

**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF AVON, OHIO HELD MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
AT 7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Council Members: Council-at-Large – Mary Berges; 1st Ward – Jennifer Demaline; 2nd Ward - Dennis McBride; Council-at-Large – Michelle Patton; 4th Ward - Scott Radcliffe; Council-at-Large and Council President – Brian Fischer; Mayor – Bryan Jensen; City Engineer – Ryan Cummins; Planning/Economic Development Coordinator – Pam Fechter; Law Director – John Gasior; Finance Director– Steve Presley; Safety/Public Service Director – Duane Streater; Clerk of Council – Barbara Brooks

ABSENT: 3rd Ward -Tony Moore

1. [ORDINANCE NO. 30-24](#) – TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 413-68, PASSED JANUARY 15, 1969 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF AVON, OHIO, AS AMENDED, REZONING THE 17.7 ACRES OF LAND LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF NAGEL ROAD BETWEEN MIDDLETON & DETROIT ROADS, PERMANENT PARCEL NOS. 10-04-00-022-102-044, 10-04-00-022-102-043, 10-04-00-022-102-039, 10-04-00-022-102-041, 10-04-00-022-102-042, 10-04-00-022-102-047 & 10-04-00-022-102-048 FROM R-1 SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-4 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT Planning Referral

The Second of Three Readings of Ordinance No. 30-24 will be
at the Regular Meeting of Council to be held on Monday, March 25, 2024
A Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 30-24 will be held at 7:25 p.m. on Monday, April 1, 2024

Ms. Fechter advised she had nothing new to add at this time.

Mr. Fischer advised he was very concerned about Nagel Road. He said these parcels are located on Nagel Road and knowing that there is another rezoning item on the upcoming Planning Commission agenda to add a gas station on the corner of Detroit and Nagel Roads also causes him some concern. Mr. Fischer stated he was thinking that Council might want to slow down Nagel Road improvements as he felt the development on that road was outpacing the City infrastructure. He advised he was not going to be in favor of any rezoning as he has some serious concerns about Nagel Road. Mr. Fischer said he would like to request that a meeting of the Economic Development Committee of Council be called and include the Planning Coordinator to give Council an overview of what they envision Nagel Road to be years from now. He stated he loves that so many businesses want to come to Avon, but he felt Nagel Road is not sustaining what is coming. Mr. Fischer advised Sheetz is going up at a record pace and there are other companies trying to come to Avon and if Nagel Road is improved to five lanes, there would still be a bottleneck problem at Detroit Road so he thought an Economic Development Committee meeting might be in order to find out what the Administration or City Council envisions for Nagel Road. He felt they need more collector streets and he suggested they might need to fast track connecting Middleton Road through to Jaycox Road. Mr. Fischer said they were going to be in trouble with Nagel Road at the rate that the development was coming in.

Mayor Jensen advised that the representative from Drug Mart was here last week and will probably be present when this Ordinance comes up for a vote. He stated Mr. Hopkins said on the record that he knew that Drug Mart would have to participate in the improvements that will be necessary in that area should the voters approve this rezoning. Mayor Jensen said they do not want to get ahead of themselves and he suggested waiting to see what the voters decide about this rezoning request. He advised when the east side of Nagel Road was on the ballot for rezoning, it was a close vote, and he does not believe anyone anticipated the west side of Nagel Road would come in so quickly asking for it to be rezoned. Mayor Jensen said if the rezoning request fails at the ballot, the concentration will be different than if it passes. He stated Drug Mart has been made aware that if the ballot issue passes that the City will have to take another look at how this is going to be done and even though the developers may be in a hurry to do something, he felt it would be within Planning Commission's authority to slow things down and really look at how they are going to do this. Mayor Jensen advised there are a lot of other projects that need

to get done and if the ballot issue fails, it is a whole different look at Nagel Road, but if it passes, he believes it changes the seriousness such as looking at Middleton Road going through to Jaycox Road. He said the Administration has stressed to Drug Mart numerous times that if the rezoning passes at the ballot that the City will need to re-look at that whole area in terms of what the City wants to see. Mayor Jensen stated the reason that the Planning Commission has agreed to move this forward is to let the voters decide if they want to see this zoning change to commercial and if they want to see it as commercial property, it will change the whole look of that area.

