

Town of Oak Grove, AR
Town Council Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2024

- ❖ 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 Gary Gray, Lajunta Plumlee, Stacey Sutton, and Terry Hutchison.
 - ABSENT: Jayme Wambold
- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd read the minutes from the February 6, 2024, meeting. Motion made by Lajunta Plumlee to approve the minutes as read, motion seconded by Stacey Sutton. All Present Agreed.
- ❖ Verified Financial Statement for January 2024 and Preliminary Financial Statements for February 2024 submitted for council approval. Lajunta Plumlee made a motion to approve financial statements as presented, motion seconded by Gary Gray. All Present Agreed.
- ❖ Monthly bills for February 2024 presented to the council. Gary Gray made a motion to approve bills, motion seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Present Agreed.
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather informed the council of letter received from Fun Park Grant Selection board notifying the town that we did not get selected for funding this time. However, they encourage us to apply again in the future. As the town will not be receiving funds for the park project, Alderman Jayme Wambold submitted her letter of resignation as chairman from the Park and Recreation Committee Board. Mayor Fairweather accepted her resignation on February 14, 2024. The mayor then reviewed with council that since the Parks & Recreation Committee Board must have a Council Member as Chairman this would close the committee unless there is another alderman that wishes to serve as chairman. The committee could be reestablished in the future when funding for such projects becomes available again. Lajunta Plumlee expressed interest in joining the committee as chairman now as to keep the committee open. Mayor Fairweather asked if anyone has objections to Lajuana Plumlee as the new Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee for the Town of Oak Grove. No objections were heard. Therefore, Gary Gray made motion to approve Lajunta Plumlee as the new Chairman of the Oak Grove Park and Recreation Committee, motion was seconded by Stacey Sutton. All Present Agreed.
- ❖ Update on repairs/new building options for the Oak Grove Town Hall and Water Department. Mike McKelvey informed the council no information has been received from the engineer he requested to review the possible new building plans for the town. Alderman Gary Gray requested the town consider repair options on current structure before the town considers a loan for a new building. He feels that both options should be explored before spending funds or getting a loan.
- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd informed the Council of the website updates and changes that Mr. Spivey with Alan Spivey Creations has completed. Mr. Spivey has resolved many issues with the town website while working with James from Stax web. Users should note links to Facebook accounts, calendar repairs and requests forms, a page purely for Community Building requests, and much more. If we would like to add pictures of town officials, I will need photos of everyone who would like to have it appear online. Lajunta Plumlee offered services Plumlee Photography for the photos for those wanting to have their picture added. Alderman Terry Hutchison inquired if information on renting the baseball field could be added. One attendant at the meeting asked if local businesses in Oak Grove could be listed. Stephanie Shepherd to explore these additions.
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather and council members continued discussion regarding the town of Oak Grove's consideration of adopting AR state building codes within the town limits. Alderman Gary Gray spoke of recent visit he had with Caleb Alexander and other state officials. Alderman Gray is concerned about possible issues arising in future with abuse of power, the issuance of fees to citizens, etc. He stated he does not believe that it will help with any of the enforcement problems we currently have. In addition, Town Residents present at the meeting were concerned and strongly against the approval of such ordinances. After much discussion amongst council members and local citizens present, Gary Gray made a motion to not proceed with the adoption of such codes at present time and to close the conversation until further notice, or until council is approached at council meeting by town residents requesting town officials reopen topic for council consideration. The motion was seconded by Lajunta Plumlee. All Present Agreed.

- ❖ Mayor informed the council of current road conditions on County Road 435 and 4351. They are both in need of being grated. He hopes to find local resources available to assist with the needed road repairs.
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather spoke with the council about his intent to research alternative options for the services he feels the town is currently being overcharged for. This includes Propane providers, Phone Provider, and possible Internet Providers.

WATER DEPARTMENT

- ❖ Biannual Water Tank Cleaning and Maintenance occurred on Monday, March 11, 2024
 - A Precautionary “BOIL WATER” Order was issued and recorded with the AR Health Dept.
- ❖ Water Department to be CLOSED Friday, March 22, 2024 – Stephanie Shepherd to use 1 of her vacation days.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – Storm Siren tested at 7pm on 3/5/2024

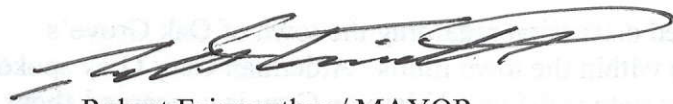
- ❖ Fire Department to purchase two tanks for Fuel. Fuel (unleaded & diesel) to be purchased through an account with Agriland FS, INC. Stephanie Shepherd to complete credit application for account.
- ❖ Reimbursement to Fire Fighter Cory Plumlee for the purchase of two 500-gal reserve fuel tanks to be used by Town. Tanks are currently being stored on local farm for security purposes. Tanks to be relocated at later date. Fire Dept. are looking into possibility of a caged area. Terry Hutchison made motion to paid reimbursement, seconded by Stacey Sutton. All Present Agreed. Reimbursement to be paid from Fire & *833
- ❖ The annual Pump test will take place on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at Oak Grove Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ❖ Lajunta Plumlee announced the meeting of “Sew Happy” Club held February 17th at the Oak Grove Community Center was a great event.
- ❖ Carol Goss informed the council of her plans to place a “Blessings Box” at her local store, Thrift, Threads & Things, located at 10554 Hwy 21 North.
- ❖ Jeff and Kay Jones requested the town consider spraying to prevent mosquitoes. In previous years the town took measures to prevent the excessive mosquito issue that occurs each summer, and they hope the town can restore this practice, as the past few years without repellent have been much worse than normal. Council Agreed to consider spraying as previously done. General Funds to be used for spray ingredients needed.

Gary Gray made motion to adjourn meeting, Seconded by Terry Hutchison. All Present Agreed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm.



Robert Fairweather / MAYOR



Stephanie Shepherd / RECORDER