



Tuesday, May 6, 2025
City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
City of Oak Grove Council Chambers
8505 Pembroke-Oak Grove Rd., Oak Grove, Kentucky

***Mayor Jacqueline Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Pastor Chris Nicholson led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN FORUM

- Citizen Andy Walters spoke about the costs of stormwater maintenance, sidewalks, and pump-stations.
- Citizen Mary Bracey expressed concerns regarding trash and debris in our city and offered a few suggestions to correct this issue.
- Citizen Dianna Cuarisma offered information regarding emergency management for our city of Oak Grove, that the city of Hopkinsville, KY had circulated through-out their city.

ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Council Member Jean Leavell, Council Member Isaiah Spencer, Council Member Richard Baker, Council Member John Campbell, Council Member Janet Edwards, and Council Member Edward Cook were present. A quorum was established. The attendance to include the City of Oak Grove Police Chief Dennis Cunningham, Public Works Director Brian Ahart, Finance Director Matt Egbert, City Attorney Lee Wilson and Deputy City Clerk Lisa L Beckman. There were approximately twenty-one (21) citizens present.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

- ❖ Council Member Isaiah Spencer made a motion to approve the April 15, 2025, regular city council meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Council Member John Campbell. There was no discussion. Motion passed via voice vote.

RECOGNITION OF CITY VOLUNTEERS

Mayor Jackie Oliver and council member Isaiah Spencer recognized Oak Grove community activists Breana Cash, and Yvonne Castleberry for their selfless dedication to our citizens during the extreme flooding in the months of March and April 2025.

RECOGNITION OF CITY HALL MUNICIPAL CLERKS

Mayor Oliver recognized City Clerk, Lorelynn Fisher, Deputy City Clerk, Lisa L Beckman, and Administrative Assistant, Ann Spencer for their contributions to city hall.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Public Works Director Brian Ahart

- RR crossing on Stateline Rd. will be closed for repair (June 2, 2025, - June 16, 2025).
- Dumpsters to be set in and around flooded areas, no rubber tires or electrical batteries allowed, more information coming tomorrow regarding appliances being allowed in these dumpsters. Public Works and Christian County inmates will be cleaning the streets of debris.
- City-wide limb pick-up scheduled for May 19, 2025, limbs must be 6" in diameter or less and set by the curb for pick-up.
- Letter sent out specifically for flood victims, i.e., Man-O War and Lillian streets. This letter was to inform residents that to obtain FEMA assistance, a FEMA permit must be obtained via city hall, and that it is free of charge. This is a requirement of FEMA, and the Kentucky Flood Plain Coordinator. These FEMA permits are required for flood victims to receive assistance after the flood waters have receded.
- Resolution- a GRANT Program of 2024 application for the HWY 115 and Carneal Lane Waterline and Water Tank Project. The City of Oak Grove respectfully requests an allocation of \$2,000,000 in GRANT funds to assist in securing federal funds that will support a critical water infrastructure project that will enhance water service capacity, improve system reliability, and support significant economic development in the community.
 - ❖ Council Member Isaiah Spencer made a motion to pass the resolution to apply for a grant for additional support for the HWY 115 and Carneal Lane Waterline and Water Tank upgrade Project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Richard Baker. There was minimal discussion. Motion passed via voice vote.

Finance Director Matt Egbert

- Interviews are in process for the open HR Coordinator position.
- The annual ARPA compliance report was completed by the deadline of April 30, 2025. Finance Director Matt Egbert stated that the city is in compliance for another year.
- Wades Way park-Mr. Brian Noel stated that they are finishing a job in Bowling Green, KY, and our Wades Way Park project is next in line. The approximate start date is the week of May 26, 2025. The dismantling of the current playground equipment to be completed by our Public Works Department on May 15, 2025.
- Budget Committee – Finance Director Matt Egbert stated that he will have completed the requested spreadsheet for the Budget Committee meeting next week with a goal of having the first reading at the May 20, 2025, council meeting, and then a second reading at the June 3, 2025, council meeting.