Mr. Fischer asked if this Ordinance places it on the ballot.

Mr. Gasior advised this Ordinance is strictly to rezone the property and if Council approves this Ordinance, then it will go on the ballot for the voters to decide. He said if Council votes this down then it does not go to the ballot and clarified that there has never been one voted down under the new Charter Amendment. Mr. Gasior stated the Charter Amendment does not provide for anything to go to the ballot unless the legislation passes City Council.

Mr. Fischer advised there have been Ordinances in the past to send issues to the ballot.

Mr. Gasior advised the east side of Nagel Road last year or the year before passed City Council and then it had to go to the ballot because of its location. He said they have had five or six parcels of land since the passage of the Charter Amendment come in front of the Planning Commission and City Council and they have always received a positive recommendation from the Planning Commission and a positive vote from City Council and as a result because of the Charter Amendment, the final say goes to the voters. Mr. Gasior stated there has never been a situation where City Council has voted no on the rezoning request. He said if they read the Charter Amendment that a no vote from City Council ends the matter.

Mr. Fischer asked if City Council does not vote to approve it to go on the ballot as to what the developer's options were in the matter. He asked if the developer could file a referendum.

Mr. Gasior advised the developers could do a referendum; there were several things they could do. He said he did not want to speculate on behalf of the developer, but he would rather have them tell the City what they would like to do and then discussions could take place on their proposal.

Mr. Fischer advised his opinion is to slow everything down because he does not believe that Nagel Road is ready.

Mr. Radcliffe asked for clarification as Mr. Fischer mentioned the parcels at the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads as that property does not require it to be placed on the ballot for it to be rezoned.

Mr. Gasior confirmed that to be correct. He advised the owners of the parcels on the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads were also proposing to rezone one parcel to the north that is zoned residential, but because that parcel is less than five and it attached to that C-1, it does not have to on the ballot.

Mr. Radcliffe reiterated that these are two separate issues being discussed where one would require a vote of the people to get the zoning district designation changed (Ordinance No. 30-24) and the other would not require a vote (proposed rezoning request [Circle K] on the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads) to which Mr. Gasior confirmed Mr. Radcliffe's statement.

Mr. Gasior advised the previous rezoning on the east side of Nagel Road was approved by City Council and ultimately was approved by the voters. Mr. Radcliffe clarified that rezoning was approved to go to the voters. Mr. Gasior said yes, Council approved the rezoning which under the terms of the Charter automatically has to go to the voters to become effective. Mr. Gasior stated as Mr. Radcliffe pointed out, the corner piece would not go to the voters, but it is an interesting problem in that trying to decide whether that corner should be rezoned. This could depend on what the voters decide with this request should Council pass Ordinance No. 30-24 to rezone the west side of the Nagel Road property owned by Drug Mart, which is in front of Council now. He said if Council passes Ordinance No. 30-24 and the voters subsequently approve it, it will have an impact on the corner. Mr.

Gasior stated if the voters turn down the rezoning for Drug Mart, it will also have an impact perhaps on how they would deal with the corner properties.

Mr. Radcliffe advised there will probably be a decision on the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads, before the voters would have the ability to vote on the rezoning for Ordinance No. 30-24.

Mr. Gasior advised maybe, as he does not know what their plans were and there were several options available.

Mr. Radcliffe said based on timing because the other one (Circle K) does not have to go to the ballot, to which Mr. Gasior again confirmed the property on the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads does not require a ballot issue. Mr. Gasior noted that second issue was coming in front of the Planning Commission for their March meeting.

Mr. Fischer advised that comes back to his point that whatever they, as a Council, would need to do to slow things down and figure out what they want to do with Nagel Road because they only have one chance to get it right. He said the traffic would come to Detroit Road causing a bottleneck situation. Mr. Fischer stated that no matter how many lanes they make Nagel Road, when they get to Detroit Road it would go back to two lanes.

Mr. McBride advised that clearly the west side of Nagel Road cannot be residential, and they have talked about that over the last ten years. He asked if it is a different ownership group at the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads to which Mayor Jensen confirmed it is and Mr. McBride commented that is unfortunate. Mr. McBride said if they want to place a gas station on the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads, he did not understand the mentality of these oil companies that have to place these stations right on the corner and the entrances right at the corner. He commented that gas stations might as well just pave the whole thing as an apron. Mr. McBride said he agreed with Mr. Fischer that the development needs to be somehow slowed down although the "horse may already be out of the barn" if it is currently in front of Planning Commission. He advised he has not pulled out the Zoning Code book in quite a while, but he thought there were no gas stations allowed south of I-90 other than a couple of exceptions or he asked if that was an urban legend.

