Town of Oak Grove, AR
Town Council Meeting Minutes
September 1, 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 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 the August 4, 2026 regular meeting were presented for Council review. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Council Member Aaron Curtis and seconded by Council Member Lajunta Plumlee. All Agreed, None Opposed.

Financial Reports

Monthly bills for August 2026 were submitted for review. Council Member Gary Gray made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Council Member Lajunta Plumlee. All Agreed, None Opposed.

Verified financial statements for July 2026 were presented. Council Member Aaron Curtis made a motion to approve the verified statements, seconded by Council Member Lajunta Plumlee. All Agreed, None Opposed.

Ordinance 133-2026 – Annual 5 Mill Tax

Mayor Fairweather presented Ordinance 133-2026, the annual millage ordinance, for Council consideration. Recorder/Treasurer Shepherd will file the ordinance with the Carroll County Clerk and return it to the Council at the next regular meeting.

Council Member Aaron Curtis made a motion to read the ordinance by title only, seconded by Council Member Gary Gray. All Agreed, None Opposed.

Mayor Fairweather read the ordinance by title aloud. Council Member Curtis then made a motion to approve Ordinance 133-2026, seconded by Council Member Gray. All Agreed, None Opposed.

Deannexation – Eagle Lane Properties

Recorder/Treasurer Shepherd reported that Attorney Crystal Smith of Smith Moon Law Firm had not yet provided the client/attorney agreement required to continue work on the Eagle Lane annexation records search. Attorney Smith confirmed she will continue assisting the Town, but the agreement has not yet been received.

The Council discussed procedural requirements under A.C.A. § 14-40-1801 and agreed to revisit the matter at the next meeting, anticipating an update once the agreement is finalized and records research progresses.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Mike McKelvey presented the Monthly Fire Response Report.

Mayor Fairweather requested an updated inventory list from the Fire Department for fixed asset documentation in preparation for the Legislative Audit review. Fire Chief McKelvey stated he would email the inventory list to Recorder/Treasurer Shepherd the following day.

Fire Chief McKelvey also presented the annual AirMedCare invoice for firefighter coverage. Mayor Fairweather noted that the Fire Department had previously agreed to extend this benefit to Recorder/Treasurer Shepherd due to her ongoing administrative assistance, but she had not yet been added. The Fire Chief agreed to send the benefit application to Recorder/Treasurer Shepherd so she may be included in the current enrollment cycle.

Water Department

Water & Parks Superintendent Matzenbacher reported that the exterior cleaning of the Town's water tank had been completed by Stone Washed.

A new tap request for CR 433 at the LaRose Ranch property was presented. The Council reviewed and approved the installation of the new tap. All Agreed, None Opposed.

Parks & Community Center

Council received an update on the Rural Community Grant Program. Council Member Lajunta Plumlee and Park Committee Member Veronica Gray reported that project estimates were still being collected and that the Park Committee would meet on September 10, 2026, to review bids. Current project cost estimates total approximately $32,000, consisting of $15,000 in grant funds, $5,000 in donated park funds, and a $12,000 match from the Town.

An estimate for painting the schoolhouse was submitted by vendor Matt Weeks in the amount of $4,450. The Council agreed the estimate was reasonable and approved the project. Council Member Plumlee made the motion to proceed, seconded by Council Member Gray. All Agreed, None Opposed.

Public Comments

The floor was opened for citizen comments and community updates. No formal action was taken.

Announcements

Recorder/Treasurer Shepherd reported completion of all required State Treasurer Training courses, confirming the Town's compliance with State Act 671 of 2025. She provided the Mayor and Council with a summary of the course material and noted that the Arkansas Municipal League encourages all municipal officials to attend these free courses.

Recorder/Treasurer Shepherd also informed the Council that Oak Grove had been selected for a single-year Legislative Audit for 2025. She is coordinating with Legislative Audit representatives to arrange pickup of the required documentation later in the week.

Mayor Fairweather reported receiving citizen concerns regarding animals running at large. The Council reviewed the Town's current ordinance and agreed that the Mayor should contact the City of Berryville to explore whether a cooperative arrangement could be established to better serve Oak Grove residents.

Council Member Terry Hutchison announced that an all-night softball tournament would be held at the Town's ball field on September 12, 2026 beginning at 8:00 PM. He noted that the rental fee for field and light usage would be $25 per hour.

The next regular Council meeting is scheduled for October 6, 2026.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Gary Gray – Second: Lajunta Plumlee – All Agreed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Robert Fairweather – MAYOR

Stephanie Shepherd – Recorder/Treasurer