

PUBLIC HEARINGS

7:20 P.M. – Council President Fischer opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 114-23

ORDINANCE NO. 114-23 – AN ORDINANCE 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 APPROXIMATELY 10.7364 ACRES OF LAND CONSISTING OF A 10.6661 ACRE PORTION OF PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 04-00-022-102-072 AND A 0.0703 ACRE PORTION OF PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 04-00-022-102-006 BOTH OF WHICH ARE LOCATED JUST WEST OF THE MIDDLETON ROAD TERMINUS FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-4 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

There being no comments, the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 114-23 was closed at 7:21 p.m.

7:25 P.M. – Council President Fischer opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 112-23

ORDINANCE NO. 112-23 – AN ORDINANCE APPROVING MODIFICATIONS TO THE SANITARY SEWER MASTER PLAN AND ADOPTING SAID MODIFICATIONS AS REVISIONS TO THE OFFICIAL SANITARY SEWER MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF AVON

There being no comments, the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 112-23 was closed at 7:26 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AVON, OHIO, HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT 7:30 P.M.

The Chair, Council President Brian Fischer, called the meeting to order and Avon Scout Troop 462 led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT:

Council Members: 1st Ward – Jennifer Demaline; Council-at-Large – Tammy Holtzmeier; 2nd Ward – Dennis McBride; Council-at-Large – Craig Witherspoon; Council-at-Large and Council President – Brian Fischer; Mayor - Bryan Jensen; City Engineer – Ryan Cummins; Planning and Economic Development Coordinator – Pam Fechter; Law Director – John Gasior; Finance Director – Steve Presley; Safety/Public Service Director – Duane Streator; Clerk of Council – Barbara Brooks

ABSENT: 3rd Ward – Anthony Moore; 4th Ward – Scott Radcliffe

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to amend the agenda with the addition of item #21a – Resolution No. R-34-23 – Accepting the Revised Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission after the November 7, 2023, General Election and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Auditor, and the vote was: Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to accept the agenda as amended, and the vote was: Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL HELD SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee of Council held Saturday, November 11, 2023, and to approve said minutes as published, and the vote was: Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Work Session of Council held Monday, November 20, 2023, and to approve said minutes as published, and the vote was: Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, November 27, 2023, and to approve said minutes as published, and the vote was: Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held Monday, December 4, 2023, and to approve said minutes as published, and the vote was: Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 112-23 – APPROVING MODIFICATIONS TO THE SANITARY SEWER MASTER PLAN AND ADOPTING SAID MODIFICATIONS AS REVISIONS TO THE OFFICIAL SANITARY SEWER MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF AVON

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 112-23 by title only, entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING MODIFICATIONS TO THE SANITARY SEWER
MASTER PLAN AND ADOPTING SAID MODIFICATIONS AS REVISIONS TO THE
OFFICIAL SANITARY SEWER MASTER PLAN FOR THE CITY OF AVON**

The Chair declared this to be the third of three readings of Ordinance No. 112-23.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to adopt Ordinance No. 112-23, and the vote was: Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 114-23 – 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 APPROXIMATELY 10.7364 ACRES OF LAND CONSISTING OF A 10.6661 ACRE PORTION OF PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 04-00-022-102-072 AND A 0.0703 ACRE PORTION OF PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 04-00-022-102-006 BOTH OF WHICH ARE LOCATED JUST WEST OF THE MIDDLETON ROAD TERMINUS FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-4 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 114-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE 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 APPROXIMATELY 10.7364 ACRES OF LAND CONSISTING OF A 10.6661 ACRE PORTION OF PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 04-00-022-102-072 AND A 0.0703 ACRE PORTION OF PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 04-00-022-102-006 BOTH OF WHICH ARE LOCATED JUST WEST OF THE MIDDLETON ROAD TERMINUS FROM R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO C-4 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

