive of this effort.

ISSUES BY STAFF

Public Works Department - Casey Jansky, Public Works Director, referred to his report. City Clerk/Administrator Thares clarified if he needed approval on the proposed sale of the "Haul Truck". Casey indicated that he would like to sell it as it is hardly ever used and when it sits for so long it costs money to tune up when it is used. **Motion by Councilor Manthe to authorize Public Works to sell the Haul Truck to the highest bidder. Second by Councilor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.**

Police Department – Jason Luethmers, Police Officer, noted the Police Department report in the Council packet. He further discussed the situation with the parking of semi-tractor-trailer rigs along Blattner Drive West. It is a problem area due to all of the kids and activity at the ball park. The two local resident drivers have found new places in the City to park their rigs. Councilors believe "No Parking" signage should be placed at this location. **Motion by Councilor Manthe to place No Parking Signage along Blattner Drive West. Second by Councilor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.**

Water/Wastewater Department – Jon Forsell, Utilities Supervisor, referred to his report in the Council packet.

City Engineer – Randy Jenniges, S.E.H., indicated that he will be providing an updated report regarding the Midsota Manufacturing storm water plan at the August Council meeting.

OTHER:

Avon Area Lakes Association Update, Denis McGuinness

Denis McGuinness reported on the milfoil survey results and the proposed treatment plans. The treatments will occur during July 13 through July 16. There will be handpicking at several sites and chemical treatments at the largest and most densely infested areas. He said the Lakes Association has obtained a taxpayer I.D. and is now able to apply for Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant funding on its own. The property owners in the area where the chemical treatments occur have signed acknowledgement forms. Denis asked if the City would be annually budgeting for funds to assist with future treatments. Mayor Knox responded that the process will remain as it currently is where the Lakes Association can request assistance and justify it with information supplied to the City Council each year.

Cliff Borgerding, 33504 Shorewood Drive, Avon, MN, spoke about his frustration with the number of relatively unfiltered storm drainage ditches that empty into the Lake. He believes there are 8 or 9 of them. He would like to see that addressed by the City. Randy Jenniges explained that the City is addressing these incrementally as it has funding available.

Mayor Knox presented the Initiative Foundation request for a \$500 pledge for 2016. Motion by Councilor Meyer to authorize budgeting a \$500 donation to the Initiative Foundation in 2016 from the 2016 budget. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.

ISSUES BY COUNCIL: None

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Manthe to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Second by Councilor Meyer. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Thares, City Clerk/Administrator