

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 11, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Rolf at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023. Pledge of Allegiance was said, and roll call taken.

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

Absent: John West, Council Member

Also Present: Loren Wickham, City Administrator
Rob Engler, Fire Chief
Sheriff Brad Wise
Steve Anderson, MSA
Chuck Schwartz, City Engineer
Matt Anderson, Public Works Director
Lieutenant Andy Knotz
Chief Deputy Bill Jacobson

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Cindy Stanaway, 20350 Gladiola Street NW expressed concerns about speeding on Gladiola Street NW. She noted the stretch between 201st and 207th Avenues NW need to be addressed to make roads safer. She asked the Council what they would do to help make the road safer.

Mayor Rolf replied that they would take the information to the City Administrator and City Engineer to review what options were available.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rolf announced that the Fire Department pancake breakfast is on October 1, 2023 from 8 a.m.-12 noon. He added retired fire fighter Ron Schleicher passed away and noted his appreciation for his service.

3. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

Administrator Wickham added Resolution 23-106 -- Partial Pay Request for the MSA State Aid Project for University Avenue to item 9 City Engineer item B.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS REVISED ABOVE. All in favor.

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR August 14, 2023

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

5. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MINUTES

- A. Parks Commission minutes for August 16, 2023
- B. Planning Commission minutes for August 17, 2023

The Council acknowledged receipt of commission minutes.

6. PETITIONS, INDIVIDUALS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INQUIRIES

- A. Constitution Week Proclamation Requested by Daughters of the American Revolution, Anoka Chapter – Proclamation 23-01

Mayor Rolf read the Constitution Week Proclamation and proclaimed the week of September 17th-23rd as Constitution Week.

7. SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

Lieutenant Knotz reported that in August there were 319 calls for service, including 8 thefts, 1 criminal
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sexual conduct, 1 assault, 2 criminal damage to property, 5 personal injury accident, 7 property damage accidents, 35 medicals, 15 animal complaints, 22 alarms, 2 gross misdemeanor arrests, 3 misdemeanor arrests, 2 DUI arrests, 2 warrant arrests, 112 traffic stops, and 28 traffic arrests.

Lieutenant Knotz stated the Police Department open house would be on September 21, 2023 from 4-7 p.m. He added that he was aware of the speeding along Gladiola Street NW and has extra patrol cars and a radar sign placed in the area.

A. 2024 Contract Discussion – Sheriff Brad Wise, County Commissioners Julie Braastad and Mike Gamache

Mayor Rolf explained that last year, the City signed a contract with the Sheriff's department with a 3% increase. Since then, many departments have been required to increase costs resulting in an additional 3% increase for January 1, 2024. He noted the difficulty in the City being requested to pay more even though the contract only included a 3% increase. He asked what the \$4 million was being spent on.

Sheriff Wise stated the fundamental problem is vilifying law enforcement and has caused young prospects to not want to pursue a law enforcement career. Due to this, the market has been competitive in order to obtain more officers which leads to increase in pay. He explained that the money would be used to benefit the residents of the City and surrounding cities of Anoka County.

Mayor Rolf asked what the point was in signing a two-year contract if the contract was going to change without consulting the City. Sheriff Wise explained that there was a surplus in the past. He added while he does not like having to ask for money, he would rather do that than have to tell the City that they do not have enough staff in order to do the duties and services.

Council Member Tradewell expressed his concern that there was nothing said to the City about the two-year contract, especially since Oak Grove was one of the only cities who did that. Sheriff Wise stated he understood and was trying to make the most of a messy situation and apologized to the residents. He added that he would hope that residents would have the view point of supporting the police department.

Council Member Wylie agreed with Councilmember Tradewell and Mayor Rolf's concerns. He added the City is looking to do a 30% levy increase and is trying to make cuts.

Council Member Bray Johnson explained that some residents express their frustration of not knowing about the money increase ahead of time, while others support the decision. She noted the money needs to come from somewhere and wondered if it would come from the City eventually.

Mayor Rolf asked if \$88,000 over the \$27,000 increase. Chief Deputy Jacobson replied that the 2024 contract was \$85,917.50 with the State aid bringing it down to \$82,591.10. The new proposed contract would be \$94,743 with a net cost of \$91,397.50.

Commissioner Julie Braastad stated that they were in a bad situation and added that they were underpaying the Sheriff's office. She explained that nonunion employees had salary adjustments first and then rolled out increases to union workers but did not know what the negotiations would be. She apologized for the lack of communication.

Council Member Wylie asked why the jail staff got paid less than the deputy's and why higher positions did not get a raise. Commissioner Braastad replied that higher positions will get paid more but need to do negotiations.

Council Member Tradewell explained that he has no problem with the department needing additional money, but he has an issue with the contract being broken.

Commissioner Mike Gamache expressed his understanding and explained the Commissioners had similar discussions on renegotiation contracts. He noted that it was vital that the contract were renegotiation due to the state of the Sheriff's office. He apologized for not being at the City until now.

Mayor Rolf noted his understanding that the Sheriff's office is in a tough spot and is not against providing higher pay for the officers but did not agree with how the decision was made. He added the Council would

not make a decision right now since there was a Council Member missing.

City resident Brad Johnson stated the City is in favor of public safety and law enforcement. He added his issue is the number of expenses coming into the City. He added that Commissioners make a lot of money and only show up during election time.