The Chair declared this to be the third of three readings of Ordinance No. 114-23.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to adopt Ordinance No. 114-23, and the vote was: Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 120-23 – MAKING A PERMANENT APPROPRIATION OF MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES (THE OPERATING BUDGET) OF THE CITY OF AVON, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 120-23 by title only, entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE MAKING A PERMANENT APPROPRIATION OF MONIES
FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES (THE
OPERATING BUDGET) OF THE CITY OF AVON, LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO,**

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

The Chair declared this to be the third of three readings of Ordinance No. 120-23.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to adopt Ordinance No. 120-23, and the vote was: Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 127-23 – ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR FULL AND PART-TIME CITY ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS NOT COVERED BY ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2024

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 127-23 by title only, entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR FULL AND PART-TIME CITY ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS NOT COVERED BY ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2024
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 127-23.

ORDINANCE NO. 128-23 – ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR FULL AND PART-TIME CITY LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS NOT COVERED BY ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2024

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 128-23 by title only, entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR FULL AND PART-TIME CITY LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS NOT COVERED BY ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2024
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 128-23.

ORDINANCE NO. 129-23 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE LETTER AGREEMENT DATED JUNE 27, 1990, WITH THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE REGARDING SANITARY SEWER USAGE FEES FROM COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES #1

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 129-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE LETTER AGREEMENT DATED JUNE 27, 1990, WITH THE CITY OF NORTH RIDGEVILLE REGARDING SANITARY SEWER USAGE FEES FROM COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES #1

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 129-23.

ORDINANCE NO. 130-23 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE CAPITAL BUDGET GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST WITH THE ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR PUBLIC USE

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 130-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE CAPITAL BUDGET GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST WITH THE ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR PUBLIC USE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 130-23.

ORDINANCE NO. 131-23 – RATIFYING THE MAYOR’S EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH LORAIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH TO PROVIDE CERTAIN PHASE II STORMWATER SERVICES IN THE CITY OF AVON

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 131-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE MAYOR’S EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH LORAIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH TO PROVIDE CERTAIN PHASE II STORMWATER SERVICES IN THE CITY OF AVON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 131-23.

ORDINANCE NO. 132-23 – REAPPROPRIATIONS

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 132-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND SUPPLEMENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 132-22 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 132-23.

ORDINANCE NO. 133-23 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CHAGRIN VALLEY ENGINEERING, LTD AND ESTABLISH THE COMPENSATION FOR THE CITY ENGINEER IN 2024

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 133-23 by title only, entitled:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CHAGRIN VALLEY ENGINEERING, LTD. AND ESTABLISH THE COMPENSATION FOR THE CITY ENGINEER IN 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 133-23.

ORDINANCE NO. 134-23 – ESTABLISHING 2024 COMPENSATION FOR THE DIRECTOR OF LAW OF THE CITY OF AVON

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 134-23 by title only, entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING 2024 COMPENSATION FOR
THE DIRECTOR OF LAW OF THE CITY OF AVON
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Mr. Gasior advised the “pickup” language was eliminated from the Ordinance. He said since it was read once with the “pickup” language, Council should amend it tonight to eliminate the “pickup” language and then it will have been read on second reading as amended.

A motion was made by Mr. McBride and seconded by Mrs. Holtzmeier to amend Ordinance No. 134-23 to eliminate the “pickup” language; and the vote was: Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion to amend passed.

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 134-23 as amended.

**ORDINANCE NO. 135-23 – TO ACCEPT ALEX W. BOCCABELLA’S WAIVER OF
COMPENSATION DURING HIS TENURE ON THE AVON TREE COMMISSION**

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 135-23 by title only, entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT ALEX W. BOCCABELLA’S WAIVER OF
COMPENSATION DURING HIS TENURE ON THE AVON TREE COMMISSION
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 135-23.

