

OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes Monday,
January 29, 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 29, 2024. Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call taken.

Present: Weston Rolf, Mayor
 Angie Bray Johnson, Council Member
 Paul Tradewell, Council Member
 (Remote)
 John West, Council Member
 Mike Wylie, Council Member
 (Remote until 6:29pm)

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

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Richard Klabachek – 19519 Lake George Blvd. Mr. Klabachek attended the presentation prior to the City Council meeting and gave the Council a couple quotes in relation to that presentation.

Senator Eric Lucero – Senator Lucero is visiting the cities in his Senate district before the session starts on March 12th. This will be his 10th year. He gave a brief background on last year's session. Some of the feedback he heard. He let the Council know that he sends out updates every Monday and the how to receive those updates.

Gene Hodel, 19828 Orchid St.NW – Mr. Hodel wanted to show support for hand counting of ballots.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember West commented on the presentation prior to the City Council meeting stating that he would like to discuss it further later in the meeting.

Mayor Rolf had the opportunity to meet with County attorney, Brad Johnson, and had a positive conversation.

Councilmember Bray Johnson stated that she would be attending the elected official's dinner the following night.

3. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 8, 2023

Mayor Rolf stated that he didn't like the way the Sheriff's contract conversation was written in the minutes. He commented that he wasn't asking to have the minutes changed and it was determined through further discussion that the section would be reviewed and pared down.

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

5. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF COMMISSION MINUTES

The Council acknowledge the receipt of the Planning Commission minutes from January 18, 2024 and the Parks Commission minutes from January 17, 2024.

6. PETITIONS, INDIVIDUALS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INQUIRIES

A. Jerry Auge, Assistant County Engineer

Mr. Auge was present looking for support to submit a federal grant application for a couple intersection projects in Oak Grove. Highway Safety Improvement Project (HSIP) requires a letter of Council support for applications. The projects he'd like to submit applications for are the intersection at Viking Blvd and Flamingo St. NW and the intersection at Flamingo St. NW and 181st Ave NW. Both intersections would be roundabouts. Improving the intersection at Viking Blvd and Flamingo has a 4.16 cost benefit ratio. Mr. Auge explained that spending the money to improve that intersection would save the community 4 times that amount spent on the project in accidents over the future of that intersection. The cost benefit ratio for Flamingo St. NW and 181st Ave NW is 6.56. These projects would be 2028 and 2029. The preliminary City cost for the Viking/Flamingo project is approximately \$35,000, which is assuming 90% of the project cost will be federally funded and local funds would be 10%.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO SEND LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ROUNDABOUT PROJECT. MOTION CARRIED. 4-0

B. Andy Schreder, Rum River Consultants

Mr. Schreder addressed the Council regarding Baseline, a new permitting software, that is being utilized in Oak Grove. There were questions from the members regarding the security of the cloud-based software and if there is still a paper option for those that may not utilize online platforms. Mr. Schreder also updated the Council regarding some change in the services they offer including Baseline but their ability to offer plumbing plan review. Rum River has added a master plumber to their staff. An ordinance amendment and a change to the fee schedule would be necessary for them to offer that service to the residents.

7. 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 24-019 Approving 2023 Pay Equity Report
- c. Resolution 24-023 IUP Renewal – Livingstone Kennel
- d. Resolution 24-022 IUP Renewal – Sterling Auto Detailing
- e. Resolution 24-021 IUP Renewal – RCA Specialty Hauling
- f. Resolution 24-018 Tobacco License Renewals
- g. Resolution 24-020 Appointing 2024 Election Judges
- h. Resolution 24-024 Declaring Surplus Equip

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED. 4-0.

8. FIRE

Councilmember West took a moment to comment on a letter received by Sandi Zimbeck regarding a recent medical call and he thanked Chief Engler and his team for their professionalism.

Fire Chief Engler updated council regarding the following items:

110 people have been trained through the HeartSafe program.

The Explorers program started with 10 people.

The new engine should be finished in March and the new officer's vehicle is now in service.

601 calls for service in 2023 with having a duty officer on scene with an average response time of 3:47.

Mayor Rolf asked if the Sheriffs are getting to the calls before the Fire Department staff and he was curious to see if the response time is better or worse. Chief Engler stated that he didn't keep track of who arrives first.

Councilmember West asked if the Chief intends to send anyone to the railroad training and the Chief does plan on sending people in March.

City Administrator Wickham asked for feedback on specs of the new engine and the City logos. There was a general consensus of the Council liking option 1 the best.

9. CONSULTING ENGINEER

a. Engineer Updates

Chuck Schwartz stated that there are two proposed subdivisions under review and they would add 1.75 miles of new roads.

Mayor Rolf asked about the Refuge development and cracking in new roads and if that was common.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he would take a drive and look at it but generally speaking it's common to have reflective cracking on roads after an overlay.

10. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Resolution 24-025 Accepting Donation – Fire Auxiliary

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO ACCEPT THE DONATION FROM THE FIRE AUXILIARY. MOTION CARRIED. 4-0.

b. Administrator Updates

Administrator Wickham updated that the winter newsletter is in production and that information about the new fire station/city hall project open house would be in February or March. New cost information for that project would be available in the newsletter and the open house. The new tax impact looks like \$137-\$500 based on home value. Mayor Rolf recommended having the open house in March.

Administrator Wickham stated that absentee voting has begun as of January 19th.

Code officials were present this evening and the plumbing plan review service would be a benefit for residents that would speed up the process and that there will be some fee schedule amendments coming.

Administrator Wickham stated he will be meeting with the prosecuting attorney regarding an Interim Use Permit that was revoked last year.

Mayor Rolf invited ISD 15 school board member, Annette West, to discuss some updates. She stated that there are a lot of negotiations district wide. She stated that book reviews in the buildings and that parents and community members have been pulling books that are inappropriate and that there are several Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests on the books.

Councilmember Bray Johnson asked about the policy that was passed about what books come in to the buildings. Mrs. West stated that the policy was passed but going back for review because there is concern that there is no community involvement in the process. The Superintendent, two administrative staff and one media specialist that approve the books. ISD 15 doesn't have a media specialist.

Mayor Rolf invited Jeff Pilon, Mayor of Nowthen, to the podium. Mayor Pilon stated that every year Representative Elkins works with Housing First to get an affordable housing bill amendment passed that would eliminate the exemption that Nowthen and Oak Grove have for Met Council directives and control.

11. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Councilmember West asked if the Council gave direction to the Planning Commission regarding lot size standard.

Mayor Rolf discussed the Anoka County Election Integrity Team (ACEIT) presentation that was held prior to the Council meeting. He asked for a response from the City Administrator and City Clerk regarding cost and factors that would go into a hand count for elections.

Councilmember West stated that his opinion is that cost is a factor but it shouldn't be a big factor. What it sets is an example that the Council cares about voting integrity. He too would like the impact from Staff so the Council can make a decision.

City Administrator Wickham indicated that Staff could have a response by the February 12th council meeting.

Councilmember Bray Johnson commented that she would like to see this move forward and she thinks it's great for the city to be a leader in integrity. She also commented that she knows people in the community want the Council to move forward with this.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED. 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Billi Larson
City Clerk

