

Town of Oak Grove, AR
Town Council Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2025

Mayor Robert Fairweather called to order the regular meeting of the Oak Grove Town Council at 7:05 PM at the Oak Grove Town Hall, following the scheduled storm siren test at 7:00 PM. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members Present: Gary Gray, Terry Hutchison, Lajunta Plumlee
Council Members Absent: Aaron Curtis

Approval of Minutes

Council reviewed the minutes from the October 8, 2025, meeting. Motion to approve made by Gary Gray, seconded by Terry Hutchison. All agreed.

Financial Reports

Verified Financial Statements for September 2025 presented to Council. Motion to approve made by Gary Gray, seconded by Terry Hutchison. All agreed.

Monthly bills for October 2025 submitted for review. Motion to approve made by Gary Gray, seconded by Terry Hutchison. All agreed.

2026 Budget Review and Adoption

Stephanie Shepherd presented adjustments to the 2026 Budget based on Council actions from the October meeting. Adjustments included:

- Allocation of \$42,000 for Town Hall and Water Department repairs
- Inclusion of Act 833 funds for the new tanker truck loan
- Addition of employee benefit waiving Community Center rental fees for personal, non-profit events

Council approved the adjusted 2026 Budget. Mayor Fairweather read aloud Resolution 129-2025 to formally adopt the budget. Motion to adopt made by Lajunta Plumlee, seconded by Terry Hutchison. All agreed.

New Business: Town Hall Construction Proposal

Council Member Terry Hutchison proposed new construction in lieu of repairs to the existing Town Hall. He presented local estimates for a new 1,200 sq. ft. building and expressed preference for reallocating the \$42,000 repair budget toward new construction, even if a loan is required. Following discussion, Council agreed to pursue sealed bids for new construction. Gary Gray made motion to run ad for 3 weeks, Seconded by Lajunta Plumlee, All Agreed. Stephanie Shepherd will prepare and publish a sealed bid advertisement in accordance with state requirements, to run for three consecutive publications. Bids will be opened on December 2, 2025, at the Council Meeting. Council will revisit the 2026 Budget pending the outcome of the bid process.

Departmental Updates

Water Department

There were no new updates or issues reported by the Water Department this month.

Fire Department

The Fire Department has successfully acquired a replacement tanker truck, as approved during the previous council meeting. The vehicle was purchased for \$30,000. To finance the purchase, a loan in the amount of \$30,128.00 was secured. The loan carries a five-year term with a single annual payment of \$7,317.94. This acquisition ensures continued operational readiness and enhances the department's emergency response capabilities.

Council member Lajunta Plumlee raised a concern regarding the lack of available ice in the department's ice machine over the weekend. Chief McKelvey acknowledged the issue and explained that the current machine is non-functional. A replacement unit has already been ordered and is en-route.

The department recently received a generous donation of new rescue tools valued at approximately \$30,000. The donation was made by a local family who had been aided by the department during a recent emergency. The tools will significantly enhance the department's rescue operations and response efficiency.

Chief McKelvey addressed the council regarding rumors circulating about the department, reportedly originating from within Town Hall. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a respectful and supportive environment, especially in light of the department's reliance on its 24 dedicated volunteers. The Chief reminded all present that these individuals donate their time and skills to serve the community and deserve appreciation and encouragement.

Parks Committee

Community Center Window Repair - An estimate for window repairs at the historic schoolhouse submitted via text by Council Member Lajunta Plumlee. The estimate totaled \$750.00 and was approved by council members both via text and during the meeting. The repair work is expected to take two days and will be completed within the next few weeks.

Council Member Plumlee also presented an estimate for the addition of a storage closet adjacent to the restrooms inside the schoolhouse. The proposed cost of \$450.00 was considered reasonable by the council. A motion to approve the project was made by Council Member Gary Gray and seconded by Council Member Terry Hutchison. The motion passed unanimously, authorizing Council Member Plumlee to proceed with the project.

Public Announcements

In Memoriam

Mayor Fairweather informed the council and attendees of the recent passing of the Mayor of Green Forest. He asks that everyone keep the mayor's family in their thoughts during this difficult time.

Community Event – “Christmas in the Country”

Karne Sanchez addressed the council regarding the upcoming “Christmas in the Country” event scheduled for November 15th. She reported an overwhelming response from vendors and expressed optimism for a strong community turnout.

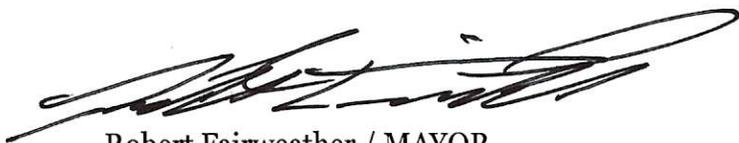
Karen Sanchez also brought forward concerns from residents of Eagle Lane, who are seeking to be de-annexed from the Town of Oak Grove. The residents cite a lack of municipal services or benefits

despite paying city taxes annually. The council acknowledged the concern, and further discussion or formal proceedings which may be scheduled to address their request.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Gary Gray, seconded by Terry Hutchison. All agreed.
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Next Council Meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Fairweather". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Robert Fairweather / MAYOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Shepherd". The signature is cursive and elegant.

Stephanie Shepherd / RECORDER