

Town of Oak Grove, AR

Town Council Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2024

- ❖ Mayor Robert Fairweather called to order the regular meeting of the Oak Grove Town Council at 7:03 pm at the Oak Grove Town Hall. All present asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ❖ Council Members present Gary Gray, Jayme Wambold, Lajunta Plumlee, Stacey Sutton, and Terry Hutchison.
- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd read the minutes from the January 2, 2024, meeting. Motion made by Jayme Wambold to approve the minutes, Seconded by Stacey Sutton. All Agreed.
- ❖ Verified Financial Statement for December 2023 and End-of-Year Financial Statements presented for Council approval. Stacey Sutton made motion to approve financial statements as presented, Seconded by Gary Gray. All Agreed
- ❖ Monthly bills for January 2024 presented to the council. Jayme Wamboold made motion to approve bill, seconded by Stacey Sutton. All Agreed.
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather addressed the council regarding payroll adjustments for the Town Employee Payroll for 2024. –He has confirmed with AR Municipal League that it would be best if the fire chief were paid from town funds. Therefore, as of January 2024, the Oak Grove Fire Chief salary and cellphone reimbursement will be paid from the Town General Fund (100%). Other Employee payroll was reviewed and recorded as follows: Meter Superintendent salary paid from Street Fund (50%) and Water Dept Fund (50%) - Cellphone Reimbursement Water Dept Fund (100%). Town Secretary/Treasurer Salary paid from General Fund (50%), Street Fund (20%) and Water Dept Fund (30%) - Cellphone Reimbursement Water Dept Fund (100%).
- ❖ Water Department & Town Hall – update on plans for repairs or options for a new building – Jayme Wambold informed the council that the survey possibility mentioned at last month’s meeting would cost the town \$500 for NWAEDD to help conduct and complete. NWAEDD believes this survey would not change our status and still would not guarantee eligibility for grants. They recommend waiting until new results are released in a few months then evaluate if the town would like to proceed with a survey. Recently, Alderman Jayme Wambold and Mayor Robert Fairweather had a phone conference with Jordan Hale who is a representative for Senator Womack. They informed the town that due to the new rating for grants, our town along with several others who normally are eligible have been thrown out this year. Their team have become aware of the issue and are trying to help towns like ours in finding funding. However, this funding would not become available until 2025 and that’s all contingent on if we were even selected and approved for funding. If the town wishes to proceed sooner, they recommend a USDA loan as the best option for the construction of a new Town Hall and Water Department. This loan could not be used for repairs but rather new construction. Jayme Wambold to reach out for information on the requirements and guidelines for the USAD loan if the council decides to go that route. Mike McKelvey has sent the preliminary plans for a new Town Hall and Water Department for review with a second set of eyes before presenting them to the council. Discussion to continue at next meeting.
- ❖ Oak Grove Community Center update on attic insulation. An additional estimate was received by the town from 7C Insulation, LLC from Purdy, MO for \$6,500. The previously received estimate from Shawn the Insulator was for \$8,000. After the council reviewed the two bids received, Gary Gray made a motion to use 7C Insulation with the estimate of \$6,500.00. Motion was seconded by Stacey Sutton. All Agreed. Stephanie Shepherd to contact the company and schedule installation.
- ❖ Update on road maintenance for Eagle Lane – Stacey Sutton informed the council that discussions with Mr. Huskey’s lawyer are still underway, and she hopes for an update at the next meeting.
- ❖ NO update yet on Fun Parks Grant. Town should be notified once funding has been awarded whether received funds or not.
- ❖ Jayme Wambold presented to council the information obtained and provided by the AR Municipal League regarding our town ordinances, the lack of detail they contain and how to help to enforce existing ordinances. They recommend the Town consider Ordinances to adopt Arkansas State Codes for the Town including Fire Prevention, Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas Codes. These codes have provisions that

allow for the appointment of a building officer/inspector who could have the authority to notify those in violation and issue citations. Alderman Gary Gray stated he is against the adoption of such ordinance(s) as it sets a precedent for zoning and planning which he is against. Mayor Fairweather discussed with council how this could help the town with enforcement of town ordinances and would like to encourage the council members to review the information provided by the Municipal League before deciding if this is something they wish to proceed with. Stephanie Shepherd to provide each council member with a copy of the information for their review. Topic to be revisited at the next meeting.

WATER DEPARTMENT

- ❖ Update on Water Ordinance – Stephanie is still working on adjustments needed on water ordinance.
- ❖ All water department blue marking posts purchased from Pollard Water have been placed.
- ❖ Seven of the Twelve damaged Meter Boxes have been repaired thanks to Craig Matzenbacher and England Excavation. These are the boxes that were not repaired with Mid-South Meter Group.
- ❖ Below average temperatures during January 13-22 which resulted in several homes with frozen and/or busted pipes. The Water Dept noted higher than normal water use.
- ❖ Purchase of UniPro from Core & Main already in use. – Device used to retrieve 55-day log from a Meter with Water Readings every hour. The device has been used on several locations already and has proven to provide valuable water use information.
- ❖ Yoke Repair and New meter placed at 288 CR 4351 by Craig with help from England Excavation. Job turned into an extensive dig during repairs.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Storm Siren tested at 7pm

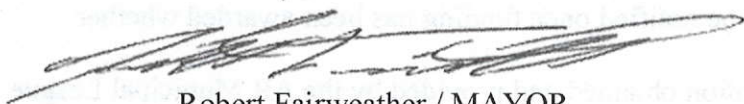
- ❖ The Fire Chief would like the town council to be aware of possible road funding with the Carroll County Judge declaring a state of emergency. If the town knows of any road damage due to the severe weather we have received, please contact the county, or speak with Mr. McKelvey on whom to contact. Incidents can be dated back to January 22, 2024.
- ❖ Fire Chief informed council that the radio system will be switched. The new system was acquired through the county for most of the volunteers. However, they will be short a few in the trucks which he estimates to cost about \$425-500 and will use *833 money to make up difference.
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather provided Chief McKelvey with the plate and stickers for the newly purchased boat found by the fire department. The boat is registered and insured for Fire Department use.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

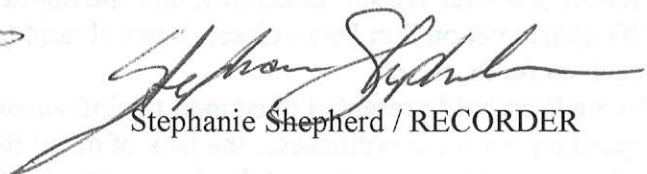
- ❖ Karen Sanchez requested the Council consider allowing the Swap meet to use the parking lot of the community center and restrooms located by the cookshack again this year. The Swap Meets will be held the 3rd Saturday of each month between March and October. The council agreed to allow use again this year.
- ❖ Lajunta Plumlee announced the meeting of “Sew Happy” Club on February 17th from 10-12 at the Oak Grove Community Center.

Terry Hutchison made motion to adjourn, Seconded by Stacey Sutton. All Agreed.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:56 pm.



Robert Fairweather / MAYOR



Stephanie Shepherd / RECORDER