

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes Monday,**  
**November 13, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Rolf at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 13, 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  
Billi Larson, City Clerk  
Chuck Schwartz, MSA - Remote  
Rob Engler, Fire Chief

**1. PUBLIC FORUM**

- a. Pat Graiziger, 21260 S Lake George Dr. NW  
Mr. Graiziger addressed the Council regarding closing a section of Lake George Parkway due to the use of a lake access that allows for the anchoring of watercraft all summer long. He provided a handout that outlines the issue and proposed solutions.
- b. Gene Hodel, 19828 Orchid St. NW  
Mr. Hodel addressed the Council regarding concerns around the planning process for subdivisions and developments. He commented that it would be helpful for the Parks Commission to know more of the neighborhood feedback before giving the recommendation to the Council. He asked the Council to revisit the public process and look at updating the 2006 Master Park Plan the City utilizes when developers apply for subdivisions.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember West announced the Christmas Tree Lighting Event happening on December 1, 2023 from 5:30-8:00. City Administrator Wickham commented that another tree sponsor was obtained and Public Works will be assisting so all four trees will be lit this year.

**3. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA**

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE REGULAR AGENDA AS PRESENTED. All in favor.**

**4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 30, 2023 AND WORK SESSION OCTOBER 30, 2023**

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

**5. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MINUTES**

- a. Planning Commission – October 24, 2023

**The Council acknowledged receipt of commission minutes.**

**6. PETITIONS, INDIVIDUALS, PRESENTATIONS, AND INQUIRIES**

There were no presentations or petitions presented.

## 7. SHERIFF'S REPORT

- a. October Report
- b. 2024 Contract

The Council continued an ongoing conversation regarding the Anoka County Sheriff's Office's request to open up the current two-year contract the City holds with them for police services to gain an additional \$44,000 after approving a significant wage increase for County personnel. The Council had originally voted (4-1) against opening the contract up mid-term. The Mayor received additional correspondence from the ACSO that indicated that if the contract isn't opened up mid-term and the \$44,000 approved that in 2025 there will be an additional \$88,000 line item.

The Council engaged in a discussion regarding each member's thoughts regarding the situation leading up to the recent correspondence. Mayor Rolf, Councilmember West and Councilmember Wylie all voiced concern about opening up the contract and paying the additional fee. Councilmembers Bray Johnson and Tradewell commented that it would be better to pay the \$44,000 now to avoid the \$88,000 later.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO OPEN THE CONTRACT MID-TERM TO PAY THE ADDITIONAL \$44,000. Mayor Rolf, Councilmembers Wylie, Tradewell and Bray Johnson voted aye. Councilmember West voted nay. Motion passed 4-1.**

## 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 23-140 – Jan Carlson Minor Subdivision with Variance
- c. Ordinance 23-08 – Rezoning from Agriculture (A) to Single Family Residential (SFR).
- d. Resolution 23-143 – Closing Escrow Accounts
- e. Resolution 23-144 – Variance Fjerstad.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. All in favor.**

## 9. CITY ENGINEER

- a. Resolution 23-138 – Approving University NW Change Order #2

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-138. All in favor.**

- b. Resolution 23-139 – Pay Request #3 for University Avenue Project

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WYLIE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-139. All in Favor.**

- c. Engineer Updates – There were no updates provided due to technical difficulties.

## 10. FIRE

- a. Fire Chief Updates
- b. Resolution 23-141 – Authorization to Purchase Fire Hose

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-141. All in favor.**

- c. Resolution 23-142 – Approval to Purchase Positive Pressure Fan for E11.

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-142. All in favor.**

## 11. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION

- a. Administrator Updates

Administrator Wickham discussed the upcoming Parks Commission meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> and that they will be discussing the Lighting Event and that there will be discussion about the process for recommending parks and updating the Parks/Trails Master Plan from 2006.

Council member West commented that it would be beneficial to form a Christmas Lighting Committee to engage the public.

Administrator Wickham updated Council that Planning Commission will be meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> and that PinTv has submitted an application for a site plan review to build a new building and will be having a public hearing.

He discussed meeting with the St. Francis City Administrator to discuss the Waste Water Services Contract and that they would be open to extending the contract.

Additionally the contract for animal control services with the Humane Society is up for renewal.

b. 2024 Budget

The Council discussed that there were two budget items left to make a decision on. The Duty Truck for the Fire Department and the voluntary pension contribution. The Council discussed options for purchasing a duty truck with the Fire Chief and authorized up to \$50,000 from ARPA funds if he finds a good used vehicle. The other item was the firefighter voluntary pension contribution. The Fire Chief requested \$17,000 in the preliminary budget. It was discussed that with the increase in years of service amount that was just approved and the health of the fund being funded at 125% that they would not make a voluntary contribution in 2024. The Council also discussed not allocating funds to the Fire Department Asset Acquisition Fund in 2024 because of the Public Safety State Aid and ARPA funds available for the Fire Departments capital equipment needs. With those two items discussed and agreed upon it brings tax rate down to 21.744% which is very close to the tax rate for 2022.

## 12. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Council member Tradewell requested council direction to allow Administrator Wickham to look at fixing the issues with the remote meeting system.

Council member Tradewell also made comment regarding land development and the process and the need to allow developers to do what they want with the land they purchase as long as they are following the city's process.

Council member West comment about optics. He indicated that it gives bad optics to vote on an issue and then bring it back several times for additional votes.

Mayor Rolf discussed the ISD 15 school referendum that both questions failed. Council member Bray Johnson pointed out that only 15% of registered voters participated in the district election.

***The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.***

## 13. CLOSED SESSION - Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, subd.3(a), the City Council met in a closed session for the annual performance review of the City Administrator.

The City Council went into closed session at 7:33 pm. The regular meeting resumed at 7:47 pm.

## 14. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO ADJOURN. Mayor Rolf, Council Members Tradewell, Wylie and Bray Johson voted aye. Council Member West voted nay. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Billi Larson  
City Clerk