

Town of Oak Grove, AR
Town Council Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2026

Stephanie Shepherd called to order the regular meeting of the Oak Grove Town Council at 7:04 PM at the Oak Grove Town Hall, following the scheduled storm siren test at 6:55 PM. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members Present: Gary Gray, Terry Hutchison, Aaron Curtis

Council Members Absent: Lajunta Plumlee and Mayor Robert Fairweather

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from December 2, 2025, regular meeting were presented for council review.

Motion to approve: Gary Gray - Second: Aaron Curtis – All Agreed.

Financial Reports

Verified Financial Statements for November 2025 were submitted.

Motion to approve: Aaron Curtis - Second: Gary Gray – All Agreed.

Monthly Bills for December 2025 were submitted.

Motion to approve: Terry Hutchison - Second: Aaron Curtis – All Agreed.

GovDeals Auction – 1996 Ford F70 Tanker Truck

The GovDeals.com auction for the 1996 Ford F70 Tanker Truck closed on January 6, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. The highest bid received totaled \$3,850.00.

Motion: Gary Gray moved to accept the bid of \$3,850.00 - Second: Aaron Curtis – All Agreed

The winning bid of \$3,850.00 was approved by Council. Secretary/Treasurer Stephanie Shepherd was directed to update the GovDeals.com page to reflect the Council's decision.

Council Action on Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence Policy

The Town Council was presented with the Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence Use Policy, as required under Arkansas State Law Act 489 and Act 848 of 2025. The policy was reviewed and approved by the Council. To formally adopt the policy, Resolution No. 130-2026 was introduced. Motion: Gary Gray moved that the resolution be read by title only - Second: Aaron Curtis. – All Agreed.

Secretary/Treasurer Stephanie Shepherd then read aloud by title only: *Resolution No. 130-2026 – A Resolution Adopting the “Cybersecurity & Artificial Intelligence Use Policy” for the Town of Oak Grove, Arkansas; and for Other Purposes.* Motion to Adopt: Aaron Curtis - Second: Gary Gray – All Agreed.

Town Hall Construction vs. Repairs – Council Discussion

The Council reviewed financing options from local banks and determined that a long-term loan cannot be pursued without the issuance of General Revenue Bonds, which require voter approval. To proceed with new construction, the matter would need to be placed on the ballot this year. Under Arkansas Constitution Article 12 and Ark. Code Title 14, general obligation bonds are required for major capital improvements such as buildings and infrastructure. Additional information was presented regarding the use of Certificates of Deposit (Street CDs). As defined by Ark. Code § 19-8-101 et seq., CDs are not financing tools and cannot be used as collateral for loans; they only preserve and earn interest on existing funds.

Following continued discussion, the Council noted reluctance to spend funds on the aging structure but acknowledged that there is not sufficient support at this time to pursue construction of a new Town Hall. Therefore, the Council agreed to proceed with the previously approved repair funds allocated in the 2026 budget. Secretary/Treasurer Stephanie Shepherd will provide additional insight into potential repair costs at the February meeting.

Deannexation of Properties on Eagle Lane

Stephanie Shepherd presented to the council the petitions submitted by residents of Eagle Lane requesting deannexation (detachment) from the incorporated limits of the Town of Oak Grove. Six property owners have formally submitted petitions:

- Vida Smith – Lot 11
- Jason & Stacy Sutton – Lot 14
- Ronnie Sutton – Lot 3
- Dale Hashagen – Lot 7
- Bobby & Clara Tittsworth – Lots 15 & 16

Council Member Gary Gray asked Stephanie if the Town should expect additional petitions from the remaining property owners. She informed him that the current petitioners stated that the remaining Eagle Lane property owners intend to pursue deannexation as well. Alderman Gray further inquired whether the Town could process the deannexation as a single action or whether each petition must be handled individually. Due to uncertainty regarding the proper legal procedure and the likelihood of receiving additional petitions, the council agreed to revisit the matter at the next meeting.

Water Department

Nothing to report currently

Fire Department

Fire Chief McKelvey presented the monthly fire response report for Council review.

The Fire Chief conveyed to the Council his intent to apply proceeds from the sale of the tanker, together with Act 833 grant funds, toward early payment of the first installment on the loan for the new tanker truck purchased in 2025.

The Fire Chief noted that annual service maintenance is due for the storm siren. He proposed exploring providers who could perform a maintenance review in addition to any necessary repairs. The siren is currently operational but has not received maintenance since 2021, when Smith Two-Way completed repairs.

The Fire Chief extended an invitation to all, announcing the Fire Department's Year-End Banquet to be held at Carroll Electric on January 16, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comments

Alderman Aaron Curtis spoke of the increasing number of speeding cars that travel down CR 614. He would like the council to consider purchasing signs regarding speed or slowdown to help curb the dangerous drivers. Fire Chief McKelvey stated there are posts available for use at fire station if needed. Stephanie Shepherd to locate any signs in storage that could be used before purchasing new and will update council at next meeting.

Announcements

Next Council Meeting scheduled for February 3, 2026.

Adjournment

Gary Gray made motion to adjourn, Second Aaron Curtis. All Agreed. Meeting adjourned 7:44pm.



Robert Fairweather – MAYOR



Stephanie Shepherd – Secretary/Treasurer