

Town of Oak Grove, AR Town Council Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023

- ❖ Mayor Robert Fairweather called to order the regular meeting of the Oak Grove Town Council at 7:02pm at the Oak Grove Town Hall. All present asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ❖ Council Members present Jayme Wambold, Gary Gray, and Terry Hutchison
- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd read the minutes from the January 17 and February 7, 2023, meeting. Jayme Wambold made a motion to accept minutes as read for January 17, seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Agreed. Jayme Wambold made a motion to accept minutes as read for February 7, seconded by Gary Gray. All Agreed.
- ❖ Annual Financial Balance Sheets for 2022 and Financial Statements for December 2022 and January 2023 and presented to Council. Gary Gray Made Motion to accept balance sheets as presented, Seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Agreed
- ❖ Monthly Bills for January 2023 were presented. Motion made by Gary Gray to pay bills, seconded Jayme Wambold. All Agreed.
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather read Resolution No. 111-2023 allowing the annexation of Property owned by Larry and Lajuanta Plumlee into Town Limits. Motion made by Jayme Wambold to approve Resolution No. 111-2023, Seconded by Gary Gray. All Agreed
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather read aloud Resolution No. 112-2023 expressing the willingness of the City of Oak Grove to utilize state aid street monies for the overlay of streets within the town of Oak Grove. Motion made by Gary Gray to approve Resolution No 112-2023, Seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Agreed.
- ❖ Rate study performed by the Arkansas Rural Water Association presented to Council for review. Study included recommendation for the Oak Grove Water Department. The study recommended a rate increase, water rates have not been modified since 2017. Stephanie Shepherd provided a copy of revised Ordinance No. 113-2023 highlighting the adjusted rates for service, meter deposit, reconnect fees, etc. The council reviewed the changes and will vote at the March meeting.
- ❖ The council discussed the lack of back up power for the main water pump. After the recent winter weather that resulted in the town losing power for an extended period, the need for some type of backup power became evident. Mayor Fairweather suggests a portable generator that may be utilized by the Town for many years. Gary Gray made motion to look into generator needs and costs, Seconded by Jayme Wambold all agreed. Costs and Equipment to be discussed again at the next meeting.
- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd informed the Council that formerly the First National of Berryville, now Bank of 1889, is no longer FDIC affiliated. The town currently holds 5 accounts with Bank of 1889, Water Business, Water Meter Deposits, Fire, Water Savings, LOPFI. Stephanie desires the council's determination whether to stay with Bank of 1889 without affiliation or switch all accounts to Anstaff Bank, where the other town accounts and CDs are held. Jayme Wambold made motion to move all town accounts to Anstaff Bank, Seconded by Gary Gray. All Agreed.

- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd submitted Council a request for continued services with James Generaux of StaxWeb.com for the upkeep and management of the Town Website - www.oakgrovear.com. Motion made by Terry Hutchinson to continue with StaxWeb, Seconded by Gary Gray. All Agreed.
- ❖ The council reviewed the Inspection Report of the Oak Grove School House performed by ABBA Home Inspections. The report shows several issues with the structure. Due to the public attachment and concern for the schoolhouse, the Gary Gray made motion to hold a Public Forum to get the community involved with the future of this building on March 7, 2023, at 7pm following the Regular Town Council Meeting that will be held at 6pm. Motion seconded by Jayme Wambold. All Agreed. Stephanie Shepherd to post public notices on town website, Facebook, and town sign regarding Public Forum. Community Building to remain unused by public until such time as building can be deemed safe.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- ❖ Pump test for Fire Department Trucks to be scheduled soon.
- ❖ Chief McKelvey requested the council permission to pursue a Rural Services Grant that would allow for the replacement and/or repair of Fire Department Gear. Gary Gray made motion to allow FD to pursue grant, Seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Agreed. Resolution for Grant to be presented for reading at the next meeting.
- ❖ Chief requested the council consider fuel cards for the Fire Department. With the possibility of the town gas station, the fire dept will need to be able to purchase gas without a charge account. Stephanie Shepherd suggested applying for an additional Town Credit Card to be issued for this purpose. Card only to be used by Fire Chief and the 2 Assistant Chiefs when refueling Fire Trucks. Stephanie Shepherd to provide more information at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ❖ Three local citizens, Lajuanta Plumlee, Stacy Sutton, and Bunny Tittsworth, were present to show interest in the vacant council seats for the Town of Oak Grove.
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather then called the meeting into EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:19pm to meet with candidates individually and discuss with council. REGUALR SESSION resumed at 8:48pm
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather thanked those interested and informed everyone that the council will make their selection at the next council meeting to be held on March 7, 2023, at 6pm.

Jayme Wambold made motion to adjourn, Seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Agreed

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50pm



Robert Fairweather / MAYOR



Stephanie Shepherd / RECORDER