

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, September 09, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Rolf at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 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, Engineer  
Joe Sathe, Attorney  
Karri Thorsten, Finance  
Matt Anderson, Director Public Works  
Rob Engler, Fire Chief

**1. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council member West announced that the pancake breakfast will be hosted by Oak Grove Fire Department on October 6, 2024 from 8:00am to 12:00pm

Council member Bray Johnson announced the Fall Recycling Day on Saturday, September 14, 2024 at City Hall.

Mayor Rolf thanked the Fire Department and Public Works for their hard work during the storms. He also stated that there is only one Deputy on duty in Oak Grove “ and the Fire Fighters are on call.

Council member Bray Johnson thanked City Administrator Wickham and Brad Johnson for their work on “Meet the Candidate” night.

**2. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA**

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION OF RESOLUTION 24-094. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. 5-0.**

**3. PROCLAMATIONS**

A. Constitution Week Proclamation requested by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Anoka Chapter – Proclamation 24-01

Mayor Rolf stated that September 17- September 23 is Constitution Week. He thanked resident Renee Reese-Murray for her efforts on this.

**MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE PROCLAMATION -24-01. SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

**4. PUBLIC FORUM**

Brad Letourneau – 19956 Ibis Street

Mr. Letourneau thanked the Council for their attendance at the Veteran’s Memorial. He also asked Council for guidance on his request to have a cable access show about Oak Grove.

Mayor Rolf and Council member West asked for more information about what he wants to do and asked City Administrator Wickham about the franchise agreement with Comcast.

Brad Johnson – 3865 193<sup>rd</sup> Lane

Mr. Johnson spoke about the “Meet the Candidates” forum he hosted at City Hall and thanked the Candidates and City Administrator Wickham.

Derek Lind – Ramsey, MN

Mr. Lind addressed Council as a representative for the Anoka County Elections Integrity Team. He thanked the Council for being the first to request post-election reviews. He brought up concerns about the electronic poll pads and would like the Council to use the paper voter lists.

Nick Gilland – 21126 Cedar Dr.

Mr. Gilland addressed the Council about his concerns about the tornado sirens in Oak Grove. He spoke about the research he has done.

Mayor Rolf spoke about the sirens in Oak Grove and the surrounding cities that reach the residents of Oak Grove also.

**5. SHERIFFS REPORT**

- A. Anoka County Sheriff Brad Wise
- B. Monthly Report – August

Lieutenant  gave his monthly report that included the following stats:

281 total call

1 assault

1 Personal Injury

34 medical calls

132 traffic stops

Anoka County Sheriff Brad Wise addressed the Council about the 2025 Law Enforcement Contract. He wanted to discuss the increases that have impacted the Oak Grove budget.

Mayor Rolf asked about Sheriff Wise’s choice to not consider the 20-hour contract.

Sheriff Wise said that it was just the logistics of scheduling the deputies. They work 12 hours, so it doesn’t work to have a 20-hour coverage.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Budget Work Session – August 26,2024
- B. City Council Minutes – August 26, 2024

Council member Bray Johnson requested the spelling of two names be corrected.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

**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. Quarter 2 – Financial Report
- C. Resolution 24-094 – Charitable Gambling Request, Oak Roads.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

**8. FINANCE**

- A. Resolution 24-089 approving 2025 proposed general fund budget, 2025 preliminary property tax levy
- B. Resolution 24-090 authorizing the preliminary EDA levy for 2025

Ms. Thorsten discussed the City’s total net tax capacity for the years 2024 payable and estimated 2025 payable are \$15,755,655 and \$15,968,201.

An increase of \$212,546, or 1.35%, in tax capacity.

The increase is caused to residential homestead properties in new developments and an increase in assessed values of current residential properties. City Management proposes an increase to the City levy of \$636,233, to balance the General fund budget, maintain capital improvements in capital funds and levy new debt for a new fire and city hall. The expected new debt service levy comprises \$896,455 which is an increased amount from the last work session. The City is looking at an 18.44% levy increase with a tax rate of 25.66%.

Mayor Rolf asked about the increase for Finance services. It is an increase of \$5,675.

Additional expenditures included increased legal fees due to code enforcement and police contract.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-089 APPROVING THE 2025 PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET, AND 2025 PRELIMINARY**

**PROPERTY TAX LEVY. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO AUTHORIZE THE PRELIMINARY EDA LEVY FOR 2025. SECOND BY WEST. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

**9. FIRE STATION/CITY HALL BUILDING PROJECT DISCUSSION**

- A. Architectural Design Services
- B. Design/Bid/Build vs. Construction Manager Agreements
- C. Reimbursement Resolution 24-091

Architect Randy Engel reviewed the architectural design process and proposed schedule. Mr. Engel presented the estimated project cost for new fire station 1, new city hall, construction costs and contingency costs. Total project amount is estimated at \$14,000,000.

Mr. Engel also discussed the 5-Phase project design and construction process.

Administrator Wickham presented the reimbursement resolution. The reimbursement resolution declares that the City will bond for the project and reimburse itself expenditures related to the project from bond proceeds.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-091. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

**10. CONSULTING ENGINEER**

- A. Ordinance 24-092 2024 Street Improvement Pay Request #3
- B. Engineer Updates

Consulting Engineer, Chuck Schwartz, spoke about the signage of the roundabout and pedestrian crossing. He also spoke about the County extending the trail.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-092 2024 STREET IMPROVEMENT PAY REQUEST 3. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

**11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

- A. Resolution – 24-093 Authorizing purchase of a dump truck with plow equipment

Director Matt Anderson proposed his request for a new dump truck with plow equipment.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-093 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW EQUIPMENT. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL. MOTION CARRIED. (5-0)**

**12. CITY ATTORNEY**

A. Attorney Updates

Attorney Sathe updated the Council on enforcement actions. Linnett property and the Lake George pontoon issue.

**13. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Administrator Updates

Administrator Wickham stated that St. Francis Youth Hockey would like to put a banner on the outside rink.

The City has \$5,000 budgeted in 2025 to upgrade the hardware and software in the tornado warning sirens in the City.

**14. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES**

Mayor Rolf spoke about his concerns with the electronic poll pads. City Clerk Larson spoke about the effectiveness of the poll pads and that there is a JPA with the County that allows them to decide if the poll pads are used.

**15. CLOSED SESSION – ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE**

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, subd. 3 (c) (3).

**MOTION MADE BY MAYOR ROLF TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 13D.05, SUBDIVISION 3(b) FOR ATTORNEY-CLIENT PROTECTED DISCUSSION REGARDING THREATENED LITIGATION FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES REGARDING MRTA, LLC'S TIMBERS HIDEAWAY, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).**

**THE CITY COUNCIL WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 8:38PM.**

**THE REGULAR MEETING RESUMED AT 9:36 PM.**

*The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 30, 2024, at 6:00pm*

**16. ADJOURNMENT - 9:36PM**