

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 10, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Denno at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 10, 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: Loren Wickham, City Administrator
Jessica Rieland, City Clerk
MaryEllen Stuk, Abdo
Rob Engler, Fire Chief
Matt Anderson, Public Works Director
Chuck Schwartz, City Engineer

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Tracy Strombeck 16401 Uplander St NW in Andover introduced herself and noted that she is running for Anoka County Commissioner, District 5 and her area covers precinct 4 in Oak Grove.

Richard Klabecek 19519 Lake George Blvd NW requested that the council pass a resolution directing Anoka County to turn the cast vote record tabulator on the DS200 voting machines.

Council Member Rolf noted that the city leases the voting equipment from Anoka County and cannot make any adjustments to the machines without them. He voiced support for passing a resolution.

Mayor Denno added that he spoke with Tom Hunt, the elections manager at Anoka County and he informed him that the cast vote record is already turned on, however, the data will remain private and won't be released to the public.

The council is in favor of passing a resolution and sending it to Anoka County.

Suzanne Herman 809 Sims Rd NW challenged the candidate that has placed his signs on county/city/park land to remove them and adhere to the campaign sign regulations.

Mayor Denno replied that he contacted Anoka County Highway Department and they mentioned that they do not have the manpower to remove campaign signs that are placed on county land or in the right-of-way.

Angie Bray-Johnson 19070 Silverod St NW noted that she is running for city council, and that she has placed all her signs on private property with the permission of the owner.

Guy Farah 970 192nd Ave NW noted that he is also running for city council, and he has placed all his signs on private property with the permission of the owner.

Mayor Denno commented that he has noticed signs in the right-of-way and encouraged all candidates to double-check where they have their signs. He voiced frustration about the lack of enforcement of sign regulations.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Engler mentioned that the annual pancake breakfast raised \$6,700 and he thanked everyone for their support.

Council Member Rolf asked Chief Engler to explain what those funds are usually used for.

Chief Engler replied that the fire department uses those funds to purchase equipment.

Council Member West reminded everyone that the tree lighting event is on December 2nd at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Administrator Wickham added that the food trucks will be ready to serve before 6:00 and residents are welcome to come earlier.

City Council date

Council Member Rolf mentioned that the candidate forum will be this Thursday, October 13th at 6:00. Mayor Denno noted that there is also a candidate forum for the school board candidates on October 24th.

3. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE THE WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES. All in favor.

5. SHERIFF'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Commander Knotz reported that in September there were 242 calls for service, including 2 burglaries, 8 thefts, 1 felony arrest, 2 misdemeanor arrests, 1 DUI arrest, 1 warrant arrest, and 28 traffic arrests.

Commander Knotz highlighted two public campaigns that the sheriff's office is currently participating in. Officers that have donated will be wearing pink badges or pink patches on their shoulder to recognize and raise awareness of the impacts of breast cancer. In addition to that, the Anoka County Sheriff's Office is illuminated in purple for the month of October for Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Council Member West thanked Commander Knotz for getting the speed sign installed in The Ponds and requested that he share the cost of the equipment so that the city could invest in one. Commander Knotz replied that he would give the information to Administrator Wickham.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Resolution 22-141 Adopting 2022 Special Assessment

Mayor Denno opened the public hearing.

Administrator Wickham provided an overview of the assessment project.

Engineer Schwartz presented a summary of the improvements. He noted that the paving is complete and the total assessment amount per property is \$8,536.59.

Lenny Hanson 3430 199th Ave NW asked if the city would install a dead-end sign by the cul de sac on 199th Ave NW.

Engineer Schwartz replied that he would discuss it with public works.

Council Member Rolf asked if Staff knows how much money the city saved the residents by having public works do the prep work for the assessment project.

Engineer Schwartz estimated that it saved residents \$1,000 on the assessment amount.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-141 ADOPTING 2022 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT. Motion carried 5-0.

No further comments were made, and the public hearing was closed.

7. PETITIONS, INDIVIDUALS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INQUIRIES

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. Resolution 22-142 Appointing Election Judges
- C. Resolution 22-143 Accepting donation from Agape Moments
- D. Resolution 22-144 Closing development escrow for Dzuik Acres
- E. Ordinance 22-08 Rezone for Sims Trail Crossings
- F. Resolution 22-145 Preliminary Plat of Sims Trail Crossings

City Council date

G. Resolution 22-146 Approving purchase of Playground Equipment

Council Member West requested to remove A.
Council Member Wylie requested to remove C.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROLF TO APPROVE B, D, E, F, G. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Member Wylie thanked Council Member Rolf and his family's business, Agape Moments, for donating to the tree lighting event.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE C. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Member West noted that his company, IPS, has a service call on claims and he would like to abstain from the vote.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROLF TO APPROVE A. Motion carried 4-0. Council Member West abstained.

