

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 14,
2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Rolf at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, August 14, 2023. Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call taken.

Present:	Weston Rolf, Mayor Angie Bray Johnson, Council Member Paul Tradewell, Council Member	John West, Council Member Mike Wylie, Council Member
Also Present:	Loren Wickham, City Administrator Rob Engler, Fire Chief Justin Nelson, ACSO Seargeant Bill Jacobson, ACSO Chief Deputy	Chuck Schwartz, City Engineer Matt Anderson, Public Works Director Paul Lenzmeier, ACSO Commander Julie McMackins, Abdo Financial Solutions

1. PUBLIC FORUM

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council Member Wylie mentioned cast fishing went well this year.

Council Member West thanked everyone who put on a Night to Unite party. Council Member Bray Johnson added her thanks to the Sheriff and Fire department for their appearances.

Mayor Rolf stated the Fire Department pancake breakfast would be on October 1, 2023 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. He added that the City website lists local businesses that can help with storm clean up.

3. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

Administrator Wickham noted he pulled Item B "Resolution 23-096 Hiring Street Maintenance Worker" from the Consent Agenda. In order to keep the resolution numbers in order, he swapped Resolution 23-096 with Resolution 23-100. He added that he included additional information about the City Clerk they are hoping to hire.

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 July 31, 2023

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

5. SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR July 2023

Deputy Nelson reported that in July, 2023 there were reported 6 deaths, 1 criminal damage to property, 5 personal injury accident, 10 property damage accidents, 35 medicals, 20 animal complaints, 18 alarms, 1 felony arrest, 3 gross misdemeanor arrests, 5 misdemeanor arrests, 2 DUI arrests, 2 warrant arrests, 147 traffic stops, and 23 traffic arrests.

Mayor Rolf asked if during the compliance check it was verified that businesses were not selling THC products. Deputy Nelson replied that he did not have the information and would follow up.

Deputy Jacobson provided an update on the cast fishing event and noted the longest fish caught was 30 inches.

A. 2024 Contract Discussion

Chief Deputy Jacobson introduced Commander Lenzmeier. Commander Lenzmeier stated they entered into
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a contract with Oak Grove for 2 years and also had a contract with the deputy union for 2 years. It was anticipated that there would be a 3% increase with the contract in 2023 and 2024. However, due to the hiring market and raises it is now anticipated to be an additional 11% increase with a difference of \$88,568 and a total of a 14% increase. He noted they are looking to figure out the \$88,568 deficit and asked if the City would consider reopening the contract that is established for 2023-2024 in order to help with costs totaling \$44,284.

Council Member Wylie asked why the County Commissioner's office did not come up with the money for the raises. Commander Lenzmeier replied that he did not know. Council Member Wylie suggested asking the office since the City already made the budget and went off of the two year contract.

Council Member Tradewell agreed with Council Member Wylie and mentioned he would be interested in continuing the contract but to do smaller percentage increases each year instead of the full 14% in order to have a benefit for the City.

Council Member West agreed and stated he would not be open to paying the \$44,284 but would be open to discussing other options within the contract. Commander Lenzmeier replied that they do not make money from the contracts. Council Member West stated a 3% to 14% change in the middle of a contract is a big difference and would need to consider the constituents.

Commander Lenzmeier explained that he only has control over the costs of vehicles. The vehicles are typically replaced every two years, but even extending the life by a year would not cover the costs. He noted that he does not have much room to make deals or negotiate. Council Member stated contracts are there to protect the City from those increases.

Council Member Bray Johnson agreed with the comments and added that she is in favor of police coverage. She added it would be about a \$14 increase per homeowner in order to have police coverage. Council Member Wylie stated the County Commissioner should figure out how to pay for it. Commander Lenzmeier replied that he came in order to provide transparency and explained that it was needed in order to retain employees.

Council Member Wylie suggested going to the County Commissioner's office to explain that the City is not willing to cooperate and see if they will give more money and would be willing to have additional discussion during budget talks. Council Member West agreed.

