

MINUTES

**COTTAGE GROVE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBER
12800 RAVINE PARKWAY SOUTH**

April 17, 2024

**SPECIAL MEETING (Open) – 5:00 P.M
River Oaks Golf Course**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The City Council of the City of Cottage Grove, Washington County, Minnesota, held a special meeting on April 17, 2024, at River Oaks Golf Course (11099 Hwy 61 Cottage Grove, MN 55016). Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Agenda

A. River Oaks Golf Course, Event Center and Eagles Bar and Grill Business Update

Welcome and Introductions

- Dennis Neitz opened the meeting with a statement on River Oaks' mission statement:
 - To create and maintain a venue where guests can enjoy themselves, have a great meal, and create lasting memories. Both on and off the course, River Oaks is committed to continuous improvement and providing an exceptional guest experience for Cottage Grove residents and visitors in a welcoming and professional environment.

2023 Year in Review

- Mr. Neitz highlighted the overall accomplishments of 2023:
 - Achieved an operational profit of \$245,000.
 - Reinvested \$43,000 into capital expenditures for River Oaks.
 - Replaced the aging irrigation system (previously 30 years old).
 - Introduced successful "Signature Events".
 - Maintained a profitable restaurant and event center.

Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Discussion

- Mr. Neitz presented on the long-term goals of LOST and its importance to the community.

- He explained how LOST funds would be used to improve parks, recreational activities, and connect residents with nature.
- This aligns with River Oaks' vision to enhance its facilities, expand offerings as a gathering destination, and attract a wider range of community members.

Potential Uses of LOST Revenue at River Oaks

- The following potential uses of LOST revenue at River Oaks were presented:
 - Increased capacity event venue
 - Dedicated space for outdoor events and gatherings
 - High-quality pickleball courts
 - New bocce ball courts
 - Creation of a 5K walking/running path
 - Development of fat tire biking trails
 - Indoor multi-sport simulators
 - Expansion of the putting green

Q&A

- Mr. Neitz addressed questions from the attendees regarding the proposed uses of LOST revenue.

These minutes serve as a summary of the key points discussed during the meeting.
Minutes prepared by Tamara Anderson, City Clerk.