Ms. Fechter clarified that unfortunately the Zoning Code allows in a C-4 district for gas stations and the City does have them in the C-4 district south of I-90.

Mr. McBride advised he felt they need to somehow slow it down and that Mr. Fischer is correct, but he agrees that all the property in that whole west side of Nagel Road should be rezoned, but there should be some kind of constraints on it. Mr. McBride stated the last thing they want are the retailers going in and out of business because consumers cannot get in or out of the property properly. He said motorists will insist on turning left when they should not and he felt they should try to do something. Mr. McBride stated between the Planning Commission and Legal Committee they need to hopefully come up with a plan. He wondered if it was too late to place a moratorium on regulating gas stations.

Mr. Fischer advised Ms. Patton is the Chair of the Economic Development Committee of Council, and he suggested a committee meeting be called to find out what they want Nagel Road to look like. He said he does not know if it is on the Master Plan as he has not seen it.

Ms. Fechter advised it is not on the Master Plan, it would be up to what the Administration and City Council want it to be.

Mr. Fischer advised it seems as if things are going full speed on Nagel Road right now and he felt they need to head that off.

Ms. Fechter advised the proposed developments on Nagel Road have a plan for both sides of where driveways will line up and months long traffic studies has been conducted for that area stating what needs to be done. She felt the one anomaly was the Circle K proposal on the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads. Ms. Fechter said Circle K was not part of those conversations and they are not yet part of that traffic study because they were doing the first step by coming before the Planning Commission and seeking to rezone before doing infrastructure work. She

stated the information given by Drug Mart was that they were trying to work with the City for more of a planned ingress and egress in the different areas.

Mr. Fischer advised it just seems to him as if Nagel Road has really taken off lately and he felt they need to pay more attention to what is going on there.

Mayor Jensen advised Mr. Cummins could also confirm but it is not only the roadway that the City Administration looks at when development proposes to come to a location. He said Mr. McBride agreed these parcels need to be rezoned and Mr. Fischer was not sure if they need to be rezoned. Mayor Jensen stated if the residents decide that it needs to be rezoned then the property will have to be looked at fully. He advised even with the current development and proposals; Mr. Cummins has to look at all the development such as McDonald's as they move forward with their approved plan. Mayor Jensen said it is not just the road that is going to be improved and when changes have to be made, they are going to have to be made to the whole intersection and it cannot bottleneck because it has to be the whole piece. He stated the Planning Commission has never looked at it as one little section, but as to how it will affect traffic going both directions. Mayor Jensen advised there is enough infrastructure going south and he asked Mr. Cummins to give a quick overview of what it would look like with these kinds of developments if something big is going to happen.

Mr. Cummins advised the Mayor is correct, the intersection of Detroit and Nagel Roads is really a driver of that location. He said it would need substantial expansion and would result in work being done 600 to 800 feet in every direction and a little bit further as you head south. Mr. Cummins stated it would need additional lanes on all those legs as well. It would be a very substantial change to what that area looks like currently. He advised the Administration has been talking about that for a number of years and once the interchange went in that it was just a matter of time as traffic needs continue to grow. Mr. Cummins agreed it is a substantial issue that needs a lot of consideration.

Mr. Fischer said if Nagel Road was improved to five lanes, he asked what next.

Mr. Cummins advised they would be bringing it back to two lanes eventually when approaching Detroit Road, but it was going to be several hundred feet to do that. He said they also have a lot of existing infrastructure in there such as a high-pressure gas main, they have a thirty-six inch water distribution main, they have the needs for sanitary sewer to the neighborhoods to the south eventually. Mr. Cummins stated it would be quite a big footprint of a project to go through that area.

Mr. Fischer asked if there was anywhere else in the City that he could compare that to where it would come down to two-lanes within that footprint.

Mr. Cummins advised he did not know if something is like that currently.

Mayor Jensen suggested the intersection of Detroit Road and State Route 83.

