

OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes Monday,
January 8, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Rolf at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2024. Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call taken.

Present: Weston Rolf, Mayor
 Angie Bray Johnson, Council Member
 Paul Tradewell, Council Member
 John West, Council Member
 Mike Wiley, Council Member

Also Present: Loren Wickham, City Administrator
 Chuck Schwartz, MSA
 Rob Engler, Fire Chief
 Joe Sathe, City Attorney

1. MAYOR FOR A DAY CONTEST WINNER

Rylie Washburn was selected as the essay contest winner and won the opportunity to be Mayor for the day. Rylie led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance and Mayor Rolf read her essay to all present.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

No person came forward for the public forum portion of the meeting.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember West requested input from the City Attorney on Robert's Rules of Order and the process for addressing items that have already been decided by the Council and provided that items already decided should only be brought back when there has been a drastic change to the item. City Attorney Sathe generally agreed and specifically provided that a mechanism within Robert's Rules to address items previously considered was a motion to reconsider, where a prevailing councilmember can bring an item that has already been decided back for reconsideration.

Councilmember West noted that the proposal related to the Sheriff's contract was rejected by the Council 4-1 and then brought back at a subsequent meeting by the Councilmember who did not cast a vote on the prevailing side of the motion and approved by Council 4-1. Councilmember West stated that the question and following discussion were to gain clarity on the process and to achieve transparency.

4. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

Mayor Rolf requested to add the Planning Commission Chair to the agenda after the consulting Engineer for a brief conversation.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS PRESENTED WITH THAT ADDITION. All in favor.

5. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 11, 2023

Councilmember West requested a correction to the minutes under the 2024 Fee Schedule portion.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WITH THE REQUESTED CORRECTION. All in favor.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF 3RD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

The Council acknowledge the receipt of the report and that there would be no presentation at this time.

7. SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2023

A. Amendment #1 Patrol Services Contract

Mayor Rolf updated the Council on what has transpired since the last discussion on the ACSO contract. He commented that he has done everything he can do in the last five months to find a solution for everyone. He mentioned that things have gotten progressively more strained since this discussion item was heard at the County Board meeting. Lack of support from County Commissioners, name calling, and threats of criminal charges/fines/imprisonment were some of the things that came from that meeting. Mayor Rolf did ask that if anyone takes issue with something he personally is doing to come to him and bring it to his attention, to City Administrator Wickham or the City Attorney and not go to the County Attorney.

Councilmember Tradewell stated that he wants to put this situation behind them. He pointed out that it was never supposed to be about changing the existing contract and that it was just about making the additional payment of \$44,000. His in-favor vote was for the payment alone and not an amendment to the contract. He originally asked to amend the contract and the County was not in favor of that. He just wanted to pay the \$44,000 and be done with it.

Councilmember Bray Johnson commented that she had attended the Public Safety meeting that had this discussion item. She clarified that it was not an action item because the Council had already voted on the topic. She stated that she did ask a question of the County Attorney and it was because a question was asked earlier and a response was not received.

Councilmember Wylie asked what the point of having a contract with the County when they can change it when they want to. He is disappointed in some of the people he voted for. He reiterated that he thinks that talking to our City Attorney first is what should happen moving forward.

Councilmember West didn't add comment as he feels his position is clear.

Councilmember Bray Johnson posed an additional question regarding the email response from the County Attorney to the City Attorney on whether the email string was forwarded to the whole Council. She indicated that she feels that the situation was blown out of proportion following her question. She stated that she was asked at the Elected Officials dinner if the contract had been signed and if she knew the repercussions of not signing it. She in turn asked him what the repercussions were if it is not signed and if it has been signed.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE AMENDED CONTRACT WITH ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. Mayor Rolf and Councilmembers Wylie, Tradewell and Bray Johnson voted aye. Councilmember West voted nay. Motion carried 4-1.

Lieutenant Knotz addressed the Council regarding the December stats and calls.

8. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

- A. Resolution 24-001 Adopting 2024 Regular Council Meeting Schedule
- B. Resolution 24-002 Appointing the Acting Mayor
- C. Resolution 24-003 Designating City Depositories
- D. Resolution 24-004 Designating an Official Newspaper
- E. Resolution 24-005 Designating Official Posting Locations
- F. Resolution 24-006 Designating the City's Authorized Signers
- G. Resolution 24-007 Setting the 2024 Gopher Bounty
- H. Resolution 24-008 Appointing a City Attorney
- I. Resolution 24-009 Appointing a Prosecuting Attorney
- J. Resolution 24-010 Appointing a City Engineer
- K. Resolution 24-011 2024 Commission Assignments for Council Members
- L. Resolution 24-012 Appointing Marshall Anson and Alan Hall to the Planning Commission
- M. Resolution 24-013 Appointing Mickey Oman to the Parks Commission
- N. Resolution 24-016 Appointing Registered Municipal Advisor