**ORDINANCE NO. 136-23 – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH LJB ENGINEERING TO PERFORM BRIDGE ENGINEERING
SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW PEDESTRIAN
BRIDGES OVER FRENCH CREEK ALONG STATE ROUTE 83 AS PART OF THE LOR-83-
(AVON) SIDEWALK PROJECT**

The Clerk read Ordinance No. 136-23 by title only, entitled:

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH LJB ENGINEERING TO PERFORM BRIDGE
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF
TWO NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGES OVER FRENCH CREEK ALONG
STATE ROUTE 83 AS PART OF THE LOR-83-(AVON) SIDEWALK PROJECT
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

The Chair declared this to be the second of three readings of Ordinance No. 136-23.

**RESOLUTION NO. R-34-23 – ACCEPTING THE REVISED AMOUNTS AND RATES AS
DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AFTER THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023
GENERAL ELECTION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND
CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR**

The Clerk read Resolution No. R-34-23 by title only, entitled:

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE REVISED AMOUNTS AND RATES AS

**DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AFTER THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023
GENERAL ELECTION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND
CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

The Chair declared this to be the first of three readings of Resolution No. R-34-23.

Mr. Presley advised as a result of the election in the first week of November, the Parks and Recreation Levy was renewed by the voters and therefore Council needs to pass or ratify these tax rates which includes that new levy renewal. He said previously the Tax Budget did not include it because it was set to expire 12/31/2023.

REPORTS AND COMMENTS

MAYOR JENSEN advised it seems like it was just the other day that Tammy Holtzmeier was sworn in as a Council Member and those ten years have flown by. He said as Mayor, to have someone on Council with her knowledge and her ability to work with people was a real asset and while this position is a paid position, he looks at what a person does above and beyond their duties. Mayor Jensen stated it is his honor to present her with a Proclamation that recognizes she was the catalyst in implementing what is now the Annual Bike Parade that takes place every July 4th and just celebrated its eighth year. One of Mrs. Holtzmeier's many qualities is her desire to recognize and honor those citizens that have contributed to the betterment of our community as evidenced by her choice of the Grand Marshal at the Bike Parade she appointed each year. The City of Avon, Avon City Council and the residents will miss Mrs. Holtzmeier's knowledge and her contribution to our City. Mayor Jensen proclaimed and encouraged every official, employee and citizen of the City of Avon to join him in expressing a profound and sincere appreciation to Tammy Holtzmeier for her devoted service extended by best wishes for her.

Mayor Jensen said he has told Mrs. Holtzmeier that he is going to miss her, and he certainly has always appreciated her knowledge and her desire to work. He stated the things that she has done above and beyond what a Council Member would be expected to do goes with deep gratitude.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MRS. DEMALINE, WARD 1, thanked Mrs. Holtzmeier for her service. Since becoming one of the new Members on Council, Mrs. Holtzmeier has been a sounding board for her, and she has supported her and been there to give her advice. Mrs. Demaline said she has enjoyed partaking in the Bike Parade and seeing Mrs. Holtzmeier's hard work and watching her in action. She stated Mrs. Holtzmeier always has good support from her husband and it has been a pleasure. Mrs. Demaline advised it has been great getting to know her and she has loved her time as her seatmate at the dais. She said anticipating the way things will shift she will be taking over Mrs. Holtzmeier's seat at the dais and she is going to leave some big shoes for her to fill.

MRS. HOLTZMEIER, AT LARGE, advised she wanted to give a shout out to Avery Erskine. She is an Avon High School graduate who is currently an Army cadet in the United States Military Academy at West Point. Ms. Erskine brought so much honor to Avon on a national stage this weekend, during the Army/Navy football game held on Saturday in Boston as she led her Regiment onto the field during pregame ceremonies and Ms. Erskine and Avon, Ohio was recognized on national television. Congratulations to Avery, who will be graduating from West

Point in May, and her family for representing all of us in Avon so very well. By the way, Army won 17-11.

