

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, July 25, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Denno at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 25, 2022. Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call taken.

Present: Dan Denno, Mayor
Weston Rolf, Council Member
Mike Wylie, Council Member
Paul Tradewell, Council Member
John West, Council Member

Also Present: Jessica Rieland, City Clerk
MaryEllen Stuk, Abdo
Steve Winter, MSA
Rob Engler, Fire Chief
Matt Anderson, Public Works Director

Via Zoom: Loren Wickham, City Administrator
Bob Vose, City Attorney

1. PUBLIC FORUM

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Rolf reminded everyone that Night to Unite is on Tuesday, August 2nd.

Mayor Denno noted that at the last meeting he mentioned that Ron Braastad had passed away and had been a lifelong resident of Oak Grove. However, at his funeral, he learned that Ron had moved to Oak Grove when he was 14.

3. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

Administrator Wickham added resolution 22-107 offering support to Anoka County to expand Broadband Services.

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

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR JULY 11, 2022

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

5. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

- A. Parks Commission minutes for July 20, 2022

Council acknowledged receipt of commission minutes.

6. ANOKA COUNTY SHERIFF

- A. 2023 Law Enforcement Contract Presentation – Sheriff Stuart

Sheriff Stuart presented the 2023 law enforcement contract.

Council Member Rolf inquired if the contract included a 5% wage increase for Deputies. Sheriff Stuart replied that all the officers were given competitive pay raises. He stated that some wages were increased by 9%-11% and some were increased by 3%. It varied dramatically depending on the position.

Council Member Rolf asked if the council could receive more detailed monthly reports regarding traffic stops and crashes in the city.

Sheriff Stuart replied yes, they will provide any/all information the council requests.

Council Member Rolf asked Sheriff Stuart to explain the benefits the residents receive with 24-hour coverage.

Sheriff Stuart replied that 24-hour coverage means that a deputy will always be within city limits, which improves response times.

Council Member Wylie inquired about the 24-hour coverage when the department is down manpower. He asked if they are paying overtime to ensure coverage.

Sheriff Stuart replied yes, they are paying a lot of overtime right now. He added that they currently have 15 vacancies with 15 names attached to them that they are currently going through background checks.

Council Member Wylie asked about the year-to-date calls for 2020 and 2021 and noted that both were exactly 1490.

Commander Knotz confirmed that the numbers were accurate and both years had a total of 1490 calls.

Council Member West inquired about the 15 openings on the department and why it's been challenging to find applicants.

Sheriff Stuart replied that due to ongoing rhetoric and propaganda against law enforcement it has become increasingly difficult to fill open positions. There have also been a lot of officers that have chosen to leave the profession since the riots began in 2019.

Mayor Denno asked if there was a way to verify that an officer is in city limits for 24 hours every day. He requested that the wording of the contract be changed so that it does not show the four payments for the two-year contract being made in the first year.

Sheriff Stuart replied that the department will ensure that an officer is in city limits for 24 hours a day and that the wording of the contract can be updated to reflect what the council wants.

The council is in favor of moving forward with the two-year contract.

B. June 2022 Report

Commander Knotz reported that in the month of June there were 265 calls for service including 1 theft, 1 criminal sexual conduct, 2 damage to property, 2 felony arrests, 5 misdemeanor arrests, 2 warrant arrests, and 23 traffic arrests.

Commander Knotz mentioned that they are bringing the citizens academy back. It is a unique opportunity for citizens to get a behind-the-scenes look at how the department operates. The program will run from September 21st to November 2nd and will meet once a week on Wednesday from 6:00-9:00 pm. If anyone is interested, Lieutenant Bill Jacobson is the contact person and the best way to reach him is by sending an email to bill.jacobson@co.anoka.mn.us.

Council Member Tradewell mentioned that driving UTVs on city streets is legal for a licensed driver. Commander Knotz noted that it is legal to drive a UTV but not an ATV on city streets.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Poppy Street NW Improvement Hearing

Mayor Denno opened the public hearing.

Steve Winter from MSA presented the proposed Poppy Steet improvements.

Mayor Denno closed the public hearing.

1. Resolution 22-101 ordering the Poppy Street NW Improvement

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-101 ORDERING THE POPPY STREET NW IMPROVEMENT. All in favor.

2. Resolution 22-102 approving Change Order #2 for the 2022 Street Improvement Project

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-102 APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #2 FOR THE 2022 STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. All in favor.

8. PETITIONS, INDIVIDUALS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INQUIRIES

9. 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 22-103 authorizing partial pay request #1 for 2022 Street Improvement
- C. Resolution 22-104 authorizing partial pay request #1 for 207th Street NW and 217th Street NW
- D. Resolution 22-107 offering support to Anoka County to expand Broadband Services

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

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

- A. Resolution 22-105 accepting Facility Needs Study – Station 1

Administrator Wickham noted that Randy Engel from Buetow 2 Architects, Inc. prepared two concepts for the fire station 1 project. Concept D3 is an addition and remodel of the current building with an estimated cost of \$10,180,000. Concept E3 is a new freestanding building on the north side of the site with an estimated cost of \$9,130,000. The city council can approve the Facility Needs Study tonight and select a concept or defer selecting a concept to a later date. City Staff will work with the municipal advisor to get a breakdown of property tax implications for the council to review in the future.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-105 ACCEPTING FACILITY NEEDS STUDY – FIRE STATION 1. All in favor.