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-001 ADOPTING 2024 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO NOMINATE PAUL TRADEWELL AS ACTING MAYOR AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-002 APPOINTING THE ACTING MAYOR. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-003 DESIGNATING CITY DEPOSITORIES. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-004 DESIGNATING AN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-005 DESIGNATING THE POSTING LOCATIONS. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-006 DESIGNATING THE CITY'S AUTHORIZED SIGNERS. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-007 SETTING THE 2024 GOPHER BOUNTY. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-008 APPOINTING CITY ATTORNEY. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-009 APPOINTING PROSECUTING ATTORNEY. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-010 APPOINTING CITY ENGINEER. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-011 2024 COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-012 APPOINTING MARSHALL ANSON AND ALAN HALL TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-013 APPOINTING MICKEY OMAN TO THE PARKS COMMISSION. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-016 APPOINTING REGISTERED MUNICIPAL ADVISOR. All in favor.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda contains several items, which are acted upon by the Council in one motion. Upon request by any one Councilmember, City staff, or the public a consent agenda item may be removed and put on the regular agenda for discussion and consideration.

- a. Claims and Accounts
- b. Resolution 24-014 Firefighter Step Increases
- c. Resolution 24-015 Tobacco License Renewals

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. All in favor.

10. CONSULTING ENGINEER

- a. Engineer Updates
- b. Resolution 24-017 Approving Plan and Bid Authorization for 2024 Street Improvements

City Engineer, Chuck Schwartz, stated that projects included in the request for bid will be mill and overlay for Quapaw Street, segments of 103rd, 204th lane and 194th. Overlay streets include the Preserve parking lot, Silverrod, Orchid, 195th Ave, 194th, 189th, 190th, Poppy and Heather. He stated that it will be a busy year for paving contractors.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-017 APPROVING PLAN AND BID AUTHORIZATION FOR 2024 STREET IMPROVEMENTS. All in favor.

11. PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIR BRADLEY JOHNSON

Chair Johnson addressed the Council to update and seek guidance on items to pursue in 2024. The process for rules and guidelines. He wants to continue to have an open process and be open to community feedback. He is looking to make a 2.5 acre lot size minimum. He would like to provide community education sessions to educate residents that are interested in the process and various issues that are brought forward to the Planning Commission and the City Council. He also would like to look ahead to the comprehensive planning process.

12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITMES

- a. Ratify URRWMO 2025 Budget
- b. Administrator Updates

Council member West gave an overview of the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization budget. He stated that it is under what was expected. It is estimated at \$66,000/year in their 10 year plan but is coming in at closer to \$40,000/year. The URRWMO was going to pass on \$3,000 to the City but instead will utilize those funds to work on their JPA.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO RATIFY THE 2025 URRWMO BUDGET. All in favor.

Administrator Wickham updated the Council on The Ponds. The City Engineer developed a concept plan for that area to be developed that can be marketed to developers. The plan includes 5 acres that has been retained and listed as park land but it could be used for a waste water plant if needed in the future. He indicated that the City is at the point of selling the property by putting out a RFP for developers or retaining a Realtor to market and sell the property. He mentioned that he met with the City Administrator of St. Francis and he is agreeable to an extension of the waste water treatment agreement.

Administrator Wickham mentioned that the winter newsletter is beginning to be worked on and that information on the potential City Hall/Fire Hall will be put in, including information about cost and an open house for community feedback. He updated Council that the address list was outdated and will be updated so more residents receive the newsletter.

He briefed Council on the upcoming Election dates.

13. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Council member Bray Johnson updated that the residents on Fox Street are still having difficulties with construction traffic.

She wondered if anyone wanted to donate to obtaining drone photography of the progress on the bridge construction.

Mayor Rolf spoke on the process of appointing new commission members. He proposed changing the process to allow two Council members and the City Administrator move forward with application and make a recommendation to Council instead of having a public interview at a Council meeting. Mayor Rolf would like to take \$200 out of the charitable gambling fund to donate to the St. Francis Madrigal Choir in appreciation of their participation in the tree lighting event.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO DONATE \$200 TO THE ST. FRANCIS MADRIGAL CHOIR FROM THE CHARITABLE GAMBLING FUND. All in favor.

City Administrator Wickham commented that staff will be bringing forward a resolution regarding the Fire Auxiliary donation at the next meeting.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO ADJOURN. Mayor Rolf, Councilor Wylie and Bray Johnson voted aye. Councilors Tradewell and West voted nay. Motion carried 3-2. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Billi Larson
City Clerk