

Town of Oak Grove, AR
Town Council Meeting Minutes

September 5, 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 August 1, 2023, meeting. Jayme Wambold made a motion to accept minutes as read, seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Agreed
- ❖ Verified Financial Statements for July 2023 and Preliminary Financial Statements for August presented to Council. Motion made by Gary Gray to approve statements as presented, seconded by Lajunta Plumlee. All Agreed.
- ❖ Monthly Bills for August 2023 were presented. Motion made by Jayme Wambold to pay bills, seconded Lajunta Plumlee. All Agreed.
- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd informed the council of the completed transfer from CD *0807 to STREET Fund which is reflected on the August preliminary financial statement.
- ❖ Ordinance 120-2023 Five Mill Tax for 2024 read aloud by Mayor Fairweather. This Ordinance is a continuance of the previously established Millage tax for the Town of Oak Grove. Jayme Wambold made a motion to approve Ordinance, seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Agreed.
- ❖ Electrical repairs are needed around the playground. Exposed hanging electrical lines were brought to the attention of Craig Matzenbacher. He contacted Kings River Electric who examined the line and recommended replacing plug-ins, new lines, and burying them for public safety. The estimated cost of the work is \$1,272.00. Terry Hutchison made motion to approve King River Electric to proceed with the repairs, Seconded by Lajunta Plumlee. All Agreed. To be paid by STREET Funds.
- ❖ Update on Oak Grove Community Building (Schoolhouse)- Stephanie Shepherd informed the council of the completion of the roof supports by Randall Dickenson. He provided a copy of the bond he took for the project and photos of the work completed. Next to be repaired is the electrical. Two estimates for the improvement and repair of the electrical system. Leathers Electric of Green Forest estimate of \$9,128.21 and Kings River Electric of Berryville estimate of \$4,288.00. Council discussed and decided to employ Kings River Electric for the electrical work needed. Gary Gray made motion, Seconded by Jayme Wambold, All Agreed.
- ❖ Update on road maintenance for Eagle Lane – At the request of the town, Tyler Squires of Allen Squires Law, PLLC has been researching the history of Eagle Lane with hopes to clarify who is responsible for its maintenance and upkeep. Mr. Squires was unable to find any documentation of the dedication of the street to the public and the acceptance of such dedication by the council, as such Eagle Lane was and remains a private road. If the property owners and the town council desire Eagle Lane to be public street and the town to be responsible for its maintenance, the roadway can be deeded to the town and the town must accept and confirm the dedication. Mike Huskey, who owns the property in which eagle lane crosses, addressed council about concerns of his property being listed within city limits and his opinion regarding ownership of Eagle Lane. He proposed the town purchase the portion of property Eagle Lane is on for \$5,000.00. This would allow the town to do with it as they choose. Mayor Fairweather requested he allows the council time to discuss this as an option and he will get in contact with Mr. Husky at a later date with a decision.

WATER DEPARTMENT

- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd gave an update on the Water Meter Project for the town of Oak Grove. Engineer, Trey Foster has Oak Grove scheduled to begin work on the 20th. The contractor is still waiting for the 3-inch meter to be in stock. He provided the Notice to Proceed which states work will begin on or before 9/20/2023 and that ALL work is to be completed by 11/2/2023. The Notice needs to be signed by Mayor and returned prior to work beginning. Stephanie Shepherd to email signed copy on 9/6/2023.

- ❖ Jayme Wambold suggested the council consider purchasing marking posts designed to mark water lines in hopes of deterring damage to the new water meters and prevent people from driving over lines. The estimated cost of each marking post is \$22.85. Gary Gray made a motion for Craig Matzenbacher to calculate how many markers are needed and for Stephanie Shepherd to purchase markers from WATER funds, Lajunta Plumlee seconded the motion. All Agreed.
- ❖ New Tap to Water System approval requested by Cindy Ransom for the residence currently under remodel to be converted into a Duplex. Carroll County Department of Emergency Management Director, Mike McKelvey addressed the council at that time to inform them of a state issued Stop Work Order issued to Cindy Ransom for said property remodel. Ms. Ransom has been informed, by both the town and county, that even with the lack of zoning and planning established, ALL work must meet Arkansas state code. After reports from Contractor hired by Ms. Ransom of multiple code violations and her unwillingness to correct the issues, he refused to do work for her and provided photos to town regarding code violations and safety issues. After County Judge would not sign off giving her permission to build, the property owner was offered the option of her contact information be provided to State officials for assistance with code compliance regarding her remodel from a single residence to multi residence. Mr. McKelvey agreed to take her contact information and relay it to state officials that can give her a yes or no answer on code compliance. On August 31, 2023, the AR State Fire Marshall office conducted an inspection at said property. On September 4, 2023, the State Fire Marshall issued a STOP WORK ORDER requiring that all construction be halted until a new plan of action is submitted to his office for approval. A copy of the letter, stop order, and the violation reports was provided to the council for their records. The Council concluded that until the Stop Work Order has been lifted and the inspector has given a go ahead for construction to continue, no decision can be made. The council will readdress her request for a new tap at a later date.
- ❖ Craig Matzenbacher informed the council that the town mower has been repaired and is working great. Total costs of repairs were \$4,539.74, which includes a 3-year warranty.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- ❖ The Fire Department will be having their ISO inspection completed. Everything looks good so far.
- ❖ Fire Chief McKelvey requested Craig make sure electrician doing work around playground please avoid the 220-breaker for the Storm Siren.
- ❖ The Fire Department will be having the annual Softball Tournament and Fish Fry on Saturday October 28th, 2023. There will be food, fun, and a silent auction for everyone to enjoy while helping support our local Fire Fighters.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ❖ Cindy Ransom approached the council regarding the current placement of her Water Meter, located at 11016 HWY 21 North. Mayor Fairweather reminded her that the relocation of her meter had been decided last month at the council meeting and that it would only be moved at her expense. Furthermore, nothing will be approved or relocated until the STOP WORK ORDER issued by the state has been resolved.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm.



Robert Fairweather / MAYOR



Stephanie Shepherd / RECORDER