Mr. Cummins said that is true to the south of SR83.

Mayor Jensen said he believes that is where the challenges are as the Planning Commission felt that the residents should decide and if the residents vote it down it would give all of them more leverage to say this is not something the residents want. He stated if the voters pass it, the challenge was going to be how do they allow it to move forward and that is where the planning was going to have to go really slow. Mayor Jensen advised they have had conversations about how fast infrastructure can go in so that an area can be developed. He said he was not sure that the City has the means to do it as fast as they may want to move forward. Mayor Jensen stated he was not sure the voters want to see it developed that way, but he felt the voters should decide and if the voters say no then that gives them all the leverage to come back and say the voters have spoken that they do not want that side of Nagel Road rezoned.

Mr. McBride advised the one thing working in the City's favor is if anyone wants to develop that property, they would have to widen the street. He said Drug Mart could be ready to go as soon as the voters pass it, and they

could come to a screeching halt with that high pressure gas main with all the restrictions involved of what they can and cannot do. Mr. McBride stated the City may already have the break in their favor although he could not be certain, but based on what happened with the interchange, where that was a major issue and cost the City a lot of money because it was the City's project and the City's money, but moving forward it was potentially the developer's money.

Mr. Fischer advised this is their chance as Council and that in five to ten years people might look back at what Council did with Nagel Road. He said this is their chance right now to foresee what should happen on Nagel Road. Mr. Fischer felt they need to up their efforts on collector streets to make sure Middleton Road goes through to connect to Jaycox Road or get some other collector streets because traffic was only going to get worse.

Mr. McBride advised his gut tells him that everyone on Council is in favor of rezoning these parcels as it really was not residential property anymore. Mr. McBride stated Council could turn this down and say the City is not ready yet and that the City needs a consolidated plan. He asked will the gas station still go forward on the corner, and he answered quite possibly. Mr. McBride speculated that the gas main may impact the layout of a gas station and that may be a factor that may need to be looked at.

Mr. Fischer asked what Council wants to see Nagel Road look like. He said that is why he is asking if an Economic Development meeting could be called, and the Administration can share what their vision of Nagel Road is going to look like. Mr. Fischer advised they need to know what Nagel Road is going to look like over the next five or ten years.

Mayor Jensen advised the parcels on the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads are currently zoned C-1 and it is required to be rezoned to a C-4 to allow gas stations. He said if this property (Ord. No. 30-24) is not rezoned to C-4 then he was not sure there would be a reason to change the corner property from a C-1 to a C-4 before the voters decide if the Drug Mart parcels (Ord. No. 30-24) should be rezoned to C-4. Mayor Jensen stated that he serves on the Planning Commission as well as Mr. Radcliffe and he was not sure that either of them were in favor of changing the corner parcels to a C-4 before the voters decide if they want to rezone the Drug Mart parcels. He said should Council decide they do not want to put the Drug Mart parcels on the ballot, and they vote it down, he was not sure that the Planning Commission would come back with a recommendation to Council to ask for the corner parcels to be rezoned to C-4 at this point. Mayor Jensen advised if there was C-4 zoning surrounding that corner property he believes that the Planning Commission would be more inclined to say that the corner should be a C-4 as well. He felt it might be premature to even look at the parcels wanting to be a C-4 on the corner of Nagel and Detroit Roads in the upcoming Planning Commission meeting later this week until they find out if the Drug Mart parcels are moving forward with change the zoning.

Mr. McBride said the Mayor makes a good point. He advised with Holy Trinity being to the south of the corner parcels was something to consider as well. Mr. McBride stated whatever they do could end up being a slap in the face to that old historic church which is a beautiful building. He said whatever happens on Nagel Road will impact that church.

No further discussion.

2. ORDINANCE NO. 35-24 – TO ACCEPT THE FACT FINDERS REPORT Mr. Streater/Mr. Gasior
To Be Addressed at a Special Meeting Immediately Following the Work Session

Mr. Gasior advised there would be an Executive Session at the beginning of the Special Meeting to discuss Collective Bargaining Matters and subsequently Council will consider passage of Ordinance No. 35-24.

