

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 13, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Rolf at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023. Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call taken.

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

Also Present:   Loren Wickham, City Administrator                   Chuck Schwartz, City Engineer  
                  Jessica Rieland, City Clerk                         Rob Engler, Fire Chief

**1. PUBLIC FORUM**

Joseph Draxton 1430 190<sup>th</sup> Ave NW asked for the council’s guidance on how to proceed with his planning application. He explained that there is a Special Use Permit (SUP) for mining on one of the lots that is causing problems with the subdivision they would like to create. He noted that the goal is to create residential lots and sell them, but they have not been able to move forward with the project because of the mining permit.

Administrator Wickham added that Mr. Draxton has been before the planning commission a couple of times over the past year and a half. He confirmed that there is a mining permit on a portion of the land that they would like to subdivide and until the permit issue is resolved, the application will not be able to move forward. He noted that the city cannot revoke a permit without giving the owner a chance to comply with the conditions.

Mr. Draxton replied that they do not want to get rid of the permit, they just want to be able to divide the land and sell the lots.  
Administrator Wickham suggested that they have their surveyor redraw the lot lines to exclude any land that is associated with the mining permit.

Council Member Tradewell mentioned that if there was an active complaint against the property it would allow the council to revisit the permit conditions.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**3. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA**

Mayor Rolf added Resolution 23-045 under Consent Agenda.

Council Member West added a budget update for the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization (URRWMO) under Mayor/Council Requests/Updates.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS AMENDED. All in favor.**

**4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 27, 2023**

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. All in favor.**

**5. PETITIONS, INDIVIDUALS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INQUIRIES**

A. Scott Baumgartner – Prosecuting Attorney update

Attorney Baumgartner presented the Criminal Disposition Statistics.

Council Member Tradewell inquired if the DUI arrests are from Oak Grove residents or people passing through the city.

Attorney Baumgartner replied that he has not noticed a concentration of arrests for Oak Grove residents and that he believes it is people passing through the city. He added that if he identified a problem area within the city, he would bring it to the attention of the Sheriff and Council.

Attorney Baumgartner noted that they have a new attorney at his firm named Paul Baertschi, who has worked in municipal prosecution for 40 years.

Council Member West asked about the number of traffic arrests in 2022 which appear to be much lower than past years.

Attorney Baumgartner replied that those numbers came from the Sheriff's office, and he believes their method of counting traffic arrests has changed recently and they are no longer including all the incidents they used to.

Council Member West requested clarification on what is being reported.

## **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 23-042 Closing Escrow Accounts
- C. Resolution 23-043 Public Works Construction Site Inspection Policy
- D. Resolution 23-044 accepting the resignation of Natalie Streich
- E. Resolution 23-045 Conditional Offers of Employment to Fire Fighters

Council Member West requested to remove D.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE A, B, C, E. All in favor.**

Council Member West thanked Natalie Streich for her two years of service on the fire department.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE D. All in favor.**

## **7. CONSULTING ENGINEER**

- A. Engineer Updates

Engineer Schwartz noted that the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) will be in Oak Grove next week to audit the city's MS4 permit. He mentioned that the University Avenue NW plans were submitted to East Bethel for review and comment. Once they are finished, the plans will be submitted to the State for review and authorization.

Council Member Wylie asked how Anoka County responded to the council's input on the trail along the bridge reconstruction project on Viking Blvd NW.

Engineer Schwartz replied that they were in favor of the council's suggestions to add pedestrian crossings to the south and east side as well as adding bituminous to the trail.

## **8. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **9. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Administrator Wickham mentioned that Public Works has been busy plowing. He noted that Mayor Rolf and Council Member Bray Johnson rode along with Director Anderson to get first-hand experience in a plow truck.

Mayor Rolf and Council Member Bray Johnson thanked Director Anderson and added that it was a very educational experience.

Council Member Wylie suggested taking swift action when vehicles are parked in the road during snow events.

## **10. PARKS**

## **11. PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

## **12. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Administrator Updates**

Administrator Wickham mentioned that Staff is getting updated quotes for the council chamber and office area improvements. The project costs range from \$30,000-\$40,000.

Council Member West suggested having a work session to discuss future improvements before making any decisions.

Council Member Bray Johnson asked if the project was budgeted for this year.

Administrator Wickham replied that there is money in the building fund for this project, but it was not budgeted as a line item.

Administrator Wickham mentioned that the audit results will be presented on April 24th and then the council will be reviewing the long-term plan in May. He suggested scheduling the work session for the building improvements/fire station in June after the long-term plan has been reviewed.

Administrator Wickham noted that he is in the process of hiring a new cleaning service because the part-time public works employee that had been cleaning City Hall has given his notice.

He mentioned that content for the newsletter is due by the end of next week and that Spring Recycle Day has been scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He also mentioned that Meet the Deputies is scheduled for the next meeting and Commander Knotz will be present to go over the Sheriff's report for the months of January and February.

Administrator Wickham presented information about the expenditures from the charitable gambling fund and created a request form that could be used for future requests.

Council Member West suggested having two deadline dates, in the Spring and Fall, for those applying for a donation.

Mayor Rolf recommended leaving a balance of \$10,000 in the fund and creating a structured application/award process.

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

Council Member West gave an update on the URRWMO funds. He noted that Ham Lake tried to leave the WMO, however, it would be too costly for them to do so they will remain a member.

Council Member Wylie mentioned that he has been contacted by a resident that would like to broadcast a show on the city's access channel.

Administrator Wickham replied that he spoke with the city's attorney and was informed that the city does not have to allow that.

Mayor Rolf suggested having a work session to discuss the medical calls the fire department responds to. Administrator Wickham replied that a work session could be scheduled before the April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor Rolf inquired about The Ponds redevelopment area.

Administrator Wickham replied that he would add the concept plan to the next agenda for the council to discuss.

***The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.***

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO ADJOURN. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Rieland  
City Clerk