Chief Dennis Cunningham

- The Police Chief, Dennis Cunningham spoke about the current hiring process and stated that there are thirteen (13) officers, and five (5) staff members are currently employed with the city of Oak Grove. Chief Cunningham stated that his intentions were to reach the goal of hiring twenty-one (21) police officers. Chief Cunningham also stated that October 15, 2025, will be his last day to be employed with the City of Oak Grove. After thirty-two (32) years of service, he will be retiring. Chief Cunningham stated that he hopes he can be a part of the hiring process for his replacement.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ Mayor Jackie Oliver requested the city council members to make a motion to appoint Breana Cash to the city of Oak Grove Steering Committee. Council Member Isaiah Spencer made a motion to appoint Breana Cash to the Steering Committee. The motion was seconded by Council Member John Campbell. There was no discussion. Motion passed via voice vote.

LEGISLATIVE BODY MEMBER COMMENTS

Mosquito Control-Sponsored by Council member Edward Cook.

- Mayor Oliver stated that she has contacted the county agricultural department and was told that they will spray for mosquitos for free, and to remember that the spray will kill bees also. The county agricultural department stated that they will spray after 9:00pm at night, which will help the bees and their survival rate. The mayor also noted that the spray will only kill the live mosquitos at the time of the spraying. Mayor Oliver noted that with all of the flooding, spraying for mosquitos is high on the priority list.

The hiring of an Engineer to assess city flood-prone areas and recommend flood mitigation solutions-sponsored by council member Edward Cook.

- Mayor Oliver and Public Works Director Brian Ahart explained that the city has an engineer, Alex from TTL. The mayor stated that the city has been going to him for a long time. Council member Edward Cook asked that the mayor and Brian Ahart keep the citizens updated on all topics. The mayor was in agreement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 61.810

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION 61.810 • Enter Executive Session per KRS 61.810(1)(c) to discuss proposed or on-going litigation.**
 - ❖ Council Member John Campbell made a motion to enter Executive Session per KRS 61.810(1)(c) to discuss pending litigation of the city. Council Member Janet Edwards seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed via voice vote.
 - ❖ Council member Janet Edwards made a motion to go back into open session. The motion was seconded by Council Member John Campbell. There was no discussion. Motion passed via voice vote.
- Mayor Oliver stated that during Executive Session, no decisions were made by the city council.

CLOSING REMARKS

Cookies with Council

- Mayor Oliver spoke about the recent "Cookies with Council" event, and how it was a success.
- Council member Janet Edwards stated that this event went well. There were six (6) citizens that were present. Council member Janet Edwards stated that at the first event, which was held on May 3, 2025, the three council members that attended were: council member Richard Baker, council member John Campbell, and council member Janet Edwards. Council member Janet Edwards stated that moving forward, she would prefer that "Cookies with Council" to be scheduled on the first Saturday of every month, between 10:00am and 12:00pm at the Community Center. Council member Edward Cook, council member Jean Leavell, and council member Isaiah Spencer will be at the next "Cookies with Council" on June 7, 2025.

Walmart-Grand re-opening

- The Walmart Grand Re-Opening ceremony is scheduled for 9:00am, on May 9, 2025.

The unveiling of the Marker for the “Time Capsule”

- Mayor Oliver reminded everyone that the unveiling ceremony of the time capsule marker will be held on May 9, 2025, at 11:00am, at the Community Center. Lunch will be served immediately following the ceremony.

State of Kentucky Black Caucus Conference

- Council Member Isaiah Spencer made an announcement that the State of Kentucky Black Caucus Conference will be held in Hopkinsville, Kentucky on May 15th & 16th, 2025, at the Pioneer.

Spring into Summer

- Council Member Isaiah Spencer and Mayor Oliver mentioned that the “Spring into Summer” event will be held on May 24th, & 25th, 2025. The mayor stated that the performing artist will be Brantley Gilbert.

ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Council Member Janet Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member John Campbell seconded the motion. No discussion was held. The motion passed via voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25 pm.

PREPARED BY:

/s/

Lisa L Beckman
Deputy City Clerk
City of Oak Grove

APPROVED:

Janet Edwards-Presiding Officer
City of Oak Grove

DATE

ATTEST:

Lorelynn Fisher
City Clerk
City of Oak Grove

DATE