

OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 14, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Acting Mayor Tradewell at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2024. Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call taken.

Present: Paul Tradewell, Acting Mayor
John West, Council Member
Angie Bray Johnson, Council Member
Mike Wylie, Council Member

Weston Rolf, Mayor (Absent)

Also Present: Loren Wickham, City Administrator
Billi Larson, City Clerk
Joe Sathe, City Attorney

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member West announced the tree lighting event is Friday, December 6th from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm. There will be four food trucks this year.
Council Member West announced there was a good turnout for the Pancake Breakfast for the fire department.

2. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

Administrator Wickham requested to add Resolution 24-109 The Ponds Sewer and Water agreements with the City of Saint Francis under Administration.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. MOTION CARRIED. (4-0).

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Acting Mayor Tradewell asked for anyone wishing to speak hearing none, closed the public forum.

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES

A. City Council Minutes – September 30, 2024

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 30,2024. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED (4-0).

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMMISSION MINUTES

- A. Planning Commission – September 19, 2024
- B. Parks Commission – September 26, 2024

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. Resolution 24-104 Aspen Glenn Final Plat
- C. Resolution 24-105 Hiring Temporary On-call Public Works Employee – Curt Olsen
- D. Resolution 24-106 Hiring Temporary On-call Public Works Employee – Rob Engler
- E. Resolution 24- 107 Annual Step Increase – City Clerk Larson
- F. Resolution 24-108 Closing Escrow Account

Council member West asked to pull item A. Claims and Accounts since his company IPS has an invoice for services to be paid on the claims list.

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

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM A. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. (3-0-1) COUNCIL MEMBER WEST ABSTAINED.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Resolution 24-103 Delinquent Utilities

Acting Mayor Tradewell opened the public hearing at 6:06pm. Hearing no requests to speak, he closed the public hearing.

Council member Wylie inquired if staff were working with the high dollar amount accounts. Administrator Wickham stated yes and they will work with customers on payment plans up until the time of certification.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-103. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED. (4-0)

8. SHERIFF'S REPORT

- A. Report

Lieutenant Andy Knotz gave the stats for the month of September that included:

- 2 Thefts
- 5 Assaults

4 Damage to property
31 Medical calls
19 Animal complaints
198 Traffic stops
44 Traffic citations

Council member Wylie wanted to recognize that he has noticed the deputies out and about more frequently.

Council member Bray Johnson stated people are speeding through the roundabout and noticed that the deputies have stopped people in that location several times recently and thanked them for their work.

9. CITY ATTORNEY

A. Updates

City Attorney Joe Sathe had no specific updates for the Council.

10. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Resolution 24-102 Charitable Gambling
- B. Architectural Services Agreement Update
- C. Code Enforcement Update
- D. Election Update
- E. Administrator Updates

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-102 CHARITABLE GAMBLING REQUESTS. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. (4-0)

City Attorney Sathe updated council that the architectural services agreement has been received back from the firm and that they are working on coming to an agreement.

City Attorney Sathe confirmed that the nuisance abatement code needs a public hearing on November 12th on the open enforcement case on Linnett Street.

Administrator Wickham updated the Council on the open enforcement case on 1003 Sims Road. The update from Rum River Consultants indicates that the motor homes have been removed and an extension given until October 16.

Item D – Resolution 24-109 The Ponds Water and Sewer Agreements with the City of Saint Francis.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 24-109 THE PONDS WATER AND SEWER AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF ST. FRANCIS. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. MOTION CARRIED. (4-0)

Administrator Wickham provided the response from Anoka County regarding the use of the poll pads.

City Attorney Sathe reported that he spoke with the Anoka County Attorney's office and the result of terminating the 2018 agreement regarding electronic rosters with the County was that the electronic poll rosters needed to be returned to the County and that they would be given directly to the election judges on election day instead of being maintained by the City Clerk. City Attorney Sathe advised that the City Council could rescind Resolution 24-101 which would result in the electronic poll pads remaining in the City's possession resulting in consistent and uniform election administration processes. City Attorney Sathe provided information on potential impacts of keeping Resolution 24-101 in place and information on the role and training of election judges.

Curt Hayden, 3016 191st Ave NW, Oak Grove head election judge stated poll pads have been a huge time saver, work saver and make for easier access for voters to get in vote quicker. He requested more election judges if the council sends the poll pads back to Anoka County.

Council members discussed different scenarios.

Amy Watton, 20371 Quapaw St. NW gave her opinion about the pollpads and elections agreements with Anoka County and asked the council to stand up for liberty.

Louise Woodberry, 3133 191st Ave NW asked for clarification regarding what she could do as a head judge in regards to poll pads.

City Clerk Larson expressed concerns about losing election judges.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO SEND THE POLLPADS BACK TO ANOKA COUNTY. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED. (3-1)

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Council member Bray Johnson discussed her issues with the variance application to keep an existing accessory building in the Aspen Glenn project.

Council member Bray Johnson advised people to not drive distracted and stay off your phone

Council member West stated he is proud of the council for being able to dissent on votes. He stated a lot of times the council votes 5-0 but when things are important we all have our individual beliefs and its ok to dissent.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 28, 2024, at 6:00pm

MOTION MADE BY ACTING MAYOR TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST to go into closed session pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b) for an attorney-client protected discussion with the City's attorney regarding threatened litigation from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding MRTA, LLC's Timbers Hideaway development. MOTION CARRIED (5-0).

THE CITY COUNCIL WENT INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 7:30 PM.

THE REGULAR MEETING RESUMED AT 7:58 PM.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. SECOND BY ACTING MAYOR TRADEWELL. COUNCIL MEMBER WEST VOTED NAY. MOTION CARRIED. (3-1) MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loren Wickham
City Administrator