9. CONSULTING ENGINEER

A. Engineer Updates

Engineer Schwartz introduced Michelle Pasko, an engineer from his office, that was present to observe the meeting. He noted that Poppy Street NW will be paved this week and should be completed before winter. Construction of the Viking Blvd bridge over the Rum River will begin in July 2023. They will start with the north lanes and then come back and do the south lanes. Construction will continue with the roundabout at the intersection of Viking Blvd NW and Rum River Blvd NW.

Administrator Wickham noted that Bill's Superette and corporate office is currently being built at that intersection as well.

10. FIRE DEPARTMENT

11. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

A. Public Works Design Manual

Engineer Schwartz mentioned that the design manual was last updated in 2019 and there are a couple of revisions that need to be made at this time. They include updates to the MS4 permit requirements and the addition of island cul de sacs to the design guidelines.

Council Member Rolf voiced opposition to allowing island cul de sac designs in the city.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROLF, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO TABLE RESOLUTION 22-147 UNTIL THE OCTOBER 31ST MEETING. Motion carried 5-0.

Director Anderson mentioned that public works has been busy crack filling the roads. He noted that they will be getting the plow trucks ready for snow and that there have been three more connections made to the Lake George sewer system and there are four more that still need to connect.

12. PARKS

13. PLANNING DEPARTMENT

A. Ordinance 22-05 Accessory Dwelling Unit

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROLF TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 22-05. Motion carried 5-0.

14. FINANCE

A. Budget Discussion

MaryEllen Stuk presented the changes that were made to the preliminary levy at a previous meeting. She explained that having a general fund levy and capital fund levy would not limit the council's ability to move money to different funds. Ms. Stuk noted that the overall levy increase from 2022 is 17.33% and the city's tax rate is currently 19.741%.

Council Member Wylie voiced concern about pushing back the purchase of fire trucks or reducing the amount of money allocated for road maintenance each year. He believes the council should be saving money so that they are ready to make those purchases/improvements when they are needed.

Council Member Tradewell voiced concern about cutting the budget even further. He agreed with Council Member Wylie and that the city should be putting money away to plan for the purchases on the capital improvement plan.

Council Member West asked Director Anderson and Chief Engler if they have been able to operate within budget the past couple of years.

Director Anderson replied yes, but the budget is maxed out.

Chief Anderson replied no, they have been over budget for the past few years.

Administrator Wickham added that for the past two years fire has been over on wages and maintenance.

Council Member West asked if the budget is increased each year?

Administrator Wickham replied no that they have kept the budgets as flat as possible.

Council Member West noted that the council needs to be realistic about the budgeting needs of public works and the fire department. He suggested adjusting the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) instead of the operating budgets.

Council Member Rolf suggested reducing the road maintenance transfer because the council allocated an addition \$300,000 to road projects last year. He inquired about the road maintenance cycle the city has.

Engineer Schwartz replied that the city is currently working towards a 22-year cycle for road maintenance. He explained the annual cost for the following maintenance cycles:

20-year would need a \$725,000 annual transfer, 22-year would need \$659,000 annually, 25-year would need \$580,000 annually, and 30-year would need \$483,000 annually.

Council Member Rolf asked for the current balance of the road maintenance fund.

Ms. Stuk replied that there is currently a deficit balance of \$41,000 in the account.

Administrator Wickham added that the city is still waiting for MSA reimbursement which would bring the account to a positive balance.

Ms. Stuk estimated that the ending balance of the road maintenance fund will be \$385,000.

Mayor Denno inquired about using the park dedication fees for other needs such as trail maintenance.

Administrator Wickham replied that he would have to research the legally permitted uses of those funds.

15. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Administrator Updates

Administrator Wickham noted that he would add the budget discussion to the next regular agenda. He mentioned that the next meeting will be on Halloween and there will be a public hearing for delinquent utilities.

16. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Mayor Denno mentioned that the council will pass a resolution requesting that Anoka County release the cast vote record data to the public.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 31, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

17. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROLF TO ADJOURN. Motion carried 4-1. Council Member Wylie opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Rieland
City Clerk