

Notes of the Meeting of the Joint Planning Board Ad Hoc Committee of Avon Township & the City of Avon

September 23, 2024

Roll Call: Present – Mark Schulzetenberge (*City Council*), Jim Read (*City Planning Commission*), Rich Sanoski (*Township Planning Commission*), LeRoy Gondringer (*Township Supervisor*).

Other Town and City staff present include: Jodi Austing-Traut (*City Administrator*), Craig Blonigen (*Township Planning Commission*)

Business:

Joint Powers Agreement Renewal in 2025 – both the City and Town have appointed representatives to serve on an *ad hoc* committee to review the Orderly Annexation Agreement due to expire in December 2025. The committee is all in favor of keeping an Orderly Annexation Agreement in place in some form. City representatives suggested the group consider the approval process for “neighborhood annexations” be adjusted to allow for 51% of property owners in an identified neighborhood to petition rather than requiring of 60% of the property owners to petition. Township representatives expressed concern for property owners who may be opposed to a potential annexation and an overall desire to minimize discord.

The group discussed adding clarifying verbiage to ensure that if properties are annexed into the city they have utility services made available to them by the city within a certain timeframe (possibly two years) but would not require people to hook up to it for a certain length of time (possibly 10 years) if they have a newer septic system. There was discussion about the need to protect lake quality in the area particularly as it may relate to septic systems on and near the lakes. Austing-Traut will research lake quality data with the lakes associations and the DNR and bring it back to the group.

There was discussion about how to handle the tax-rate step up provision in practical terms. Austing-Traut will follow up with Stearns County to see how these are handled at the county level since Stearns County actually calculates individual property tax bills.

The committee proceeded to review the primary and secondary annexation areas shown on the map and discussed areas that are more likely to be annexed as well as some areas that are not very likely to be annexed for quite some time. The committee agreed that the map should be updated to show existing city properties in color, as well as primary and secondary annexation areas.

Announcement of Next Scheduled Meeting:

The ad hoc committee will bring information from this meeting back to each of their respective boards for input and will plan to meet again sometime after the first of the year.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Austing-Traut
City Clerk/Administrator