



Thursday, May 7, 2026
Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
Oak Grove Council Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson/Committee Member Janet Edwards called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. CST / 6:00 p.m. EST

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Attendance:

- Janet Edwards – Chairperson/Committee Member-Present
- John Campbell – Vice Chairperson/Committee Member-Present
- Isaiah Spencer – Committee Member-Present
- Jean Leavell-Committee Member-Present (Arrived at 5:03pm)
- Richard Baker-Committee Member-Present
- Edward Cook – Committee Member-Present

Additional Attendance:

- City Clerk Lorelynn Fisher
- Public Works Director Brian Ahart
- Community Center Director/Parks and Recreation Director Eric Hauser
- Chief Lynch
- City Attorney Lee Wilson
- 1 Citizen(s) was present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 5, 2026

Motion: Vice Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell

Second: Committee Member Isaiah Spencer

Vote: Voice vote

Result: Passed

AGENDA

- **Municipal Order 2026-XX**

(Order establishing compensatory and administrative leave time banking for exempt employees):

- The committee discussed that exempt employees should generally be responsible for managing their own time. Concerns were also addressed regarding the use of comp time in combination with vacation time or in place of vacation leave. Discussion was held regarding the new software system and its ability to track executive time. The committee also discussed the possibility of placing limits on the amount of comp-time that may be combined with vacation leave but ultimately expressed support for allowing employees flexibility in how they use their time. The committee agreed to move forward with this order for the time being with the possibility of reviewing and considering future policy changes later in the year, including the option of unlimited PTO.

Motion: Vice Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell

Second: Committee Member Isaiah Spencer

Vote: Voice

Results: Passed

- **HWEA Rates**

(Committee update on the current status of this matter):

- The committee reviewed correspondence from the Finance Director and HWEA regarding utility rates. Discussion was held regarding Oak Grove's rates being higher than those of surrounding cities, with concerns expressed that the rates remain too high. The committee also discussed that the current contract allows HWEA to set the rates following Oak Grove's sale of the system. Additional discussion included that, in order to challenge the rates in the future, Oak Grove would need to continue growing and expanding.

- **Enter into Executive Session per KRS 61.810(1)(c)**

(Discussion of proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency; City Council to discuss litigation):

Motion: Vice Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell moved to enter into Executive Session per KRS 61.810(1)(c) to discuss pending litigation

Second: Council Member Edward Cook

Vote: Voice vote

Results: Passed

No action was taken during the Executive Session

- **Enter into Regular Session:**
Motion: Committee Member Jean Leavell moved to return to Regular Session
Second: Vice Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell
Vote: Voice Vote
Results: Passed

- **Franchise Fees**
(Committee discussion and review of applicable fees):
 - The committee discussed Mediacom’s request to renew its cable franchise agreement with the city. Wilson explained that cable franchise fees differ from other franchise fees and are governed by the Communications Act of 1934. Discussion also included ongoing legal efforts by KLC, which has both filed and joined lawsuits seeking to change the way cable franchise fees are collected. The committee discussed that the city currently has the option to either participate in the state system, in which franchise fees are collected and distributed by the state, or collect its own franchise fees locally.
 - Wilson advised that he is not comfortable recommending renewal of the agreement with Mediacom at this time until further review of the Communications Act and related legal considerations can be completed. The committee was informed that the City of Cadiz is currently facing a similar issue, and discussions are ongoing with Cadiz’s City Attorney to help determine the best option for Oak Grove. Additional discussion included that a cable franchise agreement is required in order for a provider to offer cable services within the city; however, such agreements are nonexclusive, allowing multiple cable providers to operate within the city simultaneously. Wilson stated that he expects to have additional information available for the committee by the June Committee of the Whole meeting.

- **Wade’s Way Park**
(Committee discussion and review of the bathroom rental agreement and consideration of park rental):
 - The committee discussed the possibility of renting the pavilion at Wade’s Way Park, referencing how other cities, including Hopkinsville, rent out park pavilions. Discussion clarified that only the pavilion area would be rented, while the remainder of the park would remain open and accessible to the public.
 - The committee reviewed the proposed bathroom key and deposit policy, including responsibility for inspecting and cleaning the restrooms following events. Discussion included utilizing a combination of Community Center staff and Roads and Grounds employees for inspections and cleaning. The committee discussed retaining a portion of the deposit if excessive cleaning is required by the city.

Additional discussion resulted in changing the language within the agreement to distinguish between the bathroom key fee and the refundable deposit. The committee agreed to a \$150 deposit, with \$75 designated as a non-refundable bathroom key fee.

- Discussion was also held regarding potential rental fees for use of the baseball fields. The committee further discussed that the Community Center Director/Parks and Recreation Director would have the authority to stop any event if necessary, and that law enforcement may be contacted if assistance is needed to remove individuals or end an event.
- The committee also discussed parking concerns at Wade's Way Park, including the possibility of extending parking areas and adding gravel for additional parking. Safety concerns regarding a sinkhole area were addressed, with discussion of marking off the area until improvements can be made. The committee agreed that further discussion regarding renting out the pavilion, field, and expanding the parking lot should be postponed until confirmation is received regarding the feasibility of adding gravel to the lot for additional parking. The committee also discussed researching possible grant opportunities for park and field improvements.

Motion: Committee Member Edward Cook moved to bring the discussion of the Fire Department Park to the next C.O.W. meeting

Second: Vice Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell

Vote: Voice

Results: Passed

Motion: Vice Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell moved to refer the Fire Department Park and Wade's Way Park discussion to the Playground Committee for further review and consideration.

Second: Committee Member Richard Baker

Vote: Voice

Results: Passed

- **Boards and Committees**

- The committee discussed quorum concerns in relation to potentially adding residents to various boards and committees, taking into consideration past attendance and participation history.
- Discussion was held regarding whether certain committees are too specific in subject matter or city operations to include resident participation. It was noted that some members felt not all committees may be appropriate for resident appointments due to the technical or operational nature of the work.

- The Volunteer Fire/Public Safety Committee, Economic Development Committee (with consideration of business owner representation), Steering Committee, and Playground Committee were recommended for the addition of residents.
- The committee agreed that interest letters should be emailed to info@oakgroveky.org and then brought before the city council for review and consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Committee Member Richard Baker moved to adjourn the meeting

Second: Vice Chairperson/Committee Member John Campbell

Vote: Voice

Results: Passed

Time: Approximately 6:45p.m.

APPROVED:

_____/s/_____

Janet Edwards
Chairperson

_____06.04.26_____

DATE

ATTEST:

_____/s/_____

Lorelynn Fisher, MMC, CKMC,
City Clerk

_____06.04.26_____

DATE

***The minutes were approved during a Regular Committee of the Whole Meeting on June 4, 2026. The original signed document is available at City Hall.**