

City of Blooming Grove
Council Minutes
03/03/2025

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held a regular scheduled meeting on Monday, March 3, 2025 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Ashley Mahone.

Members present were Mayor Ashley Mahone, Council Members Bill Carroll, James Jones, Haley Ehly, Sarah Southard, City Secretary Carrie Sweeney, Police Chief T.C. Lawhon, Utility Superintendent Rory Evans and Assistant Utility Superintendent Chris Bird.

Minutes-

Haley Ehly made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to approve the minutes of the February meetings. Motion carried.

Visitors-

Debbie and Shawn Martin, John Griggs, Valerie Richards, Kent and Marlene Ferrell.

Open Forum-

Blooming Grove ISD Superintendent John Griggs presented information about the bond election. Mr. Griggs spoke of the benefits and effects it would have on the community as a whole. He directed anyone who might have questions to visit www.bgisdbond.com.

Public Hearing-

Mayor Ashley Mahone opened the Public Hearing for a Special Use Permit for a carport at 208 W South Main Street. There were no requests to speak during the Public Hearing.

Department Reports-

Administration-

City Secretary Carrie Sweeney said that everything has been going smoothly. She stated that she is still learning a lot.

Public Safety-

Police Chief T.C. Lawhon reported that a dog at the Housing Authority had bitten a citizen, drawing blood. The president of the Housing Authority has demanded immediate removal of the dog.

Public Works-

Water Superintendent Rory Evans reported that they have repaired all of the leaks on the transmission line, and they have repaired a couple of sewer issues.

Volunteer Reports-

Fire Chief Chad Marshall could not make it to the meeting. Mayor Mahone stated that the 1993 fire engine has a major leak. Chad will obtain bids for repair.

New Business-

Bill Carroll made a motion and Hayley Ehly seconded to approve the Special Use Permit for a carport at 208 W South Main Street. Motion carried.

Hayley Ehly made a motion and Bubba Jones seconded to approve the Order of Cancellation of the May 3, 2025, General Election. Motion carried.

Hayley Ehly made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to accept the City Secretary's Certification of Unopposed Candidates for the May 3, 2025, General Election. Motion carried.

Bill Carroll made a motion and Hayley Ehly seconded to open a new account for the HMGP grant funds. Motion carried.

Hayley Ehly made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to approve revisions to the Employee Handbook. Motion carried.

Hayley Ehly made a motion and Bill Carroll seconded to approve the Longevity Award for part time employees. Motion carried.

The Council discussed plans for the Community Garden. The FFA and the Housing Authority are interested in volunteering to get the Community Garden started back up. Item was tabled until next month.

Hayley Ehly made a motion and Bubba Jones seconded to allow the BGISD Horticulture Class to volunteer to take care of the landscaping at the City Park. Motion carried.

The Council tabled an item to approve purchasing a new lawnmower.

Bill Carroll made a motion and Bubba Jones seconded to approve Ordinance No. 393 amending Chapter 13, Utilities, Article 13.02 – Water and Sewer Service, Section 10 – Maintenance of Lines to read as follows: *“All private water lines and sewer lines shall be maintained by and at the expense of the owner. The responsibility of the owner for the maintenance of private water lines shall extend to the water meter. In addition, the responsibility of the owner for the maintenance of private sewer lines shall extend to the property line. Furthermore, the city shall be responsible for maintenance of all water and sewer lines that are currently in use, or are added, in city streets, rights-of-way, or easements obtained by the city.”*

Bill Carroll made a motion and Bubba Jones seconded to approve Ordinance No. 394 amending Chapter 14, Zoning, Article 14.02, Zoning Ordinance, Article 2 – Base District Regulations, Division 20: Permitted Uses & Special Conditions, Section 1: Permitted Use Table as follows:

Replace the sentence *“Shipping containers are prohibited as an accessory structure or building, storage building, or living unit in a residential zoned district, and on land used for residential purposes in commercial and industrial zoned districts.”* with the following sentence, *“ All storage containers shall require a special use permit.”*

Hayley Ehly made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to approve STV's amended contract proposal for professional services for the TxCDBG project, increasing the engineering fee from \$63,100 to \$65,000. Motion carried.

Discussion Items-

Mayor Ashley Mahone showed the council pictures that were given to her showing drainage issues on Hinkley and Fourth. The Utility Superintendent said the problem is generally when there is heavy rainfall in a short amount of time and drains off fast. They will keep an eye on it.

The Council discussed having a special-called meeting on Tuesday, March 11th to approve the minutes so that the City Secretary can open the account for the HMGP grant funds.

Mayor Ashley Mahone read a proclamation declaring March as Art Education Month.

Mayor Ashley Mahone informed the council that the inspector, Gary Garner, is now able to do plumbing inspections again.

Executive Session-

Mayor Mahone called the council into Executive Session at 7:45 to discuss ongoing litigation matters with the attorney. The mayor called the council back into open session at 7:55 p.m.

Sarah Southard made a motion and Hayley Ehly seconded to adjourn. Motion Carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Mayor Ashley Mahone

Attest:

City Secretary, Carrie Sweeney