

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a City Council meeting was duly held at City Hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, 2011 at 7:00 pm.

**THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:**

John Grutsch - Mayor, Jim Stang, Kurt Marthaler, Margie Evens, Hugh Knox - Councilors

Jodi Austing-Traut - Clerk/Administrator

Absent: None

***Motion Jim Stang to accept agenda with the addition of #7 to the consent agenda increasing Relief Association pension from \$1,500 to \$1,700 per year of service***  
***Second Hugh Knox***  
***Passed Unanimously***

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Council Minutes of January 26, February 7, and February 15, 2011
2. Claims Register
3. Capital Expenditures, Legal Fees, Engineering Fees Detailed Reports
4. Rescind Authorization to Allow Deer Archery Hunting at Avon Estates passed on 10/4/2011
5. Approve Liquor Licenses – Church of St. Benedict (temporary 7/10/11) and Fisher’s Club (consumption/display)
6. Approve Gambling License – Avon Lions Club Avon Estates Lot Raffle
7. Approve Amendment to FD Bylaws increasing pension from \$1,500 to \$1,700 per year of service

***Motion Kurt Marthaler to approve consent agenda as presented.***

***Second Jim Stang***

***Passed Unanimously***

**OTHER MINUTES:**

Planning Commission 02/15/2011

Joint Planning Board 02/28/2011

Avon Fire Department 01/31/2011

**Fire Board Update**

Mayor Grutsch explained that at the Annual Fire Board Meeting held in February, the townships requested that the city at least consider discussing the idea of having a Joint Powers Agreement that would provide the townships the opportunity for some level of joint ownership in equipment and facilities. The council discussed the pros and cons to entertaining the idea of joint ownership. Hugh Knox will review the Chain of Lakes JPA. Mayor Grutsch asked that this be put on the next agenda for further discussion. He encouraged the council to do some research and come back to the council with thoughts and ideas. Council Consensus that Mayor Grutsch inform the townships that the city intends to see what happens with the Chain of Lakes JPA and proceed from there.

**David Drown – Review proposed TIF Plan for Avon Estates**

Request Approval of Resolution setting date for Public Hearing (May 2<sup>nd</sup>) on TIF Plan For Avon Estates

David explained how the TIF district would work at Avon Estates. Households would have to income qualify, however, David feels confident that the majority of prospective property owners would fall under the guidelines. David also suggested that the city consider utilizing TIF funds that the city currently holds to assist in paying off some of the assessments in Avon Estates.

***Motion Kurt Marthaler to adopt Resolution 11-819 Calling a Public Hearing on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm on the Proposed Modification of Municipal Development District No. 1, The Adoption of a Modified Development***

*Program Relating Thereto, The Establishment of Tax Increment Financing district No. 1-4 and the Adoption of a Tax Increment Financing Plan Relating Thereto*  
*Second Margie Evens*  
*Passed Unanimously*

## **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **Avon Estates**

- Review and discuss advertisement for bid, lots being offered, lot prices, etc.
- Review marketing materials
- Discussion of allowing lot consolidations in Avon Estates in Block 3

*Motion Hugh Knox to approve the Advertisement for Bids for Residential Lots for 5 lots in Avon Estates*  
*Second Kurt Marthaler*  
*Passed Unanimously*

Consensus to offer lots for sale for \$24,000. TIF can be used to buy down the cost of the lots for income eligible households.

### **Stratford Rain Gardens**

Consider awarding the bid for the Stratford Rain Garden Project to Minnesota Native Landscapes Inc. for \$79,645.15 contingent upon all grant dollars and matching funds being deposited into the City of Avon's account.

*Motion Hugh Knox to award the bid for the Stratford Rain Garden Project to Minnesota Native Landscapes Inc. for \$79,645.15 contingent upon all grant dollars and matching funds being deposited into the City of Avon's account.*  
*Second Jim Knox*  
*Passed Unanimously*

### **Meeting Room Use Issues**

Nonpayment, key-tracking issues, unscheduled use of rooms etc...

Council and staff will continue to research how to proceed with future usage of this hall.

### **ACIC creation of "City of Avon" facebook page**

ACIC has changed the name of the page to "Community of Avon, MN". Doug Millaway of Avon Planning Commission suggested that there be a disclaimer that the site is not an official site of the City of Avon.

## **ISSUES BY STAFF**

**Public Works:** Written Report

- Request approval of DNR Middle Spunk Lake Fishing Pier Agreement

*Motion John Grutsch to approve the DNR Middle Spunk Lake Fishing Pier Agreement*  
*Second Jim Stang*  
*Passed Unanimously*

- Complaints about snow on sidewalks in front of CMCU and Texaco. It is technically the property owner's responsibility to clear sidewalks. The city does clear sidewalks on most of Avon Ave, however, in front of these two businesses the sidewalks are narrower than the rest of main street. Were the public works department to plow the more narrow sidewalks the grass would be ruined. Ray will talk to the property owners and see if they would like the city to proceed despite the likely destruction of their grass.

- There is water pooling behind Accuserve. Ray will check into it further.
- Fire hydrant clearing in winter: there was a complaint that a hydrant was missed. Property owners volunteer to take care of most of them.

**Police:** Written Report

- Request approval to begin to negotiate a service contract between Avon/Albany Police Departments. Council consensus to wait until Albany comes forward with a contract to begin negotiating.
- Request approval of Joint Powers Agreements for computerized document submittal with Stearns County. There will be no additional cost to the city.

***Motion John Grutsch to approve Joint Powers Agreements for computerized document submittal with Stearns County***

***Second Kurt Marthaler***

***Passed Unanimously***

**Sale of Police Building 112 Avon Avenue**

City Clerk/Administrator will look into legalities of selling the Police building on Avon Ave.

**Water/Wastewater:** Written Report

Joel Birr and Jon Forsell have received an award for excellent operation and maintenance of our wastewater treatment facility.

**ISSUES BY COUNCIL**

Mayor Grutsch mentioned that the City of Albany has met with the MPCA and has received an extension on the mandate to meet new effluent standards.

Mayor Grutsch explained that he and Jodi Austing-Traut had met with Xcel Energy today and were notified that because the city owns Avon Estates, we are now being considered a developer. In order to supply power to the lots being raffled and offered for bid the city will need to pay approximately \$14,000 up front on a five-year rebate plan. As the lots sell we will get approximately \$3,200 per lot refunded to us.

**ADJOURNMENT**

***Motion Hugh Knox to adjourn at 9:35 pm.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jodi Austing-Traut  
City Clerk/Administrator