Mrs. Holtzmeier asked President Fischer if she could be recognized again at the end for her final comments.

MR. MCBRIDE, WARD 2, thanked Mrs. Holtzmeier for pointing out the accomplishment of the Avon High School graduate.

Mr. McBride thanked Mrs. Holtzmeier for running for a Council At Large seat initially. He said it was also wonderful when someone else could serve as the Chair of the Finance Committee as he could almost not worry about it. Mr. McBride stated it was great having her on Council and he thanked her for starting the Bike Parade as it has become a great tradition and he thanked her for making his son, Jack, the first Grand Marshal. He encouraged her to enjoy her family and he jokingly said they were probably going to miss Monday night burgers while Mom was working and now it would be back to salads on Monday nights. Mr. McBride invited her to feel free to stop in and visit them on Council night.

MR. MOORE, WARD 3, was absent.

MR. RADCLIFFE, WARD 4, was absent.

MR. WITHERSPOON, AT LARGE, said, "Wow, ten years! Time flies." He advised about five years ago he was having some health issues and he had mentioned that the only thing he had a taste for was non-alcoholic bloody Mary mix. Sure enough, showing up at his door one evening was Mrs. Holtzmeier with frozen non-alcoholic bloody Mary mix. Mr. Witherspoon said that is true friendship. He advised she has been a friend and a colleague, and she will be missed. He wished her good luck, and he wished her family good luck as well. Mr. Witherspoon stated her business acumen has always been a big thing for this City Council. He thanked her for all her service, and he hopes she enjoys whatever is next.

MR. FISCHER, AT LARGE, said after the others have given their accolades to Mrs. Holtzmeier, it was his turn. He advised she is the epitome of what this elected position is about, which is what is best for the residents and the City. She has made him want to work to be a better Councilperson. Mr. Fischer advised he has always appreciated that she has always come to the meetings prepared and has always asked the right questions at the right time about the right stuff. He said she is going to be hard to replace as Chair of the Finance Committee. Mr. Fischer thanked her for her service.

DIRECTORS/ADMINISTRATION:

MR. CUMMINS, CITY ENGINEER, expressed his gratitude to Councilwoman Holtzmeier. He said it has been a pleasure over the years and he wished her the best going forward. God bless.

MS. FECHTER, PLANNING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, thanked Mrs. Holtzmeier for her time with the City; her dedication to Avon was evident in everything she did. She said they had fun during her time on the Planning Commission when she served as the Council Representative. Ms. Fechter thanked Mrs. Holtzmeier for always taking a different perspective and helping them to look at things just a little bit different. Enjoy your Monday nights.

MR. GASIOR, LAW DIRECTOR, recalled back to when Mrs. Holtzmeier was first elected to City Council, and he believes they were dealing with a contentious issue at the time. He said he remembers feeling bad because he thinks this Council Chambers turned into a court room for about six weeks where the lawyers on both sides were fighting each other and questioning witnesses. Mr. Gasior stated he believes he told Mrs. Holtzmeier in the parking lot after one of those meetings that it is not always like this. He advised he is happy to report that it has not always been like that. Mr. Gasior said but he remembers that was her very beginning of her term on City Council. He stated all good Council Members make him do his job better because he has to prepare the Ordinances and try to give Council a good feel about what they will be voting on and try to explain it as best he can in the Whereas clauses. Mr. Gasior advised Mrs. Holtzmeier made him up his game, there is no doubt about that because she is a good Councilor, and he knows that she is going to do well in this next endeavor that she is pursuing. He wished her the best and said if she ever needs to bounce anything off someone he is always around, and it has always been a pleasure to talk to her over the years. Mr. Gasior stated they talked about the business of the City, but they digressed at times, and it was fun. He advised he and Mrs. Holtzmeier became the forerunners of the fifth Monday celebration and so he will keep the fifth Monday candle burning. Mr. Gasior wished her a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and the best of luck. He said Mrs. Holtzmeier explained to him a little bit about what she is going to be embarking on and he thinks she is going to do a great job with it and now that she will have even more time to devote to it, he feels she is going to be awesome in that position. Enjoy the family and enjoy the time away, but do not forget about us because we are still here.

