

**City of Blooming Grove
Council Minutes
02-05-2024**

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held its regular scheduled meeting on Monday, February 5, 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, Interim City Secretary Deena Smith, Utility Superintendent Rory Evans, Utilities Assistant Chris Bird, Building Official/Inspector Gary Garner and Police Chief T.C. Lawhon.

Gary Patterson handled the invocation after the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes -

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

Visitors –

Ashley Mahone, Sherry Lynn, Dusty Ledbetter, Duane Evans, Donny Scott, Kim Scott, Nancy Aldridge, Toni Rhyne, Donna Roach, Jo McKee, Marcus Nelson, Jennifer Harrison, Ricki Crenshaw, Jackie Benton, Pat Larremore, Debbie Larremore, Joseph Coleman, Terry Loftis and Mony Mao.

Open Forum – Ashley Mahone questioned if any of the property owners there for the Public Hearing were ever notified that they were out of compliance or did they just receive a letter stating the City was going to tear down their house. She is concerned that there are many historical properties within the city that don't need to be torn down.

Public Hearing-The Mayor opened the Public Hearing to discuss dangerous buildings located at 309 N. Fordyce, 409 N. Fordyce, 108 E. Lone Cedar Pike, 209 W. Hancock, 201 S. Elm, 305 S. Hinckley, 104 E. North Main, 407 W. Second and 405 W. Second. The mentioned properties were inspected and brought to the City's attention by the Building Inspector, Gary Garner. The Mayor explained that this Public Hearing was a chance for the property owners to come and explain their plans for the property and why the City should not deem them dangerous and unsafe, along with their plans