

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, an Avon City Council Meeting was duly held at City Hall on the 4th day of November, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

John Grutsch – Mayor; Hugh Knox, Kurt Marthaler, Jim Stang, Jeff Manthe – Councilors
Jim Thares - City Clerk/Administrator
Absent: None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM: Corey Gottwald, resident at 321 – 3rd Street, spoke about his plan to immediately clean all of the scrap metal and junk from his residence. Corey Nellis, Police Chief, expressed his concern about the dangers of the stored scrap metal at the residential property.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- #1 Council Minutes – October 7th, 2013
- #2 Claims Register
- #3 Capital Expenditures, Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Detailed Reports
- #4 Consider Adoption of Parking Regulations Ordinance No. 71 (Chapter 71 Code of Ordinances)
- #5 Consider Amending Fee Schedule (increase Water Shut Off and Turn On Fee)
- #6 Consider Certification of SAC/WAC Fees to John and Sara Arneson Property PID No 42.26310.54
- #7 Consider Charitable Gambling License – Women of Today

Motion by Councilor Marthaler to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Councilor Knox. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER MINUTES:

Planning Commission Minutes – October 15, 2013

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING – Waters Edge Three Special Assessments Recertification

Mayor Grutsch opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. No one came forward to speak during the public hearing. Mayor Grutsch noted the assessment information in the packets for the two properties that were sold to private parties during the County Public Tax Forfeiture auction. **Councilor Knox motioned to close the Public Hearing 7:11 p.m. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously. Councilor Knox motioned to approve Resolution #13-29 Adopting Assessments in Waters Edge Three. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING – Certification of Delinquent City Water and Sewer Bills

Mayor Grutsch opened the Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m. Three properties were noted as being on the list to be certified. **Councilor Stang motioned to close the Public Hearing at 7:14 p.m. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously. Councilor Stang motioned to approve Resolution #13-30 Certifying Delinquent Water and Sewer Charges to Parcels for Payment with the Property Taxes. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discuss Proposed Vacant Building Registration Ordinance

Mayor Gutsch reviewed an instance where a vacant property in Avon was recently sold and the City had few options to collect on the associated public costs of monitoring the property over the past few years. This ordinance would help with that type of situation. Councilors reviewed the benefits and proposed fee. City Clerk/Administrator Thares said requiring formal notification/registration of vacant properties would also authorize staff to monitor the property and if public safety issues arise, to take actions to mitigate the problems

and to furthermore recover the City's costs in doing these tasks. He noted that other cities charge similar or higher amounts for the initial registration and ongoing annual update fee.

Discuss/Review City Engineer Appointment

City Clerk/Administrator Thares noted that this item was tabled at the August meeting to the November Council meeting. **Mayor Grutsch motioned to appoint S.E.H. to be the City Engineer for the balance of 2013. Second by Councilor Stang. Motion passed unanimously.**

Joseph's Fine Dining Closure and E.D. Loan Update

Discussion on the delinquent water and sewer bill and vacant status of the building and property. Consensus agreement among staff and Council members that due to the delinquent water and sewer bill being certified to the property taxes, the service should be turned off in the next few days.

Avon Estates Update

Consider Appointment of Avon Estates Development Review Committee

Discussion on the duties and frequency of the meetings of the committee

Councilor Knox motioned to adopt Resolution # 13-31 forming the Avon Estates Development Review Committee and appointing the initial members: Mayor Grutsch, Councilor Stang, Jeff Meyer, Jillian Mergen and Art Diedrich. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.

ISSUES BY STAFF:

Public Works – Ray Schmidt, Public Works Director, noted his report in the packet. Council discussed the use of the compost site by non-City residents. City Clerk/Administrator Thares was directed to contact Collegeville Township to discuss the possibility of contributing to the operation of the compost site because of the growing number of their residents who are using the facility.

Police Department – Police Chief Corey Nellis reported that the Avon Police Department received an award for its performance in the Safe and Sober (Toward Zero Deaths) program. The award is a recognition of effective and dedicated service as well as a cash value award of \$2,500 in the form of a voucher for new equipment or training for the officers. Chief Nellis selected an officer driver training program which is required of the Avon officers in the next couple of years.

Water/Wastewater Department – Jon Forsell, Water/Wastewater Utility Director, told the Council that the City is eligible for a recognition from the MPCA for the high level of satisfactory results in operating the wastewater treatment plant in 2013.

OTHER:

Status of Intern and Recommendation – City Clerk/Administrator Thares updated the Council on Jolene Foss' status and the end of her internship with the City. He asked for authorization to offer a short-term internship to Emily Schulzetenberg, a senior student from Northwestern College. If approved, she will work on cleanup items in the BRE program and also help complete the Wellhead Protection Plan. The Initiative Foundation Grant received in July 2013 will cover the proposed pay. Ms. Schulzetenberg will work a flexible schedule not to exceed 150 hours. **Councilor Stang motioned to authorize a short-term internship to Emily Schulzetenberg at \$7.25 per hour with a total not to exceed \$1,150. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.**

Wells Fargo Investment Report - Mayor Grutsch noted the Wells Fargo Investment report.

Group Health Insurance Benefit Information - City Clerk/Administrator Thares informed the Council about the situation with the rapidly changing health insurance environment and specifically about the City's group health insurance renewal. He said the employees met with Steve Thelen, Apollo Insurance, regarding the impacts of waiting for the normal renewal in February of 2014 or the effects of an early renewal on premiums

and service coverage. It was learned that health plans such as the ones the City has in place for 2013 will be phased out as of January 1, 2014. He further stated that early renewal of the plans was discussed as well as selecting a new plan with an embedded Health Savings Account (HSA). He reported that the employees supported moving to an HSA plan with lower premiums. It does require an upfront service deductible to be paid by covered employees. The main question is if the City is willing to contribute to the employees' individual HSA accounts? City Clerk/Administrator Thares suggested that an ad-hoc committee be established to review the budget impacts of various HSA contribution scenarios and make a selection for ratification by the Council. Mayor Grutsch and Councilor Knox volunteered to be on the ad-hoc committee to review the proposals.

ISSUES BY COUNCIL

None

ADJOURNMENT: Councilor Manthe motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Thares
City Clerk/Administrator