MR. PRESLEY, FINANCE DIRECTOR, stated that he appreciated working with Mrs. Holtzmeier, and he jokingly said that he hopes her departure is nothing he did as it was a short year together. Mr. Presley thanked her and said it was very nice working with her. He wished her all the best.

MR. STREATOR, SAFETY/PUBLIC SERVICE DIRECTOR, advised he learned a lot working with Mrs. Holtzmeier in their time together. He said she was always very well prepared in everything that they did and that is a testament to her work ethic. Mr. Streator stated he has seen a lot of Council people who were involved, and Mrs. Holtzmeier took that to the next level, and for that, the community is much better than it was ten years ago. Thank you. The community of Avon should thank you for that as well.

MRS. HOLTZMEIER, COUNCIL AT LARGE said ten years ago, she walked into Avon City Hall ready to be a part of change. Tonight, she will walk out of Avon City Hall knowing that, without a doubt, she is the one who is changed. When she looks around the City, so much has changed over the last ten years, as one would expect over time, but also very purposefully, and very deliberately, so much has remained the same.

Mrs. Holtzmeier reminisced about the Avon Aquatic Center and all that has been added to the complex that has become a crown jewel for our City. She has appreciated working together with the Administration and Council to preserve historical buildings like the Cahoon and Jameson Houses as well as seeing through high profile infrastructure projects like the traffic circle roundabout, a second water tower, additional parkland, and greenspace as well as an expanded pedestrian sidewalk installation program throughout the City. She's proud to have played a part in those important and worthy projects. It is the big things that get the attention, but they know it is all the thousands of little things they all do, if they are doing the job right, those little gestures of

decency, recognition and empathy that will be remembered long after the brass plaques have dulled, and their names are long forgotten.

Mrs. Holtzmeier stated there are a lot of people to thank for their dedication and service to the City. Not one of them does this work alone, it takes a team to make the City run successfully. She wanted to acknowledge the following public servants by name as Council could not be effective in their roles had it not been for these people. All have personally gone out of their way to assist her in helping Avon's residents with problems and concerns over the years. First Mayor Jensen, it is true that culture starts from the top down. As CEO of the City, he has been its biggest cheerleader and its staunchest advocate. His fingerprints are evident all over this City and will be for quite some time. She has appreciated his humanity, thoughtfulness, and humble servant attitude. Avon is better for having him as our Mayor and she will most certainly miss his guidance and hand on the wheel. Thank you also to Pam Fechter, Jill Clements, Rose Seighman, John Gasior, Steve Presley, Duane Streator, Chief Fischbach, Chief Swope, Chief Bosley, Chief Root, Lt Dudziak, Ryan Cummins, Clare Harasimchuk, Susan Beres, Emily Hanson, Brian Bruce, Barbara Brooks, Gail Hayden, Kathy Grisa, Tim Loeser, Mike Farmer, Bill Logan, and Rick Schneider. Also, thank you to Carolyn Witherspoon for her mentorship during the time she served as the Council Representative on the Planning Commission. They have all asked, 'How can I help?', 'What do you need from me to assist?' whenever she has reached out. They all know that is what makes it possible for Council to be successful when they have good people in the Administration.

Mrs. Holtzmeier thanked the residents for entrusting her to represent them all three times her name appeared on the ballot. She said she is forever grateful for this experience of being a public servant. The truth is that iron sharpens iron and with wise leadership, Avon has a bright future ahead of it. She takes solace in knowing that she had a hand in helping to make it a better place to be able to put down roots, raise a family, get healthy, stay safe, grow old and be part of a community of people who not only care for one another but care about one another.

