

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 24, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Rolf at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 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
 Karri Thorsten, Abdo Aaron Dahl, BerganKDV

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Suzanne Herman 809 Sims Rd NW mentioned that Oak Grove has a great planning commission, city council and city staff.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rolf announced that the St. Francis Career Fair is this Thursday, April 27th from 2:00- 3:30 pm. He also observed a moment of silence for Deputy Josh Owen who was shot and killed on April 15th while responding to a call.

3. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA. All in favor.

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR APRIL 10, 2023

Mayor Rolf requested to add under Charitable Gambling that he was in favor of approving a \$500 donation to East Bethel PTO because that is what the city donated to St. Francis Elementary.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. All in favor.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

A. Parks Commission minutes for April 19, 2023

Mayor Rolf mentioned that Commissioner West has volunteered to take down the Christmas lights on the four trees at City Hall. However, going forward, he would like to see the city plan and pay for someone to remove the lights instead of relying on volunteers to set them up and take them down.

Council Member West added that they plan on renting a cherry picker to take down the lights and that Commissioner West would like to take them down because they have been left up for two years and have been damaged by the wind.

The council acknowledged receipt of commission minutes.

6. PETITIONS, INDIVIDUALS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INQUIRIES

A. 2022 Audit presentation by BerganKDV

Aaron Dahl, Audit Manager for BerganKDV presented the 2022 audit results.

Council Member Tradewell asked for more information about The Ponds sewer fund.

Administrator Wickham replied that The Ponds sewer fund has an interfund loan from the Lake George Sewer Fund that is currently being paid back. Karri Thorsten from Abdo confirmed it is being paid back annually.

- B. Consider accepting audit report

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO ACCEPT THE 2022 AUDIT REPORT. All in favor.

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. Resolution 23-055 approving Step Increases for Firefighters

Administrator Wickham requested to remove A.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE B. All in favor.

Administrator Wickham noted that there are two expenses that are coded to Anoka County in error and will need to be corrected.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE A. All in favor.

8. CONSULTING ENGINEER

- A. Review Bids for State Aid Project – University Ave NW/NE

Engineer Schwartz presented the bids received for the University Ave NW/NE project. He added that the council does not have to act until May 8th. This will allow time for East Bethel to review the bids before awarding the project. He noted that East Bethel will be sharing the cost.

Engineer Schwartz mentioned that the pre-construction conference for the overlay project will be held next week. Engineer Schwartz and Director Anderson are working on a change order to add additional areas to consider for the project.

Engineer Schwartz noted that the county is still working on the lighting impact study, and he should have the information at the next meeting.

Council Member Wylie inquired about installing lights at the crosswalks.

Engineer Schwartz replied that they strongly discourage adding lights to the roundabout sidewalks because it emboldens pedestrians to press the light and walk out into traffic. If the city still wants to move forward with them, it would be approximately \$10,000 per leg for a total cost of \$40,000 and the city would be responsible for 100% of the cost. Regarding the trail extension, the feds are pushing back saying that the trail stub on private property is for private benefit and if the city would like to extend it, they would be responsible for 100% of the cost for that as well. He noted that they have reached out to Grant Rademacher, the developer of Bill's Superette, to see if he would consider funding that portion of the trail. The cost of the extension would be approximately \$25,000.

- B. Engineer Updates

9. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Administrator Wickham mentioned that Staff is applying for a Community Safety Grant from CenterPoint Energy.

Council Member West mentioned that the Open House at Station 2 for the HeartSafe Program is Saturday, April 29th.

10. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Administrator Wickham noted that Public Works is looking at equipment to purchase in the future to help with road maintenance.

11. PARKS

A. Trails Discussion

Administrator Wickham mentioned that the city budgeted \$50,000 for trail maintenance this year and he has been working with Director Anderson on a plan. Director Anderson recommends overlaying the rest of the trails in The Ponds. He added that they repaired a section of those trails in 2020-2021 and they would like to work on overlaying the rest.

Council Member Wylie stresses the importance of connecting trails throughout the city.

Administrator Wickham noted that he included the 2006 Oak Grove Parks, Open Space, and Trail System Plan in the packet for the council to review. He suggested updating the map in the plan since it is almost 20 years old.

Council Member West asked if there is a map that shows the current trails.

Administrator Wickham replied yes, it is posted on the city's website, and he will also send the council a copy.

Engineer Schwartz replied that they can add a trail layer to the GIS system on the city's website as well.

Administrator Wickham suggested that the council discuss and establish their position on new trail construction and maintenance of existing trails so there is a plan going forward and trails can be included in the budget process.

Jerri Tri Parks Commission Chair, noted that in the past, developers were required to give 10% of the land being developed or money for a park. As time went on, it made more financial sense for developers to give \$2,300/lot cash in lieu of land instead building a park or trail. Those decisions negatively impacted the plan for a trail system. He stressed the importance of the council supporting the trail plan because the Parks Commission and Planning Commission are only recommending bodies, and the council makes the final decision.

Council Member Tradewell suggested sharing the cost of constructing trails with the developers because the amount that is currently collected is not sufficient.

Council Member West voiced support for maintaining the parks and trail system. He would like to revamp the whole process to better manage the system.

12. PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Administrator Wickham noted that the planning applications from the meeting on April 20th will be on the May 8th agenda.

13. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Recycle Day update

Clerk Rieland stated that 283 residents came to Recycle Day which is a small increase from last year, which was 266. The total revenue from the event was \$6,303.80.

B. Resolution 23-056 authorizing the sale of 19151 Main St NW, PID 26-33-24-41-0020

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO ADOPT 23-056 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF 19151 MAIN ST NW, PID 26-33-24-41-0020. All in favor.

C. Administrator Updates

Administrator Wickham mentioned that the work session for the long-term plan will be scheduled in June and will be the beginning step of the budgeting process.

Administrator Wickham presented a sign design for behind the dais in the council chambers. He noted that Council Member West met a resident while campaigning, that makes metal signs, and he has come up with a design. He added that the resident will be donating his time to make it and a few others have offered to make donations to cover the cost of the materials.

Council Member West suggested mounting the sign on a piece of oak.

14. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Council Member Wylie asked for an update on the Viking Blvd NW and Eidelweiss St NW properties. He also mentioned a home on Lake George Blvd NW that has received complaints about their animals going into the street.

Administrator Wickham replied that he has advised residents to call the Sheriff when they see animals at large near the Lake George Blvd NW residence. He added that the prosecuting attorney is handling the Viking Blvd NW and Eidelweiss St NW violations.

The council discussed code enforcement policy.

Council Member Tradewell mentioned that the CUP permit for mining that was discussed at a previous meeting is now advertising that it recycles at that location which is not part of the permit. He noted that the conditions of the permit are not being met and he would like to act on it at an upcoming meeting.

Council Member Tradewell inquired if the city should reduce the price on the parcel of land, they have for sale on Viking Blvd NW.

Administrator Wickham replied that he would discuss it with the agent and let the council know what he recommends.

Mayor Rolf suggested changing the council meeting's start time to 6:30 pm.

Council Member Bray Johnson inquired if the Planning Commission meetings would start at 6:30 as well. Mayor Rolf requested that the topic be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

Council Member Bray Johnson mentioned that on May 6th there is a West Oak Grove Cemetery board meeting, and they are currently looking for volunteer help with the cemetery and office work. The meeting will be held at City Hall.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO ADJOURN. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Rieland
City Clerk

City Council date