- B. Resolution 22-106 approving purchase of Hose Tester

Chief Engler noted that the bid in 2021 for the unit was \$3,500 and has increased by \$1,900 bringing it to a total of \$5,400.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO ADOPT 22-106 APPROVING PURCHASE OF HOSE TESTER. All in favor.

Chief Engler noted that year-to-date they have responded to 349 calls which is up from 306 at this time last year. They included 35 fires, 210 EMS calls, 25 hazardous conditions, 8 calls for service, 57 good intent calls, 9 false alarms and 5 special incident calls.

Mayor Denno suggested charging residents for non-emergency calls.

Administrator Wickham replied that he would work with Chief Engler on that. He mentioned that he had gathered information about this last year but there were complications. The city would have to get into billing.

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Director Anderson mentioned that public works has been busy doing the prep work for the assessment projects as well as patching roads, trimming trees, and mowing.

Council Member Tradewell asked if Public Works is still using mastic to seal the roads.

Director Anderson replied yes, they have used it for the past two years and really like the results. They would like to apply it again this year but are waiting to see if they will have the time and money to do it after the assessment project work has been completed.

City Council date

12. PARKS

Jerry Tri, Parks Commission Chair, mentioned that the construction of the pickle ball court at Oak Grove Preserve Park was started, and he thanked Public Works for doing an excellent job with the base work. He noted that the trail connection between 200th and 205th is ready for the base layer of pavement and will make a nice connection to the existing trail system. He stated that they are working on having a plaque added to the park benches to give the Lions Club recognition for their generous donation.

Mayor Denno mentioned that he was contacted by a concerned resident regarding the trail work and inquired if residents were notified of the project. Administrator Wickham replied that residents are not notified of trail maintenance projects, however going forward the city has decided to send out postcards with basic project information.

Council Member West mentioned that some cities are putting pickle ball courts inside of their ice-skating rinks.

Council Member Rolf requested that two small trees at Dunlop Park be moved so that they don't block the view of the hill from the parking area.

Chair Tri replied that moving the trees has been added to the plans for Dunlop Park.

13. PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Brad Johnson, Planning Commission Chair, mentioned that the planning commission did not meet in July but there will be applications for the August meeting. He noted that there is a vacancy on the commission and encouraged residents to apply. Chair Johnson stated that he will be meeting with Administrator Wickham to discuss a possible code amendment so that the new circle cul de sacs that developers have installed will no longer be allowed.

Council Member West asked for an update on the Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. Administrator Wickham replied that the council requested a work session to discuss it further however he could add it to the regular agenda on August 29th so that they do not have to schedule a special meeting.

14. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Micro Loan for Assessment Projects

Administrator Wickham mentioned that the city was previously approved for a \$250,000 loan through Minnesota Rural Water, however, with the addition of Poppy Street NW the budget has exceeded the maximum amount for a micro loan. The project total is now \$364,000 and they have another loan program that would work for that. Administrator Wickham noted he spoke with Village Bank about buying our bond and being the lender for the loan from Minnesota Rural Water since they are already our official depository. Village Bank is reviewing the proposal and will let us know. He added that he would have a resolution at the next meeting regarding the loan from Minnesota Rural Water Association.

B. Regulation of THC products – Discussion

Administrator Wickham noted that the council was interested in learning more about regulating the THC products that were recently legalized in Minnesota.

Council Member Rolf stated that he has concerns with the new State law that allows THC products to be sold in the city. He is in favor of signing the Moratorium to prohibit the sale of these products until the council has time to research the law further.

Council Member West voiced concern about the law and would also like to sign the Moratorium. He asked if there are any businesses in the city that sell THC products. Administrator Wickham replied that he is not aware of any businesses in the city that sell THC product at this time.

Council Member Tradewell noted that he has researched THC products and acknowledged that they can be used for medicinal purposes.

Council Member Wylie stated that he does not have a problem with the sale of the products but that he supports signing the Moratorium.

Mayor Denno also stated that he does not have a problem with the sale of the products but supports signing the Moratorium. He noted that the city has always tried to not contradict state law and that this is something they will need to discuss further.

Attorney Vose explained how the city could use the moratorium to temporarily block the sale of THC products and use the 6-12 months to research how they would like to move forward with regulations. He noted that he sent a draft ordinance for the council to review.

C. Administrator Updates

Administrator Wickham mentioned that at a previous meeting, Council Member Rolf inquired about charging residents that do not pick up their pet after animal control has taken them in custody. Administrator Wickham explained that the city would have to hire a collection agency because you cannot certify those fees onto property taxes. Therefore, he recommends monitoring the charges and if it becomes a bigger issue to revisit it again in the future.

Administrator Wickham noted that the mayor and two council seats are up for re-election this year. He added that the filing period for candidates for city offices is August 2nd – August 16th.

Council Member Tradewell asked if filing fee is still \$2.00. Administrator Wickham replied yes.

Administrator Wickham mentioned that there have been ongoing issues with the well at City Hall and he has been working with Director Anderson on a long-term solution. He will bring an update on that project at the next meeting.

Mayor Denno inquired if any repairs have been made to the drain going out to the septic tank underneath the driveway.

Administrator Wickham replied no, Staff has been more proactive in the winter months to ensure that it does not freeze. He added that he was waiting to make any repairs until the council decided about the building renovations.

Administrator Wickham noted that he will provide the CIP and budget information to the council at the beginning of next week.

15. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Mayor Denno mentioned that the Primary Election is on Tuesday, August 9th.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 29, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. and there will be a work session at 6:00 p.m.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROLF TO ADJOURN. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica Rieland
City Clerk