8. 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. Ordinance 23-04 amending Chapter 105 Wetlands, Shoreland and Floodplain Areas and 109 Environmental and Natural Resources Protection
- C. Ordinance 23-05 amending chapter 109 Accessory Buildings under 200 square feet.
- D. Resolution 23-102 accepting resignation of Administrator Assistant
- E. Resolution 23-103 appointing an Administrative Assistant
- F. Resolution 23-104 approving State of Minnesota Joint Power Agreement with the City of Oak Grove on behalf of its City Attorney.

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

9. CONSULTING ENGINEER

- A. Resolution 23-105 Updating Public Works Design Manual

Engineer Schwartz stated Steve Anderson was with him to provide an update on University Avenue and the pay application. He noted that the Public Works Design Manual is updated on an “as need” basis. The changes are reflected for the MS4 permits. After the audit, there was a number of items that needed to be included.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-105 UPDATING PUBLIC WORKS DESIGN MANUAL. All in favor.

- B. Resolution 23-106 Partial Pay Request for the MSA State Aid Project for University Avenue

MSA representative Steve Anderson presented the request for the partial pay request for the University Avenue project. He provided an update on the project. East Bethel is splitting the cost of the project. The cost for the City would be \$224,841.22

Mayor Rolf asked if the payment would include the 5% the City is retaining. Engineer Schwartz agreed and noted the partial payment is about 25% of the project costs.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-106 PARTIAL PAY REQUEST FOR THE MSA STATE AID PROJECT FOR UNIVERSITY AVENUE. All in favor.

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

- A. Updates

Fire Chief Engler stated on September 14, 2023 there will be a heart safe training at Dejas Doggie Camp at 6 p.m. Another heart safe training will occur on September 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station. On October 1, 2023 will be the open house pancake breakfast.

Fire Chief Engler reported that in July there were 61 instances including 1 unconscious down, 4 motor vehicle accidents, 5 lift assists, 13 fire instances, 2 choking and air way obstructions, 6 cardiac arrests.

Fire Chief Engler reported that in August there were 59 calls for service including 2 motor vehicle accidents, 11 fire incidences, 1 drowning, and 6 cardiac arrests.

11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Resolution 23-106 Anoka County Assessment Services Agreement

Administrator Wickham noted the Anoka County Assessment Services Agreement typically goes up 2% every year with many of the costs being determined by how many parcels are in the City.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 23-106 ANOKA COUNTY ASSESSMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT. All in favor.

B. Administrator Updates

Administrator Wickham noted the fall recycling day was on September 23, 2023 and may provide temporary staff since the City is short on staff.

Administrator Wickham mentioned that the new City Clerk began. He added that there is a request to include an Administrative Assistant and will be fully staffed in a few weeks. There is an open position for a Public Works position. He reviewed with the Council the policy regarding relatives working together.

Council Member Wylie explained that he did not have an issue with relatives working together but it is more concerning if it is a supervisor. Council Member Bray Johnson agreed and added that it can work. Mayor Rolf agreed.

Administrator Wickham noted that there are some forever chemicals that have class action lawsuits that have begun and the City Attorney is reviewing them.

Administrator Wickham stated there is a Park Commission meeting and Planning Commission meeting next week with two public hearings on a variance and a conditional use permit. There will also be a public hearing to amend accessory building structures that are exempt from a building permit of 200 square feet.

Administrator Wickham mentioned Public Works closed the gate to Lake George but people are still able to walk in the area. The gate will reopen in the winter time.

Mayor Rolf asked if there was an update on the ponds land. Administrator Wickham replied that there was no update.

Mayor Rolf asked if there was a code enforcement update on two different properties. Administrator Wickham replied that he was unaware of any complaints being filed since the IUP has been revoked. Mayor Rolf added that the second property was off 201st Street NW and was receiving complaints about garbage piling up on the side of the property. Administrator Wickham explained that the property owner recently went to court for a probation violation.

12. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

A. Accessory Buildings – Council Member Bray Johnson

Administrator Wickham provided an overview on accessory building requirements.

Mark Korin, 1600 Old Sims Rd NW, stated increasing the size of accessory buildings on lots will become a problem in the future. He asked the Council to consider the decisions that were made in the past and the level of impact it would have.

Planning Commission Chair Brad Johnson stated the Planning Commission has discussed how the requirements could be guided and would be ready to discuss the item.

Dustin Lee, 3762 197th Avenue NW, stated he owns 5 acres and would like to build a substantial shed. He suggested moving the requirements up one.

Council Member Bray Johnson proposed to include 2-2.5 acre lots in the 2,400 square foot pole barn. She

explained some of the comments she has received such as rather seeing things inside a pole barn instead of outside, corner lots being able to build bigger buildings, and it not effecting other people properties and safety.

Council Member Wylie stated building large buildings on properties will lose the rural aspect of the City.

Council Member Tradewell noted he is in the middle since he sees both sides.

Mayor Rolf stated he did not have a strong opinion but leaned towards keeping it the same way. He added that the City allows for many things other cities do not allow for. He expressed his understanding that people want larger building requirements but wondered when there would need to be requirements. He added that he does not have an interest in sending it to the Planning Commission.

Council Member Bray Johnson suggested putting out a poll or a public forum.

Doug Hoglund, 4521 208th Avenue NW, stated he believed the numbers were fair.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. and there will be a special meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO ADJOURN. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Loren Wickham
City Administrator