3. ORDINANCE NO. 36-24 – AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF TIME WITHIN WHICH TO COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NAGEL FARMS SUBDIVISION Mr. Gasior

Mr. Gasior advised the developer is asking for an extension of time for them to continue to develop that land. He said Mr. Cummins reviewed the engineering estimates as the City asked for new engineering estimates before going forward. Mr. Gasior stated as Mr. Cummins pointed out in his email the amount is de minimis as it is

approximately \$25,000 for a \$1 million plus project. He advised they intend to leave the engineering estimates and key numbers in the subdivider agreement the same that was passed by Council two years ago, and if there was any to reconcile later, that would be done at the time of acceptance of improvements. Mr. Gasior said it was a matter of if Council agrees to extend the time frame for an additional twelve months.

Ms. Berges advised she wondered what the circumstances were as the Ordinance alluded to the developer being unable to complete the improvements due to circumstances beyond their control.

Mr. Gasior advised he believes it was the market that dictated some of their decisions not to go forward. He said Drug Mart's rezoning on the east side that abuts this property impacted some of the builders that were considering looking at this development. Mr. Gasior stated market forces were circumstances beyond their control, but they are ready to go forward now.

Mr. Radcliffe asked if there were any major changes to what the developer plans to build or develop in terms of the houses and the layout of the development. He said the City does not often see extensions from a developer and he asked the history of providing extensions for completing public improvements in a subdivision.

Ms. Fechter advised she does not know the specific history. She said there have been several time extensions in the ten years that she has been in her position as Planning Coordinator, and those extensions have been based on different factors. Ms. Fechter stated the actual layout plan of the subdivision has not changed, but there is a lot of conversations with Drug Mart and Nagel Farms regarding a buffer. She advised that is why Council has not seen Drug Mart move forward with their General Development Plan on the east side as they were still working on it. Ms. Fechter stated the Administration also is not allowing McDonald's to move forward until that is done and the delay has been Nagel Farms trying to work with Drug Mart (the Isomer Group) to figure out the appropriate buffer since there are going to be some expensive homes in the Nagel Farms Subdivision and they are trying to buffer the noise from drive-thru's to those homes. She said both sides are working very diligently to come up with a solution that protects both of their interests.

Mr. Radcliffe advised it was good to hear that the developer was not planning on downgrading the homes or changing the layout.

Ms. Fechter said nothing was changing except for the extent of the buffer and how much of that buffer was on the Drug Mart property that can accommodate while still keeping with their plan.

4. ORDINANCE NO. 37-24 – DESIGNATING PARK LANDS LOCATED ON THE FORMER TRAXLER FAMILY LIMITED PARTNERSHIP PROPERTY AS THE “TRAXLER FAMILY ARBORETUM” Mr. Gasior

Mr. Gasior advised some Special Use Permits would be coming out of the upcoming Planning Commission Meeting that would subsequently come before Council. He said it is a good idea to officially name the parks prior to acting on any Special Use Permits. Mr. Gasior advised when the City purchased this property, the owners indicated that they would like to have the City name the park with the owner's name so, the City agreed to do that with the chosen name of the Traxler Family Arboretum.

5. ORDINANCE NO. 38-24 – DESIGNATING PARK LANDS LOCATED ON THE FORMER KOOSH ENTERPRISES, LLC & AMY JOHNSON, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE AGREEMENT AND DECLARATION OF TRUST, DAVID KIRSCHENBAUM TRUSTEE, PROPERTY AS THE “KIRSCHENBAUM FAMILY MEMORIAL PARK” Mr. Gasior

Mr. Gasior advised Koosh Enterprises, LLC is the Kirschenbaum Family and Amy Johnson is a sister of the Kirschenbaum clan and the family would like to have that Kirschenbaum name somewhere in the park designation so, the Administration chose the Kirschenbaum Family Memorial Park.

Mr. Radcliffe advised they talked a lot in the past about the vision for the Arboretum and he asked about if there is a planned vision for the Kirschenbaum Park.

Mayor Jensen advised the City has held off a bit on this property because Middleton Road has not extended yet and the Nagel Farms Subdivision has contracts with that extension so they were trying to wait and see when that will connect. He said this property also connects into the back of the Willow Creek Subdivision so that was another reason the City has held off until they knew more of how they wanted to move forward.

