

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, an Avon City Council Meeting was duly held at City Hall on the 1st day of December 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Pledge of Allegiance

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Grutsch opened the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m. Councilors reviewed the tax levy trends noting no increase over the previous four years; \$745,000 each year. Discussion was held on a projected year-end balance in the General Fund. Equipment needs in 2015 were reviewed. The City needs a new plow truck as the current one is 30 years old. Total debt service obligations for 2015 were noted as well as long-term trends. The 2015 debt service requirements are \$1,086,314. The proposed 2015 COLA for all employees is 2.5 percent. **Motion by Councilor Manthe to close the Public Hearing at 6:58 p.m. Second by Councilor Stang. Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM: Maggie Maine, 719 Ochotto Lake Drive, expressed concerns about snow removal during the November 10, 2014 snowstorm which dumped 13 inches throughout the region. Ray Schmidt, Public Works Director, noted that the rate of snowfall was so intense that he made a decision to not continuously plow all residential streets throughout that day. Staff has to be careful about how many hours they spend in the plow. He said the plow is 30 years old and it does not have a belly blade which is needed to do a better job on the streets. He decided to wait for the storm to let up before getting the residential streets done. With only one plow, it now takes staff more than 5 hours to get all City streets cleared during a sizeable snowfall.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- #1 Council Minutes – November 3, 2014
- #2 Claims Register
- #3 Capital Expenditures, Legal Fees, Engineering Fees and Detailed Reports
- #4 Approve Declaring Police Officer, Chad Klocker, eligible for PERA P&F Plan
- #5 Approve Proposed Hourly Pay Adjustment for Amy Pease, Planning & Zoning Admin./Office Asst.
- #6 Approve 2015 COLA and Health Insurance-Benefit Employer Contribution
- #7 Approve Extension of Rural Fire Protection Agreement with St. Wendel Township
- #8 Approve 2015 CliftonLarsonAllen Audit Contract
- #9 Approve Donated Funds from Avon Women of Today
- #10 Adoption of 2015 Fee Schedule

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

OTHER MINUTES:

Planning Commission Minutes – November 18, 2014
Avon Estates Committee Minutes – November 18, 2014

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING – Special Assessment Reallocation – Avon Estates into TIF Dist. #1-4

Mayor Grutsch opened the public hearing at 7:32 p.m. City Clerk/Administrator Thares noted that the reallocation step is a legal and accounting process to comply with TIF District statutes. **Motion by Councilor Stang to close the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed**

unanimously. Motion by Councilor Stang to approve reallocation of \$110,000 in special assessments from Avon Estates into TIF District #1-4. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.

Consider Drainage and Utility Easement Adjustment, Lot 4, Block 1, Crescendo Addition

Staff clarified the drainage and utility easement situation and the current location of the sewer and water service lines to the parcel. **Motion by Councilor Manthe to adjust the drainage and utility easement along the south boundary of Lot 4, Block 1, Crescendo Addition, from 20 feet to 10 feet. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.**

Consider Request for Sign Variance, Avon Community Church

Motion by Councilor Stang to approve the sign variance for the Avon Community Church. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.

Consider Liability Insurance Coverage Waiver

Motion by Councilor Marthaler to not waive the monetary limits on municipal tort liability. Second by Councilor Stang. Motion passed unanimously.

Consider Adoption of Final 2015 Property Tax Levy and Budget

Motion by Councilor Stang to approve the 2015 Property Tax Levy of \$745,000 via Resolution #2014-44. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Manthe to approve the 2015 General Fund, Governmental Fund-Special Revenue Fund and Enterprise Fund Budgets via Resolution # 2014-45. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.

ISSUES BY STAFF:

Public Works Department – Ray Schmidt requested approval of repair work on the snow plow, payable to Ramler Truck Repair, in the amount of \$5,085.57. **Motion by Councilor Marthaler to approve repair work completed by Ramler Truck Repair in the amount of \$5,085.57. Second by Councilor Manthe. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ray also reported that the white 2001 Dodge truck needs transmission repairs in the amount of \$1,500 to \$1,600 as well. He requested approval to pursue repairs for that vehicle as well. **Motion by Councilor Knox to authorize needed repairs for the white 2001 Dodge pickup in the amount of \$1,600. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.**

A new snow plow proposal was also presented by Ray. The plan is to wait until spring and with Council's agreement look at vehicles at a cost near \$65,000. Councilors indicated support to purchase a new plow at that approximate price. He also mentioned that it may be a good idea to retain John Grutsch on the Avon Estates Planning Committee as the Chair person after he is done being the Mayor. He has a good understanding of the overall goals and issues in pursuing full build-out of the development. Mayor Grutsch said he may be interested and asked Council to discuss how they want to proceed with this idea in early 2015.

Police Department – Corey Nellis, Police Chief, referred Council to his report in the packet.

Water/Wastewater Department – Jon Forsell, Utilities Supervisor, asked for authorization to repair a mixer motor at the wastewater treatment plant at a cost of \$1,892.29. He is also proposing to purchase a snow blade to install in on the Chevy Silverado ¾-ton pick-up at a cost of \$5,000. This will allow Water/Wastewater staff to take care of snow removal at the wastewater treatment plant and around the lift stations and the well pump houses. **Motion by Councilor Knox to authorize repair work on the mixer motor at the wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$1,892.29. Second by Councilor Stang. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Councilor Stang to approve the purchase of a snow blade for the ¾ ton Chevy Silverado pick-up from**

Midsota Manufacturing in the amount of \$5,000. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER:

City Engineer, Randy Jenniges, showed an illustration of the proposed re-plat for the assisted living facility at Serenity at Avon. The proposed Serenity Village plat indicates one large lot for the assisted living facility and four small patio home lots; two on each side of the main building. Discussion ensued regarding use of the small lots and the price break provided to the developer for the 12 useable lots. It was not anticipated that the individual lots would be resold to end-users. Councilors requested that a discussion be held with the developer and if it can't utilize each of the four lots as rental units closely aligned with their assisted living facility purposes or for expansion of the main building, that the City be able to recapture the lot value through appropriate methods. The original illustration referenced in the purchase agreement does not anticipate this type of use either. Clerk/Administrator Thares said he will contact the developer to discuss the recapture issue and process.

Clerk-Administrator Thares mentioned the Fire Department is advertising for prospective new firefighter candidates to replace two members who are retiring in the near future. He next reported that the City received a proposal from a solar panel energy firm, Sundance Energy Solutions, which wants to work with the City to install an array at the wastewater treatment plant. Jon Forsell said they are seeking a non-binding letter of interest from the City to continue their work. Councilors asked Jon and Jim to bring more detailed information back to the Council at a future meeting. Councilors discussed the intent of mailboxes in Avon Estates. Council consensus is to have all mailboxes be uniform in look and design.

Clerk-Administrator Thares presented a certificate of appreciation to Councilor Marthaler for his time of service as a Councilor. He then presented a plaque to Mayor Grutsch and read a recognition statement regarding Mayor Grutsch's dedication and service to the City over the past 8 years as Mayor and previously as a Councilor and Fire Department member for a combined 24 years.

ISSUES BY COUNCIL: No issues were mentioned.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Mayor Grutsch to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Second by Councilor Marthaler. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Thares, City Clerk/Administrator