

**City of Oak Hill**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
Special Called Meeting Minutes  
April 4th, 2023  
4:00 P.M.

The City of Oak Hill's Board of Commissioners met on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 4:00 PM in the City of Oak Hill Board Room for a Special Called Meeting. Board members present were Mayor Dale Grimes, Vice Mayor Winston Evans, David DeMarco, Joy O'Dell, and Scott Price. Staff in attendance were City Attorney Marshall Albritton, Office Manager Victoria Talbott, and City Manager J. Steven Collie functioned as Recorder. The meeting was live streamed via the City's website.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM with Mayor Grimes presiding.

**2. Introductions**

Individuals seated at dais introduced themselves.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Grimes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. Action Item:**

Mayor Grimes opened the meeting with the single agenda item which was the discussion to review Resolution 2023-R-02, to allow limited and temporary use of Brentwood Hills Church of Christ facilities located at 5120 Franklin Road, in Oak Hill, Tennessee. The Resolution was presented, and commissioners were asked to review the contents. The City Manager gave a statement to further inform the Board of Commissioners how the resolution proposal came about. In the presentation, the City Manager explained that the Covenant School has asked for assistance from the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ for the use of their classrooms for the remainder of this school year.

The City Manager continued to state that on April 4th, 2023, at 11:00 o'clock AM, he met with the representatives from the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ. The members in the meeting were Walt Leaver, preacher and Jonathan Seamon, executive minister. Those present from the city were the City Manager Steven Collie, the codes official Stephen Snow, from the codes department Steven Mallory; and Desiree Lohr, Administrative Clerk.

The church officials were contacted by The Covenant School requesting that the Brentwood Hills Church of Christ open their doors and allow the use of their property due of the damage to the buildings at Covenant School during last week's tragic events. The Brentwood Hills Church of Christ apparently has enough classrooms at their church building to accommodate The Covenant School needs until the end of the school year which is May 25, 2023. Brentwood Hills is at the top of the list of those churches and facilities Covenant School has inquired about. The hopes by the Covenant School were that the school classes could resume on Thursday the 13th of April and go through the 25th of May.

Brentwood Hills officials have contacted their insurance company and have been working with Covenant School officials as well as other state agencies to make sure their facility was up to the challenge of meeting educational criteria. The City relayed to the church officials present that in a normal case of events, if they wanted to change their conditional use permit to allow daily school activities, they would be required to go through the process of applying through the Board of Zoning Appeals. As most know, this can be a long and drawn-out process. This is not quick by any means, due to the nature and thoroughness needed for these Conditional Use Permits.

However, this situation is calling for quick resolution and quick decision to be made because the Covenant School wants to resume classrooms right away. They want to get the kids back in school and try to resume some normalcy due to the events last week. This tragic event has taken its toll on the children, the families, the community, and we can only imagine what the friends and families of the victims have had to go through these last few days.

The church officials were told that the City's Board of Commissioners will meet today in a special called meeting at 4:00 o'clock at the city offices. They showed interest in attending and were made welcome to attend and likely have the Covenant School representative attend as well. Since this decision is time sensitive and has been created by unusual and catastrophic events, the City Commissioners are meeting in a Special Called Session to discuss and review a path forward to allow this arrangement between Brentwood Hills and Covenant School.

The City is very interested in assisting and helping, however, there are many other school and church requests that have been subject to the regulations of the city to allow conditional use of schools and churches in Oak Hill. The City Manager turned the meeting back over to the Mayor. The Mayor asked for discussion and questions. Marshall Albritton, the City Attorney was present and added his comments and stated that due to this unusual circumstance and short period of time requested for this use, the City could allow the use of the school with only approval by the Board of Commissioners.

There was a motion from the floor by Commissioner O'Dell to approve Resolution 2023-R-02 to grant Brentwood Hills Church of Christ their request for Temporary Use, allowing the Covenant School to make use of the classrooms thru May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Price. Voting AYE: O'Dell, Price, DeMarco, Grimes, and Evans. The motion carried 5-0

## 5. Adjournment

Evans made the motion to adjourn, seconded by O'Dell. All commissioners present. voted AYE and motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

  
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Dale Grimes, Mayor

  
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Victoria Talbott, City Recorder