6. ORDINANCE NO. 39-24 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ENCOMPASS MARKETING AS THE CITY’S MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT FOR THE AVON AQUATIC FACILITY Mayor Jensen

Mayor Jensen advised when the pool first opened the City entered into a contract another company and that they initially had contracts for almost \$90,000. He said since that time the advertising and marketing at the pool has gone down significantly as he believed it was under \$30,000. Mayor Jensen stated the City has had a great working relationship with Encompass Marketing and Ms. Pitasky and decided to switch directions and hire Encompass Marketing to represent the City. He said one of the questions he received was about the contract price.

Mr. Gasior advised under the old contract with Steve Corcoran of Look Strategies, the City paid 12% up to \$100,000 of advertising and 15% after that amount. He said he does not believe the City ever had to pay the 15% to Look Strategies and perhaps the reason the City did not get the response that the City needed from the promoter. Mr. Gasior stated Paula Pitasky of Encompass Marketing and him have been working on this agreement over the last few days and it is still a DRAFT document. He advised there were some things that still might need tweaked, but he wanted to get something in front of Council. Mr. Gasior said it is based a lot on the contract that the City had with Look Strategies when they were hired by the City in 2015. He stated Ms. Pitasky has already started working for the City so if Council passes this Ordinance, the agreement would be retroactive to March 1, 2024, because she has been working and already secured a few sponsors and that is a testament to how she plans on working this in the future. Mr. Gasior advised they wanted to change the structure a little bit in the agreement and make it 15% on the first \$75,000 and then 18% for anything over and above that amount. He pointed out that there were very limited modalities for how someone can advertise at the Aquatic Facility. Mr. Gasior said the thought of Encompass Marketing exceeding \$75,000 in any given year, while he hopes they do, it was going to take some creativity. He stated he does not believe anyone wants to see the pool area turn into NASCAR and the Indy 500 with advertising everywhere because they want to be tasteful in what they do and Ms. Pitasky understands that and appreciates that because she has worked with the City on the newsletter so she understand the City’s heart and he believes she is going to do a good job. Mr. Gasior advised he hoped to have the final agreement for Council by next Monday when they vote and they can move forward.

Ms. Pitasky, Owner/Creative Director of Encompass Marketing located on Detroit Road in Avon, advised she is excited for this opportunity, and she thanked Council.

Mr. Fischer advised anyone who knows Ms. Pitasky agrees that she is fantastic for Avon and works hard for our City. He said her personality and drive were a good match for Avon.

Ms. Berges advised she feels this is a great step that the City is taking, and Ms. Pitasky did a great job with Every Child’s Playground and everything else she has been involved in and she was excited about what Ms. Pitasky can do for the sponsorship.

Mr. Gasior commented that as Mr. Corcoran began to wane in his interest in getting these sponsors, they discovered that there were signs posted from sponsors for over a year and maybe in some cases two years where no one followed through to take the signs down even though no one was paying for the advertising. He advised Ms. Pitasky immediately got into that situation and he believes it is going to be a great partnership with the City.

7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

MAYOR JENSEN asked Mr. Streator to talk about a new software program as there has been concern from Council about some of the stormwater management the City has in place and some of the ditch cleaning schedules and this software that is being implemented can help with those situations and more.

Mr. Streator explained that in the budget process they budgeted for, with Council's approval, an upgrade to the software at the Street Department. He advised the current software allowed them to enter work orders, but there were modules the City was able to purchase that incorporates the facilities management, stormwater management and road management. Mr. Streator said specifically the stormwater management, they were working in the first steps with Mr. Cummins and CVE to put all of the City's GIS information with Mr. Jenkins, the IT Coordinator, to get all that information input into the system so it will track where all the structures are located, ditches and anything within the program. He stated any work they do on any of the City's infrastructure can be tracked a lot better than what they had been doing which will give them the ability to forecast ahead and look at what projects they need to prioritize. Mr. Streator advised they are pretty excited about this change and have been working with the software company the last couple of weeks training on the program. He said they can also incorporate all the streets into the program and a streets assessment will be conducted that will assess the condition of the roadway and input every street sign and traffic sign and incorporate all that information into the GIS map system as well. Mr. Streator stated it will also allow them to input previous work on any of the City's stormwater infrastructure as best they can so they will have a better record of that going forward.