Mrs. Holtzmeier said she did the best she could to be a good councilperson, a good community member, a good advocate, and a good voice in the room, and maybe that's enough.

Mrs. Holtzmeier continued by saying, before she takes off her political hat and takes a step off the dais, she had these final words for her fellow councilors: "It has been a pleasure being with you over all these years. There is no doubt in my mind that every Councilperson cares a great deal for the City and is dedicated to doing what is best for the City and our residents. We have had private conversations leading up to this day, so they personally know her fondness and feelings toward them. She said she wanted to impart one last piece of advice for her fellow colleagues: Craig Witherspoon, Scott Radcliffe, Tony Moore, Dennis McBride, Jennifer Demaline and Brian Fischer; "What you do matters. Who you are as a person, matters. You may not change the world, but you bring your own special uniqueness to this position, your unique point of view, your personal and professional experience. And you are the only one who can do that. Be brave. Have courage to speak up when the room is at its most silent. Also have the courage to sit down and listen even closer when the room is at a fever pitch, and it is commonly both. And have the courage to say no when you believe it is necessary even if that means you are not in the majority on any given issue. You can do it."

Mrs. Holtzmeier thanked her husband of 25 years, Dr. Brant Holtzmeier and said, "You of all people, know most what it is like to put yourself out there in a high profile and public way. I could not have done this job without your support and encouragement in all the big ways and especially the millions of little ones."

Mrs. Holtzmeier thanked her three children Evan, Nathan and Quinn and said, "It has not always been easy for you to have a Councilwoman for a Mom, especially all the extra eyes on you that come with it. You have handled it with sincerity and humility. I cannot even count all the times we have been out and about together, and you have had to wait around when I have been

stopped by someone desperately needing to bend my ear on an issue or concern about Council business. I am sure that to you, that was very boring, but to them it was very important to borrow your Mom and allow them to speak their piece. Your patience will be rewarded.” She continued by saying, “You boys were just ages 4,7 and 10 years old when your Mom started putting our family name on signs and sticking them in yards all over town. Today you are 14, 17 and 20 and for you hearing about City Council in our house and discussing the business of Avon together has always felt very natural. Many civic lessons, both good and bad, were taught right at our own front door as well as discussed over many meals around our family dinner table. For so many of your friends and for most of your childhood you have grown up with a yard sign in their front yards for a female candidate for political office and thought nothing of it. For your generation, at least here in Avon, it has always been perfectly normal to see both men and women run for public office, and win!”

Mrs. Holtzmeier said she wanted to acknowledge and wish Council Elect Michelle Patton McBride and Council Elect Mary Berges the best in their future endeavors as the newest Council Members At-Large. She knows both will do an excellent job as that has been shown already by their current engagement in coming to Council Meetings and thoughtfully, in their own way, getting themselves up to speed so they can be productive on day one. Best wishes! She said that she hopes that one day when they are saying their goodbyes and giving thanks that they will feel the same peace and sense of accomplishment that she feels in this moment.

Mrs. Holtzmeier concluded by saying, “I will miss seeing you all every Monday and I'll miss the challenges as well as joys this role brings. But next Monday and the many Mondays after that while you are here, I will be somewhere else. Thank you for the ten years of camaraderie, collaboration, and memorable moments. It's been a pleasure to have played a small but important part in our City's 209-year history. May Avon continue to prosper. Thank you all so very much.”

Mr. Fischer said for Mrs. Holtzmeier every Monday will be like a fifth Monday from now on and he is very jealous.

AUDIENCE

There were no comments from the audience members.

ADJOURN: 8:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Holtzmeier and seconded by Mr. McBride to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Council, and the vote was: Mr. McBride, “yes”; Mr. Witherspoon, “yes”; Mrs. Demaline, “yes”; Mrs. Holtzmeier, “yes”; Mr. Fischer, “yes”.

The vote was 5 for and 0 against and the Chair declared the motion passed.