

Town of Oak Grove, AR

Town Council Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2023

- ❖ Mayor Robert Fairweather called to order the regular meeting of the Oak Grove Town Council at 7:00 pm at the Oak Grove Town Hall. All present asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ❖ Council Members present Jayme Wambold, Gary Gray, Lajunta Plumlee, Stacey Sutton and Terry Hutchison
- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd read the minutes from the July 11th, 2023, meeting. Jayme Wambold made a motion to accept minutes as read, seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Agreed
- ❖ Verified Financial Statements for June 2023 and Preliminary Financial Statements for July 2023 presented to Council. Motion made by Lajunta Plumlee to approve statements as presented, seconded by Stacey Sutton. All Agreed.
- ❖ Monthly Bills for July 2023 were presented. Motion made by Jayme Wambold to pay bills, seconded Terry Hutchison. All Agreed.
- ❖ Update on Oak Grove Community Building (Schoolhouse)- Randall Dickenson informed the Council that he will continue working on building over the next few weeks. He has not been there during the excessive heat we have currently been experiencing.
- ❖ Update on animals running at large and ordinance enforcement – Jayme Wambold informed the council of the necessary education requirements needed the position of code enforcement. The town would need to create a town position and hire someone to act on behalf of the town. They would need the ability to send certified letters, bill the property owner for clean-up, represent town in court for extreme violators, etc. Unfortunately, since the town of Oak Grove does not have its own court system, the town would need an agreement with a local court system willing to see our cases. Green Forest may potentially be used for such purposes; however Green Forest will keep and fees and court costs. This may not be the best course of action for the town at this moment. Council to discuss again at a later date.
- ❖ Update on road maintenance for Eagle Lane – Stacey Sutton shared with Council that the lawyer is still researching at this time. We hope to have more information next month after being able to speak with Carroll County Judge.
- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd reminded the council of money to be transferred from CD *0807 to STREET Fund during the renewal period. The amount to be transferred is \$16,359,50 to replace funds used for the 2023 Street Overlay Project earlier this year.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- ❖ Fire Department will be having their ISO inspection soon.
- ❖ Fire Chief McKelvey informed the council of recent bake sale success during Fire Dept Fundraiser. Event raised approximately \$2,000.
- ❖ The Fire Department will be planning their annual Softball Tournament soon. Chief requests use of field and schoolhouse (if possible). The Fire Dept is looking forward to having a great turnout at the event again this year.

WATER DEPARTMENT

- ❖ The Water Meter Project for the town of Oak Grove is to begin soon. We are currently waiting for materials to be available. Project to begin once all needed materials are acquired by contractor. There were a few adjustments needed to materials as the current water meter lids used by our system are different that engineer originally thought. The engineer also mentioned that a new office computer may be needed if we are unable to sync the meter tablet to computer for billing. We will find that out at installation.
- ❖ Craig Matzenbacher informed the Council of current issues with town mower purchased in April. Water was found in the gas tank and has caused major problems. Also, the hour meter has not been working. He spoke with Williams Tractor Equipment about repairs. The Mower will need a new motor, with estimated costs between \$2,500 - \$5,000 including a 3-year warranty. The council agreed that repairs are needed for

the continued upkeep of town owned properties. Terry Hutchison made motion to allow craig to purchase new motor for town equipment, Seconded by Lajunta Plumlee. All Agreed. Cost of Repairs to be split between GENERAL/STREET/WATER Funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ❖ Cindy Ransom approached the council regarding the current placement of her Water Meter, located at 11016 HWY 21 North. She requested to move her meter so that she would not continue to drive over it. As Water Department Employees Craig and Stephanie have repeatedly requested her to stop driving and parking over a meter as it impedes reading the water meter. After continued discussion between Ms. Ransom and council members, the Council decided to leave the meter in its current location. If the property owner would like to have it relocated that would be at the customer's expense, not the Water Department.

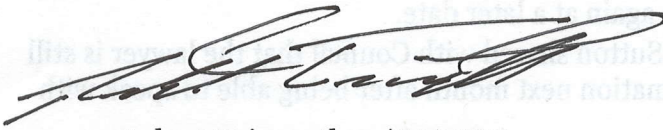
EXECUTIVE SESSION requested by Terry Hutchison.

Mayor Fairweather called executive session into order at 7:53pm
REGULAR SESSION resumed at 8:11pm

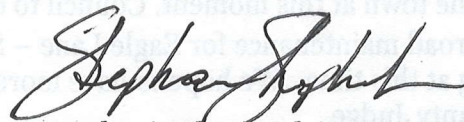
Jayne Wambold excused herself from executive session. To avoid conflict of interest.

- ❖ Mayor Fairweather announced the increase of Salary for the town Water and Parks Superintendent. Craig Matzenbacher has completed the state required training and been with the water department for just over a year. With that the Council discussed during executive session the increase of salary to \$30,000 annually. Pay adjustment to go into effect August 1, 2023. Payroll to be split 50% Water and 50% Street.

Jayne Wambold made motion to adjourn, Seconded by Gary Gray. All Agreed. Meeting Adjourned at 8:13 pm.



Robert Fairweather / MAYOR



Stephanie Shepherd / RECORDER