

OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 26, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Rolf at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 26, 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 Wylie, Council Member

Also Present: Loren Wickham, City Administrator
Billi Larson, City Clerk
Chuck Schwartz, City Engineer
Joe Sathe, City Attorney
Matt Anderson, Public Works
Rob Engler, Fire Chief

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rolf announced Wednesday, September 4th there will be a “Meet the Candidate” forum from 6:00-8:00pm that includes Candidates Mike Wylie, Paul Tradewell, Kevin Shepherd and County Commissioner Candidates Randy Nelson and Mike Gamache.

2. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

Administrator Wickham requested to add Resolution 24-088 to accept a donation for soccer nets to the consent agenda as item G.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. 5-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Mayor Rolf opened the Public Forum. Hearing none he closed the public forum.

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

- A. Budget Work Session – July 29, 2024
- B. City Council Minutes – July 29, 2024

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES FOR JULY 29, 2024, AND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JULY 29, 2024. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMMISSION MINUTES

- A. Parks Commission – August 21, 2024
Mayor Rolf and Council acknowledged the submitted Parks Commission minutes.

6. 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. Renewal of Interim Use Permit (IUP) for Powers at 22000 Norway Street NW – Resolution 24-085
- C. Resolution 24-087 Ratifying the City Council’s approval of the minor subdivision with variance for Jan Jacoby Carlson as approved in Resolution 24-140
- D. Resignation – Gallagher – Resolution 24-080
- E. Resignation – Schaar – Resolution 24-081
- F. Crack Sealing – Resolution 24-083
- G. Resolution 24-088 Donation \$500 from Patriot Homes, LLC for Soccer Nets.

Council member Bray Johnson requested to pull item G from the Consent Agenda.

Council member West requested to pull items D and E from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A, B, C, F. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0).

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM C, D. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0).

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM G. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0).

Council member West wanted to give thanks to Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Schaar on their service to the City of Oak Grove and wish them well on their retirements.

Council member Bray Johnson wanted to thank Jason Kelly of Patriot Homes, LLC for donating to the funds to the City to buy soccer nets.

7. SHERIFF’S REPORT

- A. July Report
- B. 2025 Law Enforcement Contract

Lt. Andy Knotz provided the call statistics for July that included:

300 Calls for Service, 3 thefts, 6 damage to property, 5 personal injuries, 35 medical, 16 animal, 4 felonies, 1 DUI, 1 Drug, 1 Domestic, 187 Traffic stops that resulted in 44 traffic arrests.

Administrator Wickham introduced the 2025 Law Enforcement Contract. He stated that the gross cost of service is \$999,037 minus \$33,264 in State Aid for a net cost of \$965,773. This amount does include a proposed 5% increase for deputies; however, they have not concluded negotiations.

He provided the final costs for 2024 which were a gross cost of \$947,743 minus \$32,768 in state aid, minus \$44,032 in contract increase for a net cost of \$869,943.

Council members Wylie, Tradewell and West all stated their disappointment that the request for options for reduced coverage hours was not considered when proposing the 2025 contract.

Mayor Rolf stated that he didn't think that he would have supported a 20-hour coverage contract. He also voiced concern regarding the increase in the contract cost.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE 2025 LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. 4-1 (WEST).

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Proposed Amendment to Ordinance 2023-02 Authorizing a Study Imposing a Moratorium on the Establishment and Operation of Cannabis Businesses in the City of Oak Grove – Ordinance 2024-04

Attorney Joe Sathe introduced the Ordinance amendments to Ordinance 2023-02 and the changes to the state level license process for these businesses prior to the opening of the public hearing.

6:30pm Mayor Rolf opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments he closed the hearing at 6:31.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2024-04. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0).

Mr. Sathe provided a memo to Council regarding the Initial Cannabis Regulatory Decisions that included areas of Zoning, Buffers, Registration, Compliance Checks and Operations.

Planning Commission Chair, Brad Johnson, suggested the Council consider "Ingestible vs Non-Ingestible" when deciding on adopting buffers for businesses selling intoxicating hemp products vs topical non-intoxicating products.

Mr. Sathe suggested bringing back a separate ordinance for zoning only. This was brought to the Planning Commission and now he is seeking feedback from the Council. Chair Johnson indicated that a streamlined approach is what the Planning Commission was looking for.

The Council listened to Mr. Sathe describe the registration process and all concluded that they would like to keep the administrative and zoning authority. The Council indicated that they would look at allowing 1 or 0 licenses. While discussing the potential application process it was discussed that using the language of “complete and qualified” for applications to avoid application of a prospective nature.

They discussed that gas stations would not be eligible for the cannabis registration but would be for hemp items.

There was discussion around limiting hours of operation consistent with liquor stores and tobacco license holders.

There was discussion about if there should be a Cannabis event approval process and what standards would be imposed. There was a question posed about if the City can prohibit these temporary events. Mr. Sathe stated that he would look into the ability to prohibit these events altogether.

There was also discussion to consider making compliance with sign code a condition of registration, and design standards that would be applicable to these businesses. Consider regulations related to hemp product use on-site, farmers markets, other community events.

