

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council meeting was duly held at City Hall on the 1st day of March 2010 at 7:00 pm.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

John Grutsch - Mayor, Jim Stang, Kurt Marthaler, Hugh Knox and Margie Evens – Councilors
Jodi Austing-Traut - Clerk/Administrator
Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Grutsch at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Minutes of February 1 and February 22, 2010
2. Claims Register and Monthly Expenditures/Revenues, Cash Flow
3. Capital Expenditures, Legal Fees, Engineering Fees Detailed Reports
4. Approve Gambling Permit for Avon Fire Relief Association June 18, 2010 raffle & pull tabs
5. Approve Gambling Permit for Avon Area Lakes Assn. May 10, 2010 raffle
6. Approve Fisher's Club Consumption & Display Permit (liquor license)

Motion Kurt Marthaler
Second Jim Stang
Passed Unanimously

OTHER MINUTES NOTED:

PC Minutes
Avon FD Minutes
Fire Board Minutes

ACIC/CFC – Scott Hansen

Scott Hansen was present to update the council on the activities of a couple of community groups that have been engaged in looking at economic development in the city as well as community facilities. The group is currently taking a look at a multi-community type center. They are looking to try to engage the City of Avon, the school district and area townships in a partnership to explore options.

Janine Kutter, Bueckers City Sanitation

No sale of Bueckers to occur at this time.

Kelly Lemke and Tina Diedrich, Stearns County Assessor's Office gave a brief update on the process of obtaining assessed values for the community. Residential ratio is 104.6 so residential property owners should see a decrease in market values of about -7%. Lake properties decreased in value around -5% and development land decreased in market value around -20%. Ms. Lemke explained that there is a cost to do pre-board meeting. Council consensus to opt out of hosting a pre-board meeting for 2010. Tina Deidrich stated that there was only one qualified commercial sale in Avon this year. Commercial values should come down about -3 to -4%.

Discussion of Potential LGA Cuts

Newsletter and U/B memo from staff was presented.

Since our last council meeting the city council has been informed of the Governor's proposal for further cuts to local government aid. Avon is set to lose an additional \$77,000 in 2010. Because 2010 budget has already been set, staff and council have to work out cuts to the already set budget. This issue will be continued on Wednesday night after staff has a chance to look into whether an ordinance change is needed.

Motion Margie Evens to mail utility bills on standard paper and to do the newsletter as part of the utility bills

Second Kurt Marthaler
Passed Unanimously

Other ideas for budget cuts:

There was discussion of having employees take non-paid furlough days, moving planning commission and EDA meetings to quarterly or as needed to approve applications only. PD revenues are expected to come in somewhat higher than anticipated. A staff meeting will be held to explore cuts further.

ISSUES BY STAFF

Public Works: Written Report

Police: Written Report

Water/Wastewater: Written Report

ISSUES BY COUNCIL

Food Shelf:

Mayor Grutsch was notified that the food shelf has been asked to pay \$3,000 rent for space at St. Benedict's Church. The food shelf will check with other churches in town first. The city will do whatever we can to assist the food shelf.

Fire Board:

Mayor Grutsch updated the council on the fireboard meeting. There has been talk that Collegeville Township may start up their own fire department. Any of the three entities has the option to opt out of the contract within 180 days of the fireboard meeting upon notice to the other entities. The contract specifically states that the city will bill based on percentage of use/calls. Most fire departments bill for services based on the assessor's taxable market value. Fireboard will be working on trying to find a more fair billing system. Mayor Grutsch would like to notify the Townships that the City intends to exercise its 180-day opportunity to opt out and discontinue providing services to the townships if an agreement cannot be reached on how to more fairly bill for services. Fireboard will be meeting again on May 12th at 7:00 pm to discuss the contract and billing issue in more detail.

Motion Hugh Knox to authorize staff to send notice to the townships that the City would like to exercise our 180-day opt out right in order to review the contract.

Second Jim Stang

Passed Unanimously

Parks Board

Councilor Knox will be meeting with Chuck Wocken regarding the presentation that he made to the Stearns County Parks Board on February 10th.

Emergency Management

Councilor Knox will be meeting with representatives from Stearns County Emergency Management this week.

CapX2020

Mayor Grutsch presented the CapX2020 high voltage transmission line plan for the Freeport to St. Cloud section. The proposed line does not affect the City of Avon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Hugh Knox to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jodi Austing-Traut, City Clerk/Administrator