Town of Oak Grove, AR
Town Council Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2026

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, following the scheduled storm siren test at 6:55 PM. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Approval of Minutes
The minutes from June 2026 regular meeting were presented for council review. Motion to approve: Lajunta Plumlee - Second: Gary Gray – All Agreed.

Financial Reports
Monthly Bills for June 2026 were submitted.
Motion to approve: Terry Hutchison - Second: Gary Gray – All Agreed.
Verified Financial Statements for May 2026 were submitted.
Motion to approve: Gary Gray – Second: Lajunta Plumlee – All Agreed.

Deannexation – Eagle Lane Properties
Stephanie Shepherd reported that the detachment documents are currently under review by Attorney Crystal Smith of Smith Moon Law Firm, Harrison. Ms. Smith has agreed to review and guide the Town through the detachment process and informed Ms. Shepherd that she expects to have the documents reviewed by early next week, at which time she will contact the Town with further guidance. Mayor Robert Fairweather asked the Council to consider whether proceeding with deannexation remains the best course of action, or whether the Town should instead pursue obtaining easements from property owners to allow Town funds to be used for road work and potentially water service improvements. After discussion, the Council and Mayor agreed that continuing with the petitioned owners' request for detachment is the most appropriate course, noting that Eagle Lane has been a long-standing point of conflict for the Town. Recorder Shepherd asked the Council whether they preferred to hold a special meeting to read and finalize the matter once the attorney's review is complete, or whether they wished to place the item on the next regular meeting agenda. Council agreed to review the matter at the August Regular Meeting.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Mike McKelvey presented the Monthly Fire Response Report to the Council.

The Chief requested approval to purchase a replacement hose for the Brush Truck, noting that the hose burst during its last use. He provided an estimated replacement cost from Fire Master.

The Chief also requested approval for repairs to the tanker truck pump primer, which burned out during a large fire response over the holiday weekend. He stated that an estimate has not yet been obtained but requested authorization to proceed with necessary repairs.

Council agreed that both purchases and repairs are necessary for proper department operation.

- Motion to approve: Terry Hutchison Second: Gary Gray All agreed.

Water Department
Stephanie Shepherd requested approval for a new tap location on County Road 433 for Mark Gifford. Water Operator Craig Matzenbacher has already reviewed the site and reported no issues. Council discussed and approved the new tap location.

Stephanie Shepherd informed the Council of a possible auto-draft payment option for Water Department customers. Approximately 20% of customers have expressed interest in this service. She noted that offering auto-draft would require the Water Department to store and manage customer credit/debit card information and requested Council input on feasibility. Council agreed that Stephanie should gather more information, including any fees associated with auto-draft and any security or procedural requirements. Stephanie will contact Chelsea with SoftWater – Intedata Systems for details.

Stephanie Shepherd revisited Craig's earlier request for exterior cleaning of the water tank. Council Member Lajunta Plumlee reported that her original contact is unable to perform the work. Mayor Fairweather stated he may know of a possible vendor and will coordinate with Craig Matzenbacher regarding the need.

Public Comments
Council Member Lajunta Plumlee informed the Council that the Town's application to the Rural Community Grant Program has been approved with a 50/50 match. The grant awards $15,000.00, and she hopes to provide updated estimates and matching cost information at the next meeting. She and Veronica Gray will attend the Awards Ceremony in Little Rock on Monday, July 13th. The grant was submitted with the intent of adding a pickleball court/pavilion to the Town Park.
The next park event, Bingo Night, will take place Saturday, July 11th. Doors open at 5:00 PM; bingo begins at 6:00 PM.

Council Member Terry Hutchison updated the Council on recent improvements made by the ball club at the Town Park, including painting of the dugouts and cookshack, installation of new boards on the bleachers, and cleaning and painting of playground equipment. Mr. Hutchison asked whether the Town would like to use the same paint vendor for possible painting of the schoolhouse. He offered to obtain a formal quote for Council consideration. A verbal estimate of approximately $2,500.00 was provided. Terry will present a bid at a future meeting.

Mr. Hutchison also noted an upcoming benefit ball tournament scheduled for June 24 & 25 at the Oak Grove Ballfield.

Additional community center needs were discussed, including removal of graffiti from the east-facing windows, which may require temporarily removing the protective grating. Council also discussed installing steps at the north-facing door to improve safety. Council will continue improvements at the park and community center.

Mayor Fairweather noted the upcoming Mr. Brooks Reunion, to be held July 11th from 4–7 PM, in celebration of Mr. Larry Brooks, long-time agriculture teacher in Berryville.

Adjournment
Gary Gray made motion to adjourn Second Terry Hutchison. All Agreed. Meeting adjourned 7:46pm.

Robert Fairweather – MAYOR

Stephanie Shepherd – Secretary/Treasurer