Lt. Knotz inquired about daycare centers. Attorney Sathe indicated that daycare is undefined and that he uses the term “licensed daycare”. Lt. Knotz posed the question “what if a home daycare wants to set up within 1000 feet?” Lt Knotz said that there is a lot to consider because once it’s there it’s hard to push out.

Council member Bray Johnson inquired about growers and the buffers that come with that type of business.

There will be more to come at following meetings.

9. CONSULTING ENGINEER

- A. Final Pay Request for Poppy Street NW/St. Francis State Aid Project – Resolution 24-086
- B. Engineer Updates

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE THE PAY REQUEST BY RESOLUTION 24-086. SECOND BY COUNCIL WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0).

Engineer Chuck Schwartz updated Council on the ongoing Anoka County projects. He stated that he is waiting on closing documents for the 2024 Road Improvement Projects and should have the pay requests in front of Council on September 9th. Mayor Rolf asked about a mid-block crosswalk on 221st Ave NW between County Road 9 and Zion Parkway. Council member Wylie asked about when the trail improvements would occur.

Council member Tradewell inquired about any updates from the County. Administrator Wickham provided that Planning Commissioner Tjepkes asked if we can add signage to the roundabout identifying Oak Grove.

10. FIRE

- A. Request for Purchase – Personal Protective Equipment Helmets, Gloves, Boots – Resolution 24-082
- B. Request for Purchase – Recruitment Video – Resolution 24-084

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-082. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0).

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-084 USING GAMBLING FUND. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0).

Fire Chief Rob Engler gave the following updates to Council:
Mock OSHA inspection with Safe Assure
FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant (AFG) has been applied for and still running through September.
The HeartSafe Program will train public works on AED
Engine 11 was sold on Govdeals.com
Two new firefighters have been interviewed and will be recommended for hire

The statistics for the month of June included:
4 Building fire
4 MISC
30 Medical calls
7 Motor vehicle accidents
4 Public assistance calls
53 total calls for the month of June
369 for the year

11. CITY ATTORNEY

A. City Attorney Updates

City Attorney, Joe Sathe, did not have any specific updates but indicated a want to comment on items in the administrator updates.

12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

- A. Sewer and Water Agreements – City of St. Francis**
- B. Code Enforcement Update**
- C. Lake George Parkway Update**
- D. Administrator Updates**

Administrator Wickham discussed that he reached out to the property owner East of The Ponds to see if he was still interested in hooking up to the sewer and water systems when he develops his property in the future.

Administrator Wickham updated Council that deadlines for open code enforcement cases are approaching and that he would have more information on September 9. Rum River Consultants is willing to make a presentation/update on code enforcement at an upcoming meeting.

Administrator Wickham spoke about a specific code enforcement case at 21540 Linnett St. NW that has been ongoing that stemmed from an IUP revocation. Mr. Sathe indicated the next step would be nuisance abatement where charges can be charged back to the property owner.

An ongoing issue with Lake George Parkway updated to state additional emails have been received regarding a second pontoon being moored in the right of way at Lake George Parkway. The City is taking deliberate steps to identify who the boat owners are and to contact them. The property has been surveyed and staff will bring back some options at an upcoming meeting.

Administrator Wickham stated the Fall Newsletter will be out this week that will include the “Meet the Candidates” forum information and candidate bios.

In closing, Administrator Wickham stated there are funds in the budget for planning services and he will be reaching out to firms for quotes and bringing information back to an upcoming meeting.

13. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

A. City Hall/Fire Station Building Project

Council discussed what the next step in the process of deciding on the City Hall/Fire Station Building Project. It was determined the next step is to pass a resolution.

Mike Franchino – 501 198th Ln NW

Mr. Franchino addressed the Council regarding being in favor of the Fire Station project but not the City Hall portion at this time. He stated that he learned a lot from attending the open house.

Council Member Wylie responded that it was discussed originally to have two separate proposals but the Council collectively decided it was more fiscally responsible to combine the projects.

Mayor Rolf discussed the two projects and some of the deficiencies that City Hall has that made the decision to combine the projects more logical than leaving them separate.

Council member West stated that this conversation has been taking place for a long time and it just made sense to do both instead of retrofitting the City Hall later.

Council member Tradewell stated that the Council believes it would cost even more to separate the projects.

Mr. Franchino further stated that doing the projects in phases might be beneficial. Phase one would be the Fire Station and phase two would be the City Hall portion.

Brad Johnson – 3865 193rd LN NW

Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to see the Council ask lots of questions of the architect because the structure for the Fire Station should be built to a different standard than the City Hall.

Mayor Rolf gave his final thoughts that five years ago he believed this project was not necessary but after all the research and meetings he warmed up to the idea.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO DIRECT STAFF TO BRING BACK ENGAGEMENT AND FINANCING PROPOSALS TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE FIRE STATION/CITY HALL PROJECT. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0).

Council member West stated that he spoke to Director Matt Anderson about getting access control card readers on the new building at Public Works.

Council member West inquired if the City was a member of MNUA (Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association). Administrator Wickham stated that he believed the City was.

Mayor Rolf discussed election integrity and the steps the Council has taken to ensure that. He stated that he thinks it's time to talk about getting rid of the pollpads.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2024, at 6:00pm

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL. MOTION CARRIED. (5-1 WEST) MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:17PM.