

**Minutes
Avon City Council
October 12, 2016**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Knox called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

Hugh Knox – Mayor; Julie Jarnot, Jeff Manthe, Jeff Meyer, Jesse Springer – Councilors;
Clerk/Administrator Jodi Austing-Traut

City Council held interviews of engineering firms to consider appointing a city engineer for general engineering services for the City of Avon.

WSB – Mike Nielson of WSB gave a brief overview of their firm and introduced Chris Sonmor and Kyle Klasen as the key staff that would be assigned to Avon. Mr. Sonmor currently works with Sartell, Melrose, and Princeton. Kyle Klasen is tied to the Avon community through church, family, and friends and lives in close proximity. Kyle would like to be known as the person who makes sure things get done for Avon. He has a vested interest in serving this community well. He drives through Avon twice per day and is willing to donate time to stop in and work with the community. Invoicing for Kyle would only be for specific project work. Mr. Nielson stated that WSB puts together a transition plan at no cost to the city while they work with staff, council, and community to get a plan moving forward. GIS will be provided to the city as well.

Stantec – Jeremy Mathiasen of Stantec gave a brief overview of their firm and introduced Tom Dye, Dan Edgerton, and Tim Brawthen. Tom Dye worked previously with S.E.H. and did design work for the Avon WWTP. Stantec is a firm of over 22,000 employees. There are about 15 people that work out of the St. Cloud office. They have their own street management program software. Mr. Mathiasen stated that Stantec would not charge a fee for data collection and collaboration during the transition period. GIS will also be established and available to city staff. Mr. Mathiasen is city engineer for Albany as well and believes there could be some cost savings to the City of Avon because of that.

SEH – Randy Jenniges of S.E.H. gave a brief overview of their firm and introduced Kevin Young and David Blommel. David Blommel would be the primary engineer serving Avon. David currently serves Richmond, Freeport, St. Joseph, Kimball and Rockville. Mr. Young lives in Avon and has a vested interest in serving the community. S.E.H.'s newly hired storm water management expert also lives in Avon. S.E.H. will have a strong focus on community involvement, communication, and collaboration. S.E.H. will offer GIS along with all of our maps that they have already worked on and updated for the City of Avon. While David Blommel would be the new engineer for Avon, offering a fresh new perspective, S.E.H. would still give the benefit of history to the City.

Bolton & Menk – Jared Voge of Bolton & Menk gave a brief overview of their firm and introduced Josh Halvorson. Bolton & Menk employs 400 employees including 150 engineers, both general and specialized, in 16 service areas. Mr. Halvorson, a former resident of Avon, currently serves Cokato, Annandale, Willmar, and Carlos. Bolton & Menk offers a reduced rate for the first 10 hours of service per month, free council meeting attendance, no charge for transition period, no charge for routine questions, and no charge for GIS set-up. The idea is that the firm does not want the city to hesitate to contact them. Their philosophy is that good engineering starts with good communication.

City Engineer Appointment – Council interviewed a pool of incredibly bright, personable, and qualified engineers, each bringing their own unique gifts, talents, and experiences to the table.

Motion Jeff Meyer to appoint WSB as City Engineer second Jesse Springer and carried with Manthe and Knox opposed.

Budget Updates – No discussion.

Other business presented to council – None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Meyer to adjourn the meeting at 11:44 AM; Second by Jarnot.

Respectfully Submitted Jodi Austing-Traut City Clerk/Administrator