Mr. Streator advised they have been physically working the past couple of weeks to clean some of the ditch areas such as a portion of French Creek at Jaycox Road and Riegelsberger Road on the south side of the bridge and try to clean that out, which is labor intensive. Mr. Streator said they were also working on Keller Drive in some of the ditch areas that were obvious from the last August storms. He stated some of the developments that were installed fifteen or more years ago, did not give the City easy access to these areas when they were developed, so they were working with some of the residents to access that area but they cannot get a lot of equipment back there and that is some of the challenges in these areas. Mr. Streator indicated that some of it flows into some private retention basins where the City is working with the owners of those private basins as well to make sure they are functioning properly.

Mayor Jensen reported that Streets Superintendent, Tim Loeser, will be retiring mid-June so the City will be seeking to fill that position. He advised Mr. Loeser has done a lot to move the City forward and they hope to continue moving forward, but he felt that this new software program would help in that effort.

Mayor Jensen advised through Senator Sherrod Brown and Congressman Bob Latta, the City received a grant for \$1.5 million. He asked Mr. Cummins to explain the grant award.

Mr. Cummins advised this is for the State Route 83 and State Route 254 intersection improvement project. He said previously the City secured a \$4.6 million grant through the Ohio Department of Transportation Safety Program that was the initial basis for the funding of the project. Mr. Cummins stated as they were moving that project forward, along the way they saw an opportunity to apply with the assistance of the Montrose Group, a lobbying group that the City engaged last year to apply for an federal earmark for the project because it was already on the federal aid program listing, and was the safety based project which made it very attractive. He advised they tried in the past on that project and other projects to get earmarks and had not been successful, but this time they were. Mr. Cummins reported that they were notified last week from Senator Brown's office in conjunction with Congressman Latta that it had been put forward and made it through and passed. He explained this is another \$1.5 million on top of the \$4.6 million grant. Mr. Cummins said the project is a little over a \$7 million construction project so there is still more there to pay for, but it is a very nice step and Avon is fortunate to have secured it.

Mayor Jensen advised the City is appreciative of this bi-partisan effort to get something accomplished like that and was not something that they see every day. He said there was a lot of money made available and to have Avon apart of that was great news. He said the Nagel Road and Detroit Road intersection improvement was another project that would be very costly and to be able to get the Detroit Road and State Route 83 intersection fixed will make a big difference so they can focus their attention to other issues such as the east side of the City. Mayor Jensen was hopeful that this bi-partisan effort would make it easier for the City to acquire other funding in the future.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MS. BERGES, AT LARGE said it was great news about the money that the City is getting. She asked that a picture be displayed on the monitors of the Tree Commission Members with the Girl Scouts at the March Tree Commission meeting. Ms. Berges said the Tree Commission Members were honored with some Girl Scout groups. There were all different ages, Daisies, Brownies and Juniors. She stated Megan Engelmann, who is the newest Tree Commission Member organized a portion of the meeting in conjunction with World Thinking Day. Ms. Berges said the Girl Scouts wanted to find out about the Tree Commission and what they are doing in the City and then they participated in some exercises such as learning the circumference of the largest tree in Avon that won that contest. She advised the Tree Commission is looking forward to continuing the relationship with the Girl Scouts maybe with their volunteer participation in the Arbor Day events. Ms. Berges said the information that was handed out it was noted that the Girl Scouts overall goal is to plant 5 million trees worldwide over the next five years so that organization is really focusing on not only the environment, but how important trees are and the impact that it has on so much of our lives. She advised it was great to see this young generation now getting involved.

MRS. DEMALINE, WARD 1 advised she was very pleased to hear about the upgraded Service Department software. She said that software was going to become very valuable, and she looked forward to hearing some updates on the ditch clearings.

MR. MCBRIDE, WARD 2 asked Mr. Streator if the van that drives down each street taking pictures of the utility poles, traffic signs and the like if that was also photographing all the storm inlets and other sewers.

Mr. Streator said the City has all the storm inlets already in the GIS system, but yes, it will do those and the City will match it up with the information the City currently has on record.

Mr. McBride asked who the company was doing that work.

Mr. Streator advised iWork is the company that the City contracted with.

Mr. McBride asked if they were associated with ODOT to which Mr. Streator answered no, not that he was aware of.

Mr. McBride explained he was curious as a company he used to work for was the sole representative for Ohio and was working with ODOT in a similar capacity.

