

City of Blooming Grove
Council Minutes
June 3, 2024

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, June 3, 2024, at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Mayor Ashley Mahone.

Members present were Mayor Ashley Mahone, Council Members Bill Carroll, Renee Watson, James Jones, Haley Ehly, Sarah Southard, City Secretary Sharon Settlemyer, Court Clerk Deena Smith, Utility Superintendent Rory Evans, Assistant Utility Superintendent Chris Bird, and Police Chief T.C. Lawhon.

Haley Ehly handled the invocation after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor pro-tem

Renee Watson made a motion and James Jones seconded to selection of Bill Carroll as mayor pro-tem.

Minutes -

Renee Watson made a motion and Bill Carroll seconded to approve the minutes for the May 6, 2024, meeting. Motion carried.

Visitors –

Kelly Page, Peyton Southard, and Juan Zuniga.

Open Forum –

None.

Public Hearing-Special Use Permit: Mayor Mahone opened the public hearing for a special use permit for 300 E. Granger for Carport. There were no comments. Mayor Mahone closed the public hearing.

Department Reports –

Administration- Sharon Settlemyer, City Secretary mentioned that there was a problem printing the water bills again. Renee Watson asked about the parts. Sharon stated they did not work, that Xerox is blaming the cardstock we are using. She is planning to call Tuesday to find out what can be done. Bill Carroll asked about the police grant. Sharon stated that she could not file anything until after May 31st, so that will be done on Tuesday. Any invoices for additional equipment will not be able to be entered until after the end of June. Bill Carroll also stated that the sales tax income had increased. He asked if there was a reason. Sharon stated she did not know; they only send a statement. Haley Ehly suggested that the sign-up for auto pay be put on the website and Facebook for water payments. Everything else is going well.

Public Safety – Chief T.C. Lawhon reported that the new car is in, and still needs striping. He has ordered the radar, radio and cameras. Officer Russell started working, and he is hoping to hire Officer Zuniga. Haley Ehly asked how many officers that would be. Chief Lawhon stated three (3) part time. Haley asked if all the cars work. Chief Lawhon stated the crown vic needs to be jumped to start, and then if you turn it off, it will not start. Probably needs a battery. Bill Carroll asked Court

Clerk Deena Smith about court on May 16th. Deena stated that they just had juveniles and show cause. She needs to set a date for pre-trials. Otherwise, it has been slow.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Rory Evans reported that they are still having trouble with pumps at the lift stations. The lawn mower has an issue, so Shane Richards mowed the park. Bill Carroll asked about the Atkinson culvert. Rory stated that the culvert is in, just waiting for it to dry up.

New Business Voting Items-

Renee Watson made the motion, and Haley Ehly seconded the motion to allow the variance for Kelly Page to keep his storage container. Motion Carried. Kelly Page suggested that the council require photos in the future for any storage containers to be placed in the city. Haley Ehly suggested the ordinance be revisited.

Bill Carroll made the motion and James Jones seconded the approval of the replat of Block 12, Lots 7, 8, 9 & 10 into Block 12, Lot 7R. Motion Carried.

The discussion of the commercial site plan for 104 E Forgey was tabled.

Renee Watson made the motion and Sarah Southard seconded the approval of the special use permit for 300 E Granger for a carport. Motion Carried.

Renee Watson made the motion and Bill Carroll seconded the approval to adopt Resolution #813 Changing signers at the bank accounts. Motion Carried.

Renee Watson made the motion and Haley Ehly seconded the approval to approve Ordinance #386 Changing Water and Sewer Rates. Motion Carried.

Bill Carroll made the motion and Renee Watson seconded the approval the purchase of a new control panel for the Clark Street lift station. Motion Carried.

Bill Carroll made the motion and James Jones seconded the approval of \$20 starting salary for Officer Russell. Motion Carried.

Renee Watson made the motion and James Jones seconded the approval of new councilwomen and Mayor attending TML training for \$1,200 or less. Motion Carried.

Bill Carroll made the motion and Renee Watson seconded the approval of hiring Natalie Dawson as city attorney. Motion carried.

Sarah Southard made the motion and Haley Ehly seconded the approval of Juneteenth as an employee holiday. Bill Carroll opposed. Motion carried.

Executive Session –

Mayor Mahone opened the executive session at 7:38 p.m.

Mayor Mahone opened the regular meeting at 8:09 p.m. to consider actions discussed in Executive Session. Renee Watson made the motion and Bill Carroll seconded the approval of offering a part-time contract labor position at \$20 an hour for no more than twenty (20) hours per week to Juan

Zuniga with the Police Department as an Officer, pending the background investigation. Motion carried.

Discussion Items –

Mayor Mahone gave a recap of the Vietnam Veteran Parade and Ceremony. She explained the parade was for graduating seniors and veterans. It is the 50th anniversary, so they pinned the veterans.

Mayor Mahone explained she would like for the council members to tour the water and sewer facilities, so they understand and know about the lift stations and water when it is discussed at the council meetings. A special meeting date was set for June 11th at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Mahone was like to hold a grant workshop meeting so the council will know what their duties are regarding the grants. Bill Carroll stated that some of the grants are managed by a grant company that lets the city know what they need to do and when. A special meeting was set for July 1st at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Mahone stated that there had been discussion around town about the Community Garden. The property is city owned, and she believes that an organization needs to oversee paying the water deposit and bills and in charge of the operation. She would like to talk to Curtis Stephens and Ida and Robert Phipps about the past. She stated that there are a lot of coordination that need to be figured out. Bill Carroll suggested the city look at selling the property.

Mayor Mahone discussed the photos from Stacy Garland when it was raining. She stated that she understood that the city already has plans to work on Kerr Street. She stated that her understanding is that the city is waiting for the surveyor. Rory stated that he had talked to the surveyor, and there is a question about how wide the road is along the street. The ditches will be a work in process.

Mayor Mahone explained that there will be a July 4th parade starting at 10:30; line up starts at 10:00. They are planning to do a BBQ fundraiser and discuss a mural of Sonny being put on the Historical Society wall.

Renee Watson made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mayor Ashley Mahone

Attest:

City Secretary Sharon Settlemyer