

**City of Blooming Grove
Council Minutes
01-02-2024**

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held its regular scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Bill Carroll.

Members present were Mayor Bill Carroll, Council Members Gary Patterson, Al Smith, Renee Watson, James Jones, Interim City Secretary Deena Smith, Utility Superintendent Rory Evans, Utilities Assistant Chris Bird and Police Chief T.C. Lawhon.

Gary Patterson handled the invocation after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes -

Gary Patterson made a motion and James Jones seconded to approve the minutes of the December meetings. Motion carried.

Visitors -

Visitors present included Kelly Page and Brad Talley.

Open Forum –

Kelly Page would like to have variance where he can keep the shipping container that was placed in his yard recently. Brad Talley also spoke about the ordinance concerning shipping containers. He would like to know if there is something he could do so that he could put some of his items in his yard into a shipping container.

Department Reports -

Administration- Interim City Secretary Deena Smith reported that City Council Packets for a place on the ballot are available to pick up at City Hall. First day to file is January 17, 2024 and the last day to file is February 16, 2024. City Hall will be open until 5:00 p.m. on the last day.

Public Safety – Chief Lawhon reported two individuals are interested in the Job Opening for the open police position. He also reported that everyone on Buy Board was contacted about a new police vehicle and that the Dallas Police Department purchased over 100 vehicles and there has been a shortage statewide.

Public Works – Rory said that they have had a busy month mowing and they installed two sewer taps and two water taps and going to do one more this week. He also reported that West North Main road work is complete. He informed the council that the rotor at the sewer plan is now fixed.

New Business Voting Items –

Gary Patterson made the motion and Al Smith seconded to approve Ordinance 383 amending Chapter 6, Health and Sanitation, Section 6.02.039 Fee Schedule of the City Code of Ordinances. Motion Carried.

James Jones made the motion and Gary Patterson seconded for the Interim City Secretary to mail Certified Return Receipt letters to owners of potential dangerous or unsafe properties located at 309 N. Fordyce, 409 N. Fordyce, 108 E. Lone Cedar Pike, 209 W. Hancock, 201 S. Elm, 305 S. Hinckley, 104 East North Main, 407 W. Second and 405 W. Second regarding a Public Hearing to be held at the next Council Meeting on February 5, 2024. Motion Carried.

Al Smith made a motion and Gary Patterson seconded to approve the Buy Board dealer price and authorize the Police Chief to contact Parkway Chevrolet to proceed with the purchase of the 2024 Tahoe. Motion Carried.

Discussion Items –

Mayor Carroll updated the council that FEMA is still reviewing the DR4485 Application for Generators.

Mayor Carroll updated the council that the city is still waiting to receive final approval on the Water Storage Grant finalization.

Mayor Carroll updated the council that the city received an email from Sid Miller, Agricultural Commissioner of Texas stating the City received the Grant for the Elevated Storage Tank. That process will start on February 1, 2024. Mayor Carroll stated that at the next meeting we should have the Engineering contract to review. Bids should start in September 2024.

Mayor Carroll recommended that we change the title of the City Secretary position to City Secretary/Administrator. He stated that each candidate should show proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and QuickBooks. He also stated that he would like each applicant to receive a copy of the job description and an application.

Executive Session-

Mayor Carroll called the Council into Executive Session to discuss performance evaluation for Interim City Secretary/Court Clerk, Utility Superintendent, Utilities Assistant and Police Chief at 7:24 p.m. The Mayor called the Council back into open session at 7:47 p.m. There were no actions taken on items discussed during Executive Session.

Gary Patterson made a motion and Renee Watson seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor William E. Carroll

Interim City Secretary Deena Smith