

**OAK GROVE COUNCIL**  
**Work Session Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, September 25, 2023**

The Work Session Meeting of the Oak Grove City Council was called to order by Mayor Rolf at 5:30 p.m. Monday, September 23, 2023.

Present: Weston Rolf, Mayor  
Angie Bray Johnson, Council Member  
Paul Tradewell, Council Member  
John West, Council Member

Not Present: Mike Wylie, Council Member

Also Present: Loren Wickham, City Administrator  
Billi Larson, City Clerk  
Karri Thorsten, Abdo Financial Solutions  
Matt Anderson, Public Works Director  
Rob Engler, Fire Chief

**DISCUSSION ON 2024 PRELIMINARY LEVY, BUDGET AND CIP**

Karri Thorsten from Abdo Financial Solutions presented the changes that were made to the preliminary levy at a previous meeting. She explained that the preliminary levy needs to be certified by September 30<sup>th</sup> and the Council will only be able to decrease items after this evening with no option to increase. Ms. Thorsten noted that the overall levy increase from 2023 is 24.07% and the city's tax rate is currently 18.400% with an estimated 22.175% in 2024. Total City Levy 2024 \$3,833,220.

Highlighted changes from the previous meeting included:

A 3% COLA increase for wages and steps increases. This adjustment came out of the Compensation Study that Abdo completed and presented at the Special Meeting held on September 18, 2023. This adjustment brought an \$11,000 decrease for the General Fund.

Also eliminated from the original proposal were pay increases for election judges. The publication line item was decreased by \$1,000. The Planning Commission was reduced from 6 members to 5. The Fire Department expenditures were eliminated with the thought that the \$92,113 remaining in ARPA funds could be utilized to cover those expenses. \$17,000 to the PERA Fund was added back in. The Fire Department will see a \$5,000 reduction in the conferences/training fund with the thought that the \$394,237 in Public Safety Aid funds could be utilized to cover those expenses.

Administration will see an increase of \$28,282 due primarily to recognized wage increases.  
Elections will see an increase of \$23,280 due to an increase due to additional election and extended voting hours.  
Planning and Zoning will see an increase of \$17,041 due to budgeting for planning and code enforcement services.  
Gov't Building and Grounds will see a \$10,220 increase due to wages and utility services.  
Police Services will see an increase of \$27, 542 from the 2023 Contract with Anoka County.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The work session was adjourned at 5:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Billi Larson  
City Clerk

City Council date