MR. MOORE, WARD 3 was absent.

MS. PATTON, AT LARGE had no comments.

MR. RADCLIFFE, WARD 4 advised regarding the ditch cleaning on the corner of Riegelsberger Road, it is wonderful news as a few residents have commented and it was also good to know the software will help make an improvement for that type of work as well.

Mr. Radcliffe asked regarding the Congressional earmark grant, when the agreement was up with the Montrose Group. He said he remembers when the City first contracted with them, and this was the type of assistance the City wanted to accomplish from that contract so that is a positive.

Ms. Fechter advised her Department contracted with the Montrose Group. She said she has a conference call with them tomorrow to work on three very large industrial projects she has. Ms. Fechter stated she wanted to publicly thank the Montrose Group and while they did not do all the work as it was a group effort, but their lobbying efforts behind the scenes and the relationships that the Montrose Group has formed over the years has helped the Administration bring things to the forefront. She advised that was the only grant the City has applied for using the Montrose Group and it was successful. Ms. Fechter said any assistance that the Montrose Group can give was greatly appreciated for the three large projects that she would be bringing to them. She stated they were monitoring how things were progressing and were waiting to see what happened with the SR 83 & SR 254 intersection project and were very pleased with the result. Ms. Fechter advised she would be using the Montrose Group to help figuring out ways to get things accomplished.

Mr. Radcliffe asked how long the initial contract goes for.

Ms. Fechter advised it was month to month.

MR. FISCHER, AT LARGE stated he loves that the City has this new software as people were always asking when the last time the ditches were cleaned out. He said to have something they could confirm a date was helpful. Mr. Fischer advised the City crews do a fantastic job and they have great equipment for which Council has approved the purchase and they want to keep that going. He said water has always been a challenge.

DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATION:

MR. CUMMINS, CITY ENGINEER advised there is another grant opportunity that the City was participating in. He said this one is led by the Lorain County Public Health Department and is called Safe Streets for All. Mr. Cummins stated LCPHD is the point organization for Lorain County, and they received a grant to put together this Safe Streets for All Plan. He advised that planning effort is ongoing right now and the Avon Administration decided to help them out early on and be a part of the grant group. Mr. Cummins said part of the process right now is the County has a survey that they are asking County residents to fill out. He stated this survey is posted on Avon's website www.cityofavon.com under City News at the bottom of the home page. Mr. Cummins encouraged everyone to take the time to fill it out. He advised they were looking for ways to improve safety throughout for not just vehicular traffic, but also pedestrian traffic and bicycles etc. Mr. Cummins said once the planning report is put together, that will be the basis to seek other large grants for infrastructure, which by Avon taking part could be one of the entities that references that plan when seeking future funding.

MS. FECHTER, PLANNING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR updated Council that Greg Botson from Botson Insurance was in front of Council a few weeks ago and she advised Mr. Botson has applied to the Planning Commission and will be asking for a Code amendment. She advised she wanted to let Council know about where that stands with all the conversations happening about rezoning certain areas of the City. Ms. Fechter said Mr. Botson's parcel is currently zoned C-2 in the historic French Creek District which does not allow any type of automotive, whether repair, car sales or the like. She stated Mr. Botson will be asking to allow for rental cars in the C-2 zoning district.

Ms. Fechter said regarding Ms. Pitasky, she has been a marketing consultant for the City for several years. She stated Ms. Pitasky is very thoughtful and in addition to the City newsletter she was now doing the Senior Center newsletter and is also the co-chair of the Super Heroes to Kids day. Ms. Fechter advised every encounter that she has had with Ms. Pitasky has been professional and very thoughtful and she is wonderful representation of the City.

MR. GASIOR, LAW DIRECTOR had no comments.

MR. PRESLEY, FINANCE DIRECTOR had no comments.

MR. STREATOR, SAFETY DIRECTOR/PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTOR advised Ms. Pitasky has been wonderful to work with it is an understatement to say that she promotes the City. He said he has enjoyed his working relationship with her.

AUDIENCE:

There were no comments from the audience members.

8. ADJOURN: 8:27 p.m.

There being no further business, the Work Session of Council was adjourned.

PASSED: _____

SIGNED BY: _____
Brian Fischer, Council President

ATTEST: _____
Barbara Brooks, Clerk of Council