

OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 30, 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 30, 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 (Absent)

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

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rolf announced the pancake breakfast for Oak Grove Fire Department on Sunday, October 6th from 8:00am – 12:00pm.

Mayor Rolf commented that the Council voted on the preliminary budget. He stated that the budget can only go down from here and not up. He stated that Oak Grove is the 4th lowest in the County and if the Fire Department/City Hall project was not included the City would have seen a decrease. The Council landed on a rate of 18.44%.

2. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

Administrator Wickham requested to add Election update as item 10 on the agenda.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA WITH THE ADDITION. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL. MOTION CARRIED. 4-0.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Carolyn and Pat Graiziger – 21260 S Lake George Dr

Mrs. Graiziger voiced some concerns regarding the city owned property next to her house on lake George. Administrator Wickham gave an update that the ongoing issue of boats mooring in front of that property have been identified and a letter sent to the registered owners.

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

A. Budget Work Session – September 9, 2024

B. City Council Minutes – September 9, 2024

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE THE BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, AND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2024. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED (4-0).

5. 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 24-095 Election Judges – November 5, 2024
- C. Resolution 24-96 Closing Escrow Accounts
- D. Resolution 24-097 Conditional Offers of Employment Fire
- E. Resolution 24-098 Conditional Offer of Employment Public Works
- F. Resolution 24-099 Minor Subdivision – Stahl/Jones

Mayor Rolf asked if Council member Bray Johnson should vote on the Consent Agenda items or if item B should be pulled as it includes Council member Bray Johnson getting approved as an election judge. Advice from City Attorney Joe Sathe was that it could be pulled or Council member Bray Johnson could abstain from voting.

Mayor Rolf pulled item B from the Consent Agenda.

Shawn Detterman – 22580 Holly Street

Mr. Detterman expressed concerns with the conditions of approval for Resolution 24-099. Mayor Rolf stated that he would be happy to discuss any concerns but not during the meeting. He encouraged the resident to call him or any member of the Council after the meeting.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A, C, D, E, F. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL. MOTION CARRIED. (4-0).

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM B. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. MOTION CARRIED. (3-0) (1 ABSTAIN – BRAY JOHNSON)

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. Anoka County Highway Department – Project Updates
Michelle Pritchard, Design Engineer from the Anoka County Highway Department was present to discuss the street projects.

Jerry Auge, Assistant County Engineer, presented the Anoka County Highway Department 5-year program. He commented that there are three projects that were bid separately. Those projects are:

Viking Blvd Concrete Paving Surface from TH 47 to the Rum River Bridge.

Rum River Blvd Roundabout.

Rum River Bridge.

Upcoming projects:

Rum River Blvd/Seelye Brook Bridge Replacement (2025)

Sims Road Culvert and Soil Excavation (2025)

Lake George Blvd and 221st Ave Intersection Improvements (2028)

Flamingo Street Reconstruction (2028) (181st to Viking Blvd)

Council member Tradewell inquired how it went from County Road 9 can go from a two-way highway but now didn't score well enough for a roundabout.

Council member West commented that he thought the way the County has been managing traffic during the construction of the roundabout was brilliant.

Council member Bray Johnson commented that the traffic control has been very efficient.

7. FIRE STATION/CITY HALL BUILDING PROJECT DISCUSSION

A. Architectural Design Services Agreement – Status Update

Administrator Wickham updated the Council that Staff is still working on the architectural design services agreement and will have an agreement for approval at the next meeting.

Administrator Wickham asked to form a project committee to that will meet to work on project design. There will be 2-3 meetings per month 2-3 hours each. It was discussed that council members West and Tradewell will sit on that committee. This committee will bring back information to Council during the 5-phases of construction.

8. CONSULTING ENGINEER

A. Engineer Updates

Engineer Chuck Schwartz updated Council that Matt and he have had initial discussions about road improvements for next year. Soon 2025 improvements will be brought forward.

Mayor Rolf asked about the pedestrian crossing on 221st. Mr. Schwartz will bring forward a memo that will outline some alternatives for the crossing at the October 14th meeting.

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT

A. Fire Chief Updates

B. Resolution 24-100 Purchase and Installation of Outdoor Mounted AEDs for HeartSafe Program

The statistics for the month of June included:

3 Building fires

2 MISC

35 Medical calls

2 Motor vehicle accidents

23 Public assistance calls

81 total calls for the month of June

452 calls for the year

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-100 USING GAMBLING FUND. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. (4-0).

10. ELECTION

A. Poll Pad Discussion

Mayor Rolf stated that there has been a lot of discussion regarding the use of the poll pads in the upcoming election. He indicated his desire to return to the paper registration books.

Brian Carufel -21141 Rum River Blvd

Mr. Carufel voiced concern that the Council wants to use the paper registration books instead of the electronic poll pads. He inquired the reason why the Council would want to do that when there has been no evidence that the poll pads have been a problem.

Mayor Rolf spoke regarding his reasons for wanting to terminate the use of poll pads. He doesn't feel that anything has been proven to be wrong but he doesn't know that anything hasn't been wrong either.

Administrator Wickham and Attorney Joe Sathé spoke to Council regarding the position of Anoka County and the Joint Powers Agreement that was adopted in 2022. It is the County's position that they will not agree to the termination of use of the poll pads as the election administration authority. They spoke regarding a stand-alone agreement to obtain the poll pads from 2018 and the 2022 Joint Power Agreement (JPA).

Robert Kirchner – Coon Rapids

Mr. Kirchner is a representative of Anoka County Elections Integrity Team (ACEIT). He stated that he was not familiar with the 2022 JPA and believes that the only agreement in place with the county for the poll pads was from 2018.

Council member West stated that he would like to move forward with the long version of the resolution ACEIT created to be approved and if Anoka County has an issue with it they will let the Council know.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION 24-101 TO TERMINATE FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC ROSTER SYSTEM AND RETURN TO USING ONLY PAPER POLL BOOKS. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. (4-0)

City Administrator Wickham asked to clarify which version of the resolution Council intended to approve, the long or short version. Attorney Sathe stated that a motion to reconsider and clarify would provide the proper procedural step.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE LONG VERSION OF RESOLUTION 24-101 TO TERMINATE FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC ROSTER SYSTEM AND RETURN TO USING ONLY PAPER POLL BOOKS. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. (4-0)

11. CITY ATTORNEY

A. 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 & DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Attorney Updates

Administrator Wickham stated he would like to have Claire Stickler from MSA Professional Services review the 2050 Met Council Regional Plan and develop comments to submit to the Met Council during the public comment period for the record. He noted she has done similar work for other cities.

There will be a public hearing on October 14, 2024 to consider certifying delinquent utility accounts. Residents with delinquent accounts have been notified about the upcoming public hearing.

Mayor Rolf publicly thanked Planning Commission Chair, Brad Johnson, for his work on behalf of the City.

13. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Council member West discussed the tree lighting event (12/6) and the planning that is already taking place.

Council member Bray Johnson inquired about purchasing soccer nets for both the City Hall park and the Ponds Park.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 14, 2024, at 6:00pm

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL. MOTION CARRIED. (4-0) MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:19PM.