

OAK GROVE COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes Monday,
December 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, December 11, 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

Also Present: Loren Wickham, City Administrator
Billi Larson, City Clerk
Chuck Schwartz, MSA
Rob Engler, Fire Chief
Karri Thorsten, Abdo Financial Solutions

1. PUBLIC FORUM

Jerry Mesenbourg, 3843 205th LN NW, Oak Grove

Mr. Mesenbourg commented that there were properties around him that look like junk yards and inquired about code enforcement.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember West gave thanks to the volunteers and people that helped to make the Tree Lighting event a success.

Councilmember Bray Johnson gave thanks to the community for their participation with the Tree Lighting Event.

Mayor Rolf gave thanks to the Parks Commission members and Oak Grove Fire Department for their part in the success of the Tree Lighting Event.

3. SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA

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

4. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 27, 2023

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

5. 2024 FINAL BUDGET & LEVY – TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING

- a. Budget & Levy Presentation
- b. Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation
- c. Resolution 23-155 Adopting the Final 2024 Budget & Levy
- d. Resolution 23-156 Adopting the final Economic Development Authority 2024 Budget & Levy
- e. Resolution 23-157 Approving Utility Fund Budget and Rates
- f. Ordinance 23-09 Adopting the 2024 Fee Schedule

Mayor Rolf opened up the Truth in Taxation Public Hearing at 6:33pm

Jerry Mesenbourg, 3843 205th LN NW, Oak Grove

Mr. Mesenbourg addressed Council with the concern that Oak Grove with it's 24.36% increase is higher than any other municipality in Anoka County at the same time that there is less City services offered. He

also commented that people on fixed incomes could be greatly impacted by significant increases.

Mayor Rolf responded that part of the large increase is due to several years of no increase and pointed out the multiple cuts made.

Councilmember West commented that Oak Grove was at the bottom of the list for increases for several years and had the Council gradually increased over several years that the increase would not look so significant.

Councilmember Tradewell pointed out that 24% of \$100 is very different than 24% of \$1M.

Brad Johnson, 3865 193rd LN NW, Oak Grove

Mr. Johnson talked about the increase in many items including fuel, food, Met Council and County tax increases. He commented that perspective is needed when looking at a 24% city wide increase occurs due to road improvement that the alternative is for individual assessments that could increase a tax bill by thousands. He is glad to see the amount go up instead of directly from the pockets of residents.

Doug Burman 1470 205th Ave NW, Oak Grove

He thanked the Mayor and Council for their work on the budget. He spoke briefly about his personal tax statement on his Agriculture property. He inquired why the City portion of his Agriculture property is significantly higher.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-155 ADOPTING THE FINAL 2024 BUDGET & LEVY AS PRESENTED. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-156 ADOPTING THE FINAL EDA 2024 BUDGET & LEVY AS PRESENTED. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-157 APPROVING THE UTILITY FUND BUDGET AND RATES AS PRESENTED. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 23-09 ADOPTING THE 2024 FEE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO CAP THE AMOUNT PAID OUT FOR THE GOPHER BOUNTY AT \$500. All in favor.

6. SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lieutenant Knotz provided the most recent stats for calls in the City.

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.

- a. Claims and Accounts
- b. Resolution 23-154 Approving Garbage Hauler License Renewals
- c. Resolution 23-158 Retirement of Firefighter Andy Winiecki

Council member West pulled item (c) from the consent agenda. Council member West took the opportunity to thank Andy Winiecki for his years of service and all his accomplishments.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (a) and (b). All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEM (c). All in favor.

8. CITY ENGINEER

a. Engineer Updates

City Engineer, Chuck Schwartz, only had one update for Council regarding the MS4 training to take place the next day.

b. Resolution 23-159 2024 Street Improvements

c. Resolution 23-160 Security Reduction #1 JP Farms

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-159 2024 STREET IMPROVEMENTS. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 23-160 SECURITY REDUCTION #1 JP FARMS. All in favor.

9. CITY ATTORNEY

a. Employee Handbook Amendment - ESST

City Administrator Wickham reviewed the memo from the City Attorney and gave an overview on two options regarding updating the Employee Handbook to reflect the changes needed due to the State's mandate of a new Earned Sick and Safe Time law going into effect on January 1, 2024. Option 1 allows the Council to give employees an additional bank of hours. Option 2 for the current PTO accruals which are already more generous than what the State is requiring to remain and allow staff to track the ESST hours used separately.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST TO APPROVE PROPOSED OPTION 2(a). All in favor.

10. CITY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES & DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Administrator Updates

b. Anoka County Economic Development Extension

c. 2024 Impound Agreement – Humane Society

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL TO APPROVE THE ANOKA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION. All in favor.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER TRADEWELL, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO APPROVE THE 2024 IMPOUND AGREEMENT – HUMANE SOCIETY. All in favor.

Administrator Wickham updated the Council regarding the last meeting of 2023 and the first meeting in 2024.

There are two Parks Commission members whose terms expire at the end of the year. One of which is the current chair who submitted his resignation.

At the second meeting in January, Anoka County will present options for future roundabouts. One at Viking and Flamingo and the other at Viking and Nightingale.

There will be no Planning or Parks Commission meetings in December.

Chief Engler found a truck for \$42,000 which is under the \$50,000 that was budgeted.

11. MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/UPDATES

Council members wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council member Bray Johnson commented that she attended the Anoka County Elected Officials Dinner where there were presentations on Elections, Joint Law Enforcement Committee and the Veteran's Office.

Council member Bray Johnson updated the Council on the residents of Fox Street and the construction.

Mayor Rolf thanked everyone for the first year in office and discussed briefly his thoughts on the budget.

Mayor Rolf commented that for next year a discussion about a 2.5 acre minimum for developments. He also spoke about JLEC and how Oak Grove did not have representation on that committee.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER WEST, SECOND BY COUNCIL MEMBER BRAY JOHNSON TO ADJOURN. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Billi Larson
City Clerk