Mayor Rolf thanked the Chief Deputy and Commander for coming and explained that the City would like to have a good working relationship. He agreed with the other Council Members comments and explained that the Sherriff should be at the meeting having the discussion. He asked if the County received Public Safety funds from the state and what they were doing with the money. Commander Lenzmeier replied that they received money and did not know where the money was directed towards. Chief Deputy Jacobson stated that the Sherriff wanted to attend the meeting but was at a charity event that he was already committed to.

Mayor Rolf asked how much money was allocated to the Sherriff's office for recruiting and pay increases. Chief Deputy Jacobson explained that the money goes to the County board and that the board controls the money. The funds have not been received yet and he does not know how it will be allocated.

6. PETITIONS, INDIVIDUALS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INQUIRIES

A. 2nd Quarter Financial Report – Abdo Financial Solutions

Abdo Financial Solution Representative Julie McMackins presented the 2nd Quarter Financial Report.

B. Cedar Creek Conservation Area Memorial Fund Presentation

Brad LeTourneau, Oak Grove resident, explained that they are looking to have a memorial for the two Anoka County men that were killed in Vietnam since the two men have received no recognition. The County's Parks Department is on board with the memorial. The memorial would be for all who have provided services for the County, State or the City. It opens other opportunities to memorialize police officers or fire fighters.

Dennis Berg, stated the memorial would be managed by the County's Parks Department. The County has passed an ordinance that does not allow memorials to be named after certain individuals. He explained it would

be a conservation area with the center piece of the monument being an engraved stone that reads “Cedar Creek Conservation Area Dedicated by Anoka County to honor individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect community and Country.” There will be a QR code next to the memorial that will share the story of those who lost their lives. The original estimated costs were \$15,000 but believe it will cost more than that. To date, the total funds raised is \$6,000 and have pledges for an additional \$5,500. He asked the Council to help fund the project at \$5,000.

Council Member Wylie asked how they will determine what names will be included in the memorial. Mr. LeTourneau replied that there are 21 Anoka County Vietnam veterans. The County’s Parks department has a list of criteria of who qualifies to have a monument including having to be from Anoka County, and served and died. The County will keep the QR codes up to date. He added that the budget has increased because they originally wanted to do gravel, but the County stated they needed to do concrete in order to make it more accessible.

Council Member Wylie asked how people can donate. Mr. LeTourneau replied that all donations are being collected by Anoka County Parks department. Mr. Berg mentioned that in order to make a donation, it is important to include on the check “Cedar Creek Conservation Area Memorial Fund” in the memo line. Donations can be payable to Anoka County Parks and be sent to 550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW, Andover, MN, 55304.

Council Member Wylie asked Administrator Wickham if the information could be included on the City’s website. Administrator Wickham replied that they would do that and could include it in the fall newsletter as well.

Council Member West thanked Mr. Berg and Mr. LeTourneau for what they were doing. He asked if they have approached the American Legion. Mr. Berg stated they have.

Mayor Rolf stated he wished they had caught this earlier so they could do it with the memorial that the City is doing. He asked if they would be willing to send social media information that he could share to spread the word. Mr. LeTourneau replied that they are hoping to do that.

Mayor Rolf asked Administrator Wickham what fund the money could come from to help fund the memorial. Administrator Wickham replied the charitable gambling fund. Mayor Rolf stated in order to remain consistent, there is an application to fill out that is due in September.

Council Member Bray Johnson asked if the information has been posted on any alumni pages. Mr. LeTourneau stated Mike Starr is working with the hall of fame alumni group and will be the point person for that.

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.

Council Member West requested to pull item A.

- ~~A. Claims and Accounts~~
- ~~B. Resolution 23-096 Hiring Street Maintenance Worker (removed upon adoption of the agenda)~~
- C. Resolution 23-097 Summarizing Administrator Performance Review
- D. Resolution 23-098 Appointing a City Clerk
- E. Resolution 23-099 2023 Crack Sealing Project

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

7A. Claims and Accounts

Council Member West stated he pulled the item because there was a payment to IPS. He is a principal in IPS and asked to abstain from the vote.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain. Council Member West abstained.

8. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Resolution 23-096 No Parking on Portions of Viking Blvd NW and Rum River Blvd NW

Administrator Wickham explained that the County requested to post no parking signs as part of the bridge replacement project and the intersection project. He noted a few years ago there were requests for jake breaking on Viking Boulevard NW. The County stated the City does not have an ordinance against it so they do not enforce it. The City would have to enact jake breaking regulations similar to enacting no parking restrictions within the City.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-096 NO PARKING ON PORTIONS OF VIKING VLBD NW AND RUM RIVER BLVD NW. All in favor.

B. Resolution 23-100 Proposal from Buetow Architecture

Administrator Wickham noted the proposal is in regard to the potential of having the Fire Department and City Hall together. He received a quote from Buetow Architecture at \$3,750 which is about half the cost of the fire station study completed last year.

Council Member Wylie asked if the proposed estimate was to put the building together instead of two separate buildings. Administrator Wickham replied that it was but the Council could continue to look at additional options.

The Council agreed that they would prefer to have one building.

The Council discussed other cities who have had one facility, and compared costs of one versus two facilities.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBMER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-100 ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FROM BUETOW ARCHITECTURE FOR 2023 FACILITY NEEDS STUDY UPDATE. All in favor.

C. Administrator Updates

Administrator Wickham stated the compensation study is not complete so they may need to schedule a special meeting between September 11-24 due to complications in getting the study completed. He added a preliminary levy, once adopted can be lowered but cannot be increased before the truth in taxation hearing.

Administrator Wickham noted there were issues with the last two meeting recordings and half of the video feed was lost for both meetings. He added he believes Granicus has resolved the issues, but they are monitoring the meeting live tonight.

Council Member West asked if there was a service agreement with Granicus. Administrator Wickham replied in the affirmative.

Administrator Wickham stated an offer was made to a public works employee but the person declined the offer. The City is working to hire a new street maintenance worker and should have a new recommendation in the next few weeks.

Administrator Wickham mentioned he has not had time to research the access on Lake George Parkway but will put it on an upcoming agenda. The gate has been closed at the end of Lake George Parkway but walkers are still able to access it.

Council Member Wylie asked the Council what they would like to do with the additional space by Lake George Parkway and mentioned he was not in favor of giving it to neighbors for free. The Council agreed.

The Council discussed the potential of making the area a little park and having the area be walking only.

Parks Commission Chair Jerry Tri stated the Commission discussed placing the Lion's Club plaques on donated benches. All of the park benches have been placed. He explained the limitations by the pickle ball court on where

trees could potentially go. He explained the Eagle Scout project and that it is not the responsibility of the City Council to come up with ideas.

The Council discussed the Eagle Scout that has a desire to do a project in the City.

Administrator Wickham stated the Planning Commission meeting is on Thursday. There are a handful of sketch plans and public hearings for ordinance amendments that they will review.

Administrator Wickham mentioned that the donated Oak Grove sign that will go behind the dais is complete but the City needs to have the wood work behind the dais complete before it can be installed. Administrator Wickham provided a proposal from Brian Hill Construction to complete the wood work behind the dais. Council Member Tradewell asked if the sign would be lit up. Administrator Wickham replied that it would be back lit.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WSET, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM BRIAN HILL CONSTRUCITON TO COMPLETE THE WOOD WORK IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS. All in favor.

9. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Mayor Rolf stated the charitable gambling fund applications are due October 2, 2023.

Mayor Rolf asked Administrator Wickham to verify if the City could give a 180 day notice to the Sherriff's office to break the contract.

Mayor Rolf noted he was opened to discussing the possibility of changing the City Council meeting days. The Council agreed to continue to discuss the item.

Mayor Rolf explained that he had three people contact him over the last couple of months regarding businesses going door-to-door asking to repair storm damage to homes. He provided the Council with a draft peddlers ordinance that would explain to residents who is knocking on their door.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. and there will be a work session at 5:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON, SECOND BY MAYOR ROLF TO ADJOURN. Motion carried 4-1. Council Member West opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loren Wickham
City Administrator