

# Town of Oak Grove, AR

## Town Council Meeting Minutes

May 7, 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 and Stacey Sutton.
  - ABSENT: Terry Hutchison
- ❖ Stephanie Shepherd read the minutes from the April 2, 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 March 2024 and Preliminary Financial Statements for April 2024 submitted for council approval. Lajunta Plumlee made a motion to approve financial statements as presented, motion seconded by Stacey Sutton. All Present Agreed.
- ❖ Monthly bills for April 2024 presented to the council. Gary Gray made a motion to approve bills, the motion was seconded by Lajunta Plumlee. All Present Agreed.
- ❖ Potential candidate for Vacant Alderman Position #3 Mr. Aaron Curtis asked council to consider him for the remaining term. Mayor Fairweather called the council into an executive session to discuss this with Mr. Curtis.

**\*\*EXECUTIVE SESSION\*\* 7:09-7:12pm**

- ❖ Mayor Fairweather resumed regular meeting informing all present of the council's decision to allow Mr. Aaron Curtis to hold Alderman Position #3 for remainder term. He is to be sworn in at the next meeting.
- ❖ Follow-Up regarding outdated ordinances discussed at last month's meeting. - Stephanie Shepherd spoke with Municipal League Field Representative Jackie Crabtree regarding the issue raised at the last council meeting. He informed her that this is not uncommon among towns and that old Ordinances can be suspended or repealed if the council desires. However, he felt this may be unnecessary. He recommended leaving as it currently is, so that in the future, if needed and conditions are met by the town, then the ordinance can be reviewed at that time.
- ❖ Water Department & Town Hall – Mayor Fairweather and Stephanie Shepherd discussed with the council the priority repairs needed on the building. #1 Roof – to address leaks, #2 Water Office – repairs for termite damage and office floor, #3 Front Entrance and Bathrooms – repairs on entry way and both bathrooms, Also, additional issues will remain such as the electrical and ceiling, windows that are broken/falling, misc. Stephanie to meet with the first contractor on Thursday. She will continue to reach out and collect bids for possible repairs to the building.
- ❖ Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Update given by Lajunta Plumlee
  - Minutes of Advisory Board's last meeting provided for Council members.
  - A list of potential board members presented for Council approval – No Objections of board members for the Parks and Recreation Committee.
  - Lajunta Plumlee informed the council of her meeting with representative from NWAEDD encouraging the town to submit our application again this year for grant funds. No objection from the council for Parks and Recreation advisory board to pursue grant opportunity.
    - Other concerns raised by the Parks and Recreation Committee include poor lighting by the park and behind community center – Mayor Fairweather volunteered to look at seeking a solution for the lighting issue. And the Safety of old and dated playground equipment located on the far side



of the park area. This equipment is unsafe and requests permission for it to be removed and replaced with a soccer field. Local Citizen Kay Jones has offered to help auction off the old equipment for the town.

- Lajunta informed the council of upcoming events the Parks Committee will be hosting in hopes of building town morale and pride with the aim to increase interest in keeping the Schoolhouse operational and updating our parks and public areas. These Events consist of June 29<sup>th</sup> Car Show & Cornhole Tournament, September 14<sup>th</sup> Fall Festival & Town Anniversary 86 years incorporated, and November 16<sup>th</sup> Chili Cook-Off
- ❖ Mayor Fairweather informed the Council of his plans to have a booth again at the Annual Ice Cream Social which will be held June 7 & 8. His intent is to again raise donations for the upkeep and maintenance of the Oak Grove Community Center (Old Schoolhouse).
- ❖ Chief McKelvey brought an issue to the council regarding the culvert located at the corner of Parakeet Lane. The culvert is in need of clearing and he suggests digging out the far side to help prevent flow issues in the future.

#### WATER DEPARTMENT

- ❖ Nothing to Report

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT – Storm Siren tested at 7pm

- ❖ \*833 Application completed online
- ❖ Mayor informed the council of the speedbumps that were purchased and installed at the Fire station.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

- ❖ Micheal Voight approached the Council requesting they consider reopening the Police Department for the Town of Oak Grove. He believes that the Town is capable of having and maintaining a police presence in Oak Grove with the right officer in charge. He provided council with information collected from Carrol County showing 50 call and responses for Oak Grove in April this year. He also informed the council of certain requirements that would need to take place before the department could be reinstated which would include a trip to Little Rock. Alderman Gary Gray raised concerns of funding for such a department. Mr. Gray understands grants may be available in the future, but he is unsure that the town could afford to establish the dept again after the failure and expense of the prior police dept. Mr. Voight understand that but believes that there is a way to accomplish this without bankrupting the town and he encourages the town to consider it with the growing number of abduction and the increase of more violent crimes. The Council would like to gather additional information before deciding and will address this again at next month meeting.

Gary Gray made motion to adjourn meeting, Seconded by Lajunta Plumlee. All Present Agreed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 pm.



Robert Fairweather / MAYOR



Stephanie Shepherd / RECORDER

