

**Minutes
Avon City Council
March 3, 2025**

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT

Jeff Manthe – Mayor, Mark Schulzetenberge, Sarah Grutsch, Aaron Goebel - City Council

ABSENT: Katie Reiling

Justin Kurtz – Water Wastewater Foreman, Corey Nellis – Police Chief

Jodi Austing-Traut, City Clerk-Administrator

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the meeting was opened at 6:30 pm.

City Prosecution Contract Update – Janelle Kendall, Stearns County Attorney

Kendall presented her annual prosecution contract report for 2024. Diversion program numbers for youth have dropped significantly. Police are no longer writing tickets for possession of tobacco, minor consumption, and such because it takes months before the youth can get through the system rendering the program rather ineffective. There were seven felonies prosecuted in Avon in 2024. Crime is down overall. Full report available in Clerk's Office.

Public Hearing to Consider Ordinance 241 Amending Chapter 33 of the City Code: Local Sales and Use Tax

The half-cent sales tax amendment to raise the cap on the amount the city is allowed to collect for transportation projects through 2045 passed at the election held November 5th of 2024. The next step is to adopt an ordinance amending the original half-cent sales tax ordinance.

Motion Schulzetenberge to close the public hearing at 7:07 pm

Second Goebel

Passed Unanimously

Consider Resolution 2025-12 Adopting Ordinance 241 Amending Chapter 33 of the City Code: Local Sales and Use Tax

Motion Grutsch to adopt Resolution 2025-12 Adopting Ordinance 241 Amending Chapter 33 of the City Code: Local Sales and Use Tax

Second Schulzetenberge

Passed Unanimously

Public Forum

None present.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Minutes of February 3rd, 2025
2. Receive Planning Commission Minutes of February 18, 2025
3. Receive Fire Board Minutes and Report of February 19, 2025
4. Receive Fire Department Minutes of January 27, 2025
5. Paid Check Register, Manual Claims, Capital Expenditures, Payroll Deposits
6. Legal Fees, Engineering Fees, Auditor/Acct. Fees
7. Resolution 2025-13 Vacating a Drainage & Utility Easement / Combining Lots (42.26310.0851 & 42.26310.0852)
8. W. Gohman Pay App 11M \$15,297 Fire Hall 2025 Materials
9. W. Gohman Pay App 13L \$33481.80 Fire Hall 2025 Labor

Motion Goebel to approve consent agenda with a correction to the Fire Board Minutes which included Chuck Swenson's name twice as an attendee

Second Schulzetenberge

Passed Unanimously

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Mike Appel representing the Community Center Committee of the Over the Hills of Avon Club gave an update on the community center. Appel explained that at this time the group has received around \$500,000 in donations and pledges. On average they are seeing around 800 individual visits per month to their webpage. The group is continuing to solicit donations and pledges. They are considering hiring an individual to assist with solicitations. They are also looking into finding grants. Most grant programs are geared toward funding programs rather than structures. Their next board meeting is Wednesday, March 19th at noon at city hall and is open to the public. Appel requested the city's commitment to bonding for the project or some other mechanism for assisting with funding. Total project cost expected to be just under \$2 million which would include furnishings. Council consensus that this would be a good project. There are still questions about ongoing management and maintenance and to what extent the city would be willing to participate.

Council received the engineering update.

ISSUES BY STAFF

Administration

Jodi Austing-Traut presented three proposals for refuse hauling in Avon. The respondents were West Central Sanitation, Waste Management, and Republic. City Council reviewed and discussed the proposals received and discussed service provision and expectations.

Motion Goebel to enter into a three-year contract with West Central Sanitation with the option for two one-year extensions

Second Schulzetenberge

Passed Unanimously

Public Works

Kurtz presented the written report. Kurtz requested council consider an invoice from Preferred Controls for \$5209.15 for field work to fix false alarm call outs from lift stations.

Motion Goebel to approve the invoice for Preferred Controls for \$5209.15

Second Grutsch

Passed unanimously

Kurtz requested approval to pay an invoice to Netter's Welding for \$1900 for a stainless-steel UV storage cart.

Motion Goebel to approve an invoice to Netter's Welding for \$1900 for a stainless-steel UV storage cart

Second Manthe

Passed unanimously

Police Department

Police report was presented and reviewed. Chief Nellis stated the squad build is almost complete and should be here tomorrow. Chief advised council that a body worn camera audit is required every two years and will be conducted in Avon this week. Lynn Lembcke Consulting has been retained to complete the audit.

ISSUES BY COUNCIL

Adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jodi Austing-Traut - City Clerk/Administrator