

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, an Avon City Council Meeting was duly held at City Hall on the 1st day of July, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

John Grutsch – Mayor; Hugh Knox, Kurt Marthaler, Jeff Manthe – Councilors
Jim Thares - City Clerk/Administrator
Absent: Jim Stang - Councilor

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC ASSESS FORUM:

No one came forward.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- #1 Council Minutes – June 3, 2013 Minutes were noted for a word change to read “Mr. Elmer Keppers” in **OTHER** portion of the meeting agenda
- #2 Claims Register
- #3 Capital Expenditures, Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Detailed Reports
- #4 Acceptance of Gift from Art and Yvonne Diedrich Family via Resolution # 2013-17
- #5 Authorization to sign Grant Agreement with Initiative Foundation via Resolution #2013-18

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

OTHER MINUTES:

Planning Commission Minutes – June 18, 2013

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Update of Business Retention and Expansion Program – Jolene Foss, Intern

Jolene Foss provided an update on the Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) program goals and objectives and the number of entities that will be visited. She briefly reviewed the questionnaire form. She said that the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation will be helping conduct the surveys for the larger firms in the City. A report will be provided to the City Council as the BRE program unfolds with a follow up report upon the completion of the visits in the fall of the year. Councilor Manthe suggested that the apartment building owners be included in the survey process.

Consider Adjusting Assessment for Outlot E, Waters Edge

City Clerk/Administrator Thares informed the Council that placing an assessment on Outlot E was a mistake that happened when each of the 28 individual data sheets were completed for the County’s public foreclosure auction. He said that Outlot E is not developable and did not originally have an assessment on it. He recommends that the assessment be removed from this lot so it is similar to Outlot B - with no assessment and which did sell in the auction. **Councilor Manthe motioned to remove/cancel the public improvement assessment on Outlot E. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consider Tim Sachs’ Proposal regarding Outlot E, Waters Edge

City Clerk/Administrator Thares told the Council that he had just received Mr. Sachs’ proposal materials ahead of the meeting. He said that Mr. Sachs is in attendance at the meeting and he would call on him to explain the proposal to the Council. Mr. Sachs said he would like to purchase Outlot E and then further subdivide it and sell the western portion of the Outlot to the City for \$1.00. He said he would prefer to do a metes and bounds survey description versus a replat to reduce expenses. Mayor Grutsch and Councilors asked Clerk/Administrator Thares if the subdivision could be done without a plat? Clerk/Administrator Thares

indicated that he just learned of Mr. Sachs' desire to use this method and could not verify if this would be acceptable for approval processes. Mr. Sachs said his intended use would be to keep the property natural; he does understand that it is a "no mow/cut" area. His goal is to access the creek - which is the northern border of Outlot E, to use it for irrigation purposes. Mayor Grutsch said that the City will have to do some research on process and cost. Staff was directed to discuss the item and the process with the City Attorney.

Consider Outdoor Event Permit - P.J.s Supper Club

Bill Blonigen, P.J.s Supper Club, explained his request to the Council. He would like permission to have the event, which is a small band or musician, for one day a month during July, August and September. It is not expected to be a large gathering. He does not believe it will disturb the neighborhood. **Councilor Marthaler motioned approval of the Outdoor Event Permit for P.Js. Supper Club for one day per month for July, August and September. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consider Request for Proposals (RFPs) for General Engineering Services

Mayor Grutsch noted that additional information had been received just ahead of the Council meeting regarding this item and he is asking the Council to consider tabling this item until the August 5th 2013 Council meeting. **Councilor Marthaler motioned to table the Consideration of Exhibit E until the August 5th Council meeting. Second by Councilor Knox. Motion passed unanimously.**

Avon Estates Update

Ray Schmidt, Public Works Director, reported that the park improvement work is expected to begin soon now that funding is available. He also reported that there was some general clean up that was being done.

ISSUES BY STAFF:

Public Works – Ray said that he was very happy with the pothole work that was completed on Blattner Drive recently. He may consider doing this on other streets in the City. Mayor Grutsch noted the sealcoating work that was completed on County Road 9 through the City. He said the City may want to do this type of maintenance on some City streets. Ray provided additional details on the County's maintenance process, saying he would like to do some sealcoating yet this fall. He is working on getting numbers for Council review/approval for a future meeting.

Police Department – Written Report was noted. Clerk/Administrator Thares told Council that the Chief had responded to a Fire Call just ahead of the Council meeting.

Councilor Stang arrived at 7:40 p.m. He was responding to a Fire Call prior to the start of the Council meeting.

Water/Wastewater - Jon Forsell, Utilities Director, said the water tower report indicates that some repairs are needed soon to keep the decking in the tower from further decay. Other repair items include: a new vent cap per EPA regulations and rust removal and relining in the interior of the tank. The total cost of the proposed work that he feels should be done now is \$4,800. The water tower can remain in service during this work. He also noted that the water tower exterior paint is fading but it should last a few more years. **Councilor Knox motioned to approve the expenditure of \$4,800 for water tower repairs. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.**

Jon also updated Council on the WCCO Channel 4 T.V. news feature of Avon regarding the baby wipes and fiber cloth materials that have been found in wastewater treatment system. This is an issue for the City and many other cities regionally and nationwide. He noted the website where the news feature can be found. He will send the web link to the Council members.

Mayor Grutsch asked about the generator service work that was recently completed? Jon responded saying he was happy with the work and that it would now be done yearly to keep the generators in top working condition.

OTHER:

Bob Braun, 1037 Hamlet Drive South, asked if the City had made any progress in amending its Dog Ordinance to include “electronic shock collar” as a form of owner-control? He believes a dog park is not needed in Avon as there is very limited demand. He reiterated his frustration with the current wording of the Dog Ordinance. He feels that his dogs are very obedient and the electronic control would work well. Mayor Grutsch suggested that the City could do a trial inclusion of “electronic shock collar” in the ordinance for one year. **Councilor Knox motioned to amend the Dog Ordinance for a one-year trial basis adding “electronic shock collar” language as a form of owner-control. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.**

Police Department Update: Police Chief Corey Nellis reported that Spunk Days was a very positive weekend. It was well attended with only a few minor issues.

Councilor Stang motioned to close City Hall on Friday July 5th as part of the 4th of July Holiday. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Grutsch noted the Local Government Aid (LGA) handout saying the formula was a still a bit murky. City Clerk/Administrator Thares responded that Intern Jolene Foss was going to try to gather more details about the LGA formula and provide an update to the Council at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilor Stang to adjourn the meeting. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Thares
City Clerk/Administrator