

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, November 25, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Acting Mayor Tradewell at 6:00 PM on Monday, November 25, 2024. Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call taken.

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

Also Present: Loren Wickham, City Administrator  
Joe Sathe, City Attorney  
Rob Engler, Fire Chief

**1. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council member West announced the Tree Lighting Event for December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Food trucks will open at 5:30 PM.

Council member Bray Johnson announced a recruitment dinner for the firefighters on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. There will be a toy and food drive for Northern Anoka County Emergency Services.

Mayor Rolf mentioned essays for Mayor of the Day are due on December 13<sup>th</sup> with the League of Minnesota Cities. The City is doing a contest as well and the winner will receive a gift card, be able to call the Council meeting to order, and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA**

Administrator Wickham explained that the City Attorney was not present yet and suggested to switch Items 6 and 7.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS REVISED. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

Kathy Coughlin – 2613 201<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW

Ms. Coughlin asked the Council to pass an Ordinance banning the sale of puppies and kittens in Oak Grove pet stores. Since there are no pet stores in the City, it would prevent future potential problems. She noted that 50% of US households own a dog, while about 10,000 puppy mills are trying to satisfy some of the market. A puppy mill is a commercial dog breeding facility that prioritizes profit over the health and welfare of the dogs. Most pet store puppies come from puppy mills so banning the sale closes the pipeline. She stated that government inspections are lax and it is common for breeders to stay in business without any consequences even when they have been sighted with multiple violations. She explained that large mills can pollute the environment with offensive odors, noise, and water contamination. She urged the Council to

pass a humane pet store ordinance as 500 cities in two states have already passed a similar ordinance.

**4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES**

- A. City Council Minutes – November 12, 2024

Council member West requested a correction on page 8, second paragraph, to state “Rum River consultants” instead of “Upper Rum River Watershed Management”.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 12, 2024 AS AMENDED. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

**5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMMISSION MINUTES**

- A. Parks Commission – October 16, 2024
- B. Parks Commission – November 20, 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 24-126 Donation for Lighting Event– Agape Moment
- C. Resolution 24-127 Donation for Lighting Event – Jake & Nicole Humphry – Electric Sign & Lighting, Inc.
- D. Resolution 24-128 Administrator Performance Review
- E. Resolution 24-129 Step Increase Public Works Director
- F. Resolution 24-130 Deputy Clerk Performance Review
- G. Resolution 24-131 Fire Chief Performance Review

Mayor Rolf pulled item A from the Consent Agenda.

Council member Bray Johnson pulled item B and C from the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS D, E, F AND G. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

- A. Claims and Accounts

Mayor Rolf referenced the \$1,000 for fire explorers and asked what it was for. Fire Chief Engler replied it is for a car fire stimulator and was purchased with the funds for the Fire Explorer program. Fire Explorers is under the budget and will remain under.

**MOTION MADE BY MAYOR ROLF TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM A. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

- B. Resolution 24-126 Donation for Lighting Event – Agape Moment
- C. Resolution 24-127 Donation for Lighting Event – Jake & Nicole Humphry – Electric Sign & Lighting. Inc

Councilmember Bray Johnson thanked Jake and Nicole Humphry from Electric Sign and Lighting, Inc. and Agape Moments Photography for donating to the lighting event. She noted that Agape Moments is Mayor Rolf and his wife’s business.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS B AND C. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

**7. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- A. Fire Chief Updates

The statistics for the month of October included:

- 6 Building fires
- 26 Medical incidents
- 3 Motor vehicle accidents
- 1 Rescue
- 1 Gas leak
- 3 Public assistance calls
- 13 Dispatched and cancelled
- 2 Special types
- 55 total calls for the month of October
- 516 calls for the year

Fire Chief Engler announced the food drive is December 7<sup>th</sup> and the recruitment dinner is December 11<sup>th</sup>. The cabinets for Heart Safe are ordered and after they are mounted. The City will install an AED at frequented business in the City. Once that is complete the City will meet the requirements for the Heart Safe designated community.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-132 REQUEST TO PURCHASE COMPRESSION SYSTEMS TO AID CPR. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

**8. PUBLIC HEARING**

- A. Ordinance No. 24-05 Ordinance Establishing Regulations Related to Cannabis and Hemp Businesses in the City of Oak Grove

Attorney Sathe reviewed the zoning components in the Ordinance.

