

**City of Blooming Grove
Council Minutes
03-04-2024**

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, March 4, 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, Renee Watson, Lola Forman, James Jones, Al Smith, Interim City Secretary Deena Smith, Utility Superintendent Rory Evans and Police Chief T.C. Lawhon.

Gary Patterson handled the invocation after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes -

Gary Patterson made a motion and Lola Forman seconded to approve the minutes for the February 5, 2024 meeting and the February 22, 2024 meeting. Al Smith abstained from the February 5th meeting due to absence. Motion carried.

Visitors –

Della Glidewell, Ashley Mahone, Jackie Benton, Leigh Ferguson, Sharon Settlemyer and Eddie Settlemyer.

Open Forum –

None

Public Hearing-

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to discuss Special Use Permits for 304 E. Third and 600 N. Elm. There was no one wishing to discuss these. The Mayor closed the Public Hearing.

Department Reports –

Administration- Deena Smith, Interim City Secretary mentioned that there are a number of new customer deposits being made last month. The staff is still working on the FY23 Audit. She advised the Council that the City has received final payment from TMLIRP for the claims on the hail storm damage to the city hall roof. Our roofer submitted full documentation for all the damaged items that resulted in the City getting full reimbursement for our costs.

Public Safety – Chief T.C. Lawhon arrived at the meeting a little late because he is currently in Chief School in Tyler. Deena Smith, as Court Clerk reported on revenue and tickets for the month.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Rory Evans reported that they worked on multiple small water leaks. He reported that he rented a mini excavator to clean out the ditches and that they had been busy doing that. They also have been mowing and have ordered a load of cold mix for patching city streets. Al Smith asked if there were any ordinances preventing citizens

from draining their saltwater pool on city streets. Mayor Carroll said that we would check the City Ordinances and have the Building Official also do some checking.

New Business Voting Items-

Gary Patterson made the motion and Renee Watson seconded the approval of Special Use Permit and Site Plan for a detached carport at 304 E. Third Street. Motion Carried.

Al Smith made the motion and James Jones seconded the approval of Special Use Permit and Site Plan with variance for side yard setback for carport at 600 N. Elm. Mayor Carroll noted that permit charges would be doubled because they started the project before permits and fees were submitted to City Hall. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made the motion and Lola Forman seconded the approval of Resolution 809 adopting CDBG Civil Right Policies. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made the motion and Renee Watson seconded the approval of Resolution 810 authorizing signatories for GLO Resilient Communities Program grant CDBG-MIT 23-160-012-E472. Motion Carried.

Al Smith made the motion and Lola Forman seconded the approval of Proclamation to Declare April as Fair Housing Month. Motion Carried.

Discussion Items –

Mayor Carroll discussed with the Council about the City's current grants. He stated that we received an email from TDA and that everything had been completed and approved and we are waiting on the last \$5,000.00 to be deposited to the CDBG account so we could pay the last payment to GrantWorks for the ground storage tank. Mayor Carroll reported that he authorized GrantWorks for the elevated tank rehabilitation grant as the Labor Standards Official as they will be the ones checking the contractor's payroll. Mayor Carroll updated the council on the General Land Office Grant and stated that was part of the items voted on tonight. Mayor Carroll updated the council on the Police Vehicle Grant and Police Chief, T.C. Lawhon stated that the vehicle had been delivered to the dealership and they are starting the outfitting process. Hopefully in the next few weeks he will get an update from the Parkway dealership. He will still need to get the camera system put in the car when we do take possession of it. The last Grant update was the Asset Management Grant (AMPPS) for the wastewater system. When this grant is done it will make the City eligible for more grants for the wastewater system as well as an interest free \$500,000 loan for projects they identify. The FEMA Grant application is still in review.

Mayor Carroll and Chief Lawhon discussed with the council the potential police officer options report prepared by Chief Lawhon. The Mayor mentioned that the Frost Mayor talked to him about an interlocal agreement with them. Council Member Renee Watson said that she felt this was something we needed to look into and Council Member Gary Patterson and Al Smith said they would not consider this option with the current Police Chief in Frost. Mayor Carroll stated that we would maybe revisit this subject at a later date.

Mayor Carroll reminded the council about the April 8, 2024 Solar Eclipse preparation. He told the council that the Navarro County Office of Emergency Management had a meeting last Monday with the Elected Officials and Fire Departments. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 8th that he and Water Superintendent, Rory Evans and Police Chief, T.C. Lawhon plans to attend. He told the Council that the City has ordered 3 porta potties for the park for that day. He also would like to post something on our website in regards to preparedness for the citizens of Blooming Grove following the meeting with Navarro County Emergency Management.

Gary Patterson made a motion and Lola Forman seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor William E. Carroll

Interim City Secretary Deena Smith