Town of Oak Grove, AR
Town Council Meeting Minutes
August 4, 2026

Mayor Robert Fairweather called to order the regular meeting of the Oak Grove Town Council at 7:08 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, Lajunta Plumlee, Aaron Curtis, Terry Hutchison
Council Members Absent: None

Also Present: Recorder/Treasurer Stephanie Shepherd, Water & Parks Superintendent Craig Matzenbacher, Fire Chief Mike McKelvey

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from July 7, 2026, regular meeting were presented for Council review.
Motion to approve: Gary Gray – Second: Lajunta Plumlee – All Agreed.

Financial Reports

Monthly Bills for July 2026 were submitted for review.
Motion to approve: Aaron Curtis – Second: Gary Gray – All Agreed.

Verified Financial Statements for June 2026 were submitted.
Motion to approve: Aaron Curtis – Second: Lajunta Plumlee – All Agreed.

Deannexation – Eagle Lane Properties

Recorder/Treasurer Stephanie Shepherd provided the Mayor and Council with an email received earlier that day from Attorney Crystal Smith of Smith Moon Law Firm, Harrison, summarizing her initial review of the Eagle Lane detachment matter. Attorney Smith reviewed all documents previously submitted by the Town, including petitions, Resolution 133-2026, hearing notices, council minutes, the historical timeline, and the 2023 Allen Squires letter.

Attorney Smith advised that the statute cited in the petitions, A.C.A. § 14-40-608, does not apply to the Eagle Lane situation. She explained that § 14-40-608 is a narrow provision intended only for cases where a single landowner seeks to detach land they originally owned in its entirety at the time of annexation, and only within three years of annexation, and only if the city has provided no utility services. Because Oak Grove Village was annexed well over three years ago, and because each Eagle Lane petitioner owns only one lot rather than the entire annexed tract, the petitions filed have no legal effect under this statute.

Attorney Smith further noted that Arkansas law does not allow piecemeal detachment of individual parcels. Detachment must occur as a defined territory, not lot-by-lot. Attempting to detach only the eleven petitioning lots while leaving five non-petitioning lots inside Town limits would create isolated municipal "islands," which the county court would be unlikely to approve.

Before any detachment process can proceed, Attorney Smith emphasized that the Town must first confirm how and when Oak Grove Village was annexed, as no annexation ordinance or order has yet been located in county records. Establishing the correct legal description of the territory is a required first step under A.C.A. § 14-40-1801.

Attorney Smith also clarified that once annexation is verified, additional owner petitions are not required. Detachment under § 14-40-1801 is a municipal decision, not a landowner-driven process. The statute requires published notice, a special election of all qualified Town electors, and, if approved, a petition to the Carroll County Court for a hearing and final order. The electors and the county court—not individual property owners—are the decision-makers.

Finally, Attorney Smith noted that if the annexation was never lawfully completed, the county court may simply issue an order excluding the territory from Town limits, avoiding the election process entirely. She recommended that the Town complete an annexation records search with the County Clerk, Secretary of State, and Arkansas GIS Office. Once annexation is confirmed or disproven, she will advise the Council on the appropriate next steps.

Following discussion, Council agreed to proceed with the recommended verification process. Motion to proceed with the Mayor and Recorder/Treasurer assisting Smith Moon Law Firm in determining the validity of the Eagle Lane annexation and next steps: Gary Gray – Second: Lajunta Plumlee – All Agreed.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Mike McKelvey presented the Monthly Fire Response Report to the Council. Reports were submitted for review. No purchases or repairs were requested at this meeting.

Water Department

Water & Parks Superintendent Craig Matzenbacher informed the Council that he received a new estimate from Garrett Stone for exterior cleaning of the Town's water tank. The estimate was significantly lower than a previous vendor's quote, which had been prohibitively high. Craig recommended moving forward with the cleaning based on the improved pricing.

After brief discussion, the Council agreed that the tank cleaning is necessary and that the new estimate is acceptable. Council approved Craig Matzenbacher to proceed with scheduling and coordinating the water tank exterior cleaning.

Parks & Community Center

Council received an update on the Rural Community Grant Program, noting that the Park Committee is still awaiting final quotes for project costs. The grant funds have been deposited into the Town's General Fund.

Regarding schoolhouse painting, Council Member Terry Hutchison reported that the original vendor previously considered is no longer interested in the project. Fire Chief Mike McKelvey recommended Mike Weeks as a potential vendor. The mayor will contact Mr. Weeks to obtain an estimate.

Public Comments

Mayor Fairweather provided updates on several community concerns:

- **Brush and Overgrowth – County Road 614** A citizen reported overgrowth along CR 614. The Mayor contacted Carroll County, who agreed to trim the portion of the road located within Town limits. The work has been added to their schedule.
- **Road Maintenance – County Road 4351** The Mayor noted ongoing complaints regarding road conditions. Because portions of CR 4351 fall both inside and outside Town limits, maintenance responsibilities are divided. The Mayor has located a vendor offering a favorable rate for gravel to maintain Town-owned sections.
- **Highway 21 Corner – CR 423 & CR 608** Increased truck traffic from Indian Creek Feeds has made the intersection more hazardous. Although the area lies outside Town limits, the Mayor contacted the Arkansas Department of Transportation to request safety improvements due to the high volume of local residents traveling through the intersection.
- **Road Resurfacing Project Delay** The resurfacing project originally expected to begin this year has been postponed to **2027** due to exhausted funding. The project remains approved but unscheduled.

- **Broadband Vendor Inquiry** The Mayor reported communication with Little Rock Broadband regarding potential internet service for Town properties, including Town Hall and the Fire Department. He hopes service may be available by late 2027.

Announcements

Next Regular Council Meeting: September 1, 2026

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Gary Gray – Second: Terry Hutchison – All Agreed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Robert Fairweather – MAYOR

Stephanie Shepherd – Recorder/Treasurer