The Council discussed how to protect youth from cannabis-related products.

Acting Mayor Tradewell opened the Public Hearing at 6:44 PM.

Kevin Shepherd, 18375 Dahlia Street NW

Mr. Shepherd asked what would happen if the product was removed from the illicit drug list. Attorney Sathe replied that the Ordinance is adopted through State law so it would still apply.

Mike Coughlin, 2613 201<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW

Mr. Coughlin explained it feels hypocritical to say youth cannot be within 30 feet of cannabis businesses while State legislators say it is fine to have youth mutilated. He stated youth will get their hands on the products if they want it.

Acting Mayor Tradewell closed the Public Hearing at 6:47 PM.

Council member West suggested tabling the Ordinance until there is a full Council. Council member Bray Johnson agreed.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO TABLE ORDINANCE 2024-05 ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS RELATED TO CANNABIS AND HEMP BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF OAK GROVE TO DECEMBER 9, 2024. SECOND MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED. UNANIMOUS.**

**9. CITY ATTORNEY**

A. Attorney Updates

Attorney Sathe stated he did not have anything to report.

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

A. ARPA Funds

Administrator Wickham stated there is approximately \$19,000 left in ARPA funds that needed to be spent or obligated by the end of the year. He reviewed ideas on how to spend the funds. The Council discussed having new tornado sirens, a new server, and access control.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO USE ARPA FUNDS TOWARDS A NEW SERVER. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

B. Resolution 24-133 Animal Impound Agreement – Animal Humane Society

Administrator Wickham mentioned that the Resolution was to renew the agreement between the Animal Humane Society and the City.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-133 ANIMAL IMPOUND AGREEMENT – ANIMAL HUMANE SOCIETY. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

C. Resolution 24-134 – Elevation Exteriors – Roofing proposal

Administrator Wickham reported that the City submitted an insurance claim for hail damage on a number of City facilities. Two quotes were received and staff are proposing the lower of the quotes.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 24-134 ELEVATION EXTERIORS – ROOFING PROPOSAL. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

D. Resolution 24-135 – Access Control for Warming House

The Council discussed tabling the item to see where the ARPA funds are allocated.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO TABLE RESOLUTION 24-135 ACCESS CONTROL FOR WARMING HOUSE TO THE DECEMBER 9, 2024 CITY COUNCIL MEETING. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS.**

E. Administrator Updates

Administrator Wickham stated the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will include the Truth and Taxation Public Hearing. The winter newsletter will not be published before the next meeting. The tree lighting event is on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Planning Commission met last week and provided feedback on the Ordinance regarding cannabis.

## **11. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES**

Council member Bray Johnson stated she attended the Canvassing Board Meeting. She expressed her support for Kathy Coughlin’s proposed ordinance and requested to have a discussion regarding enforcement for keeping up commercial rental properties in the City. She referenced a private parking lot that is used for retail but there is nothing to force them to update the parking lot. Administrator Wickham replied that staff would look into it.

Council member West noted that one Oak Grove precinct was selected for Post Election Review (PER), but the Council had requested a PER for all four Oak Grove precincts.

Acting Mayor Tradewell noted that he has received some complaints about a property on Cedar Drive NW and asked Administrator Wickham if there was an update. Administrator Wickham replied he gave instructions to turn the issue to the prosecuting attorney. Attorney Sathe provided the Council with potential options on how to move forward.

Council member Wylie noted the new fire station blueprint shows that the building will be close to the road. He asked the Council if that was the desire since he envisioned room for the building to expand in the future. Council member West pointed out the ways the building could be expanded.

***The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:00 PM.***

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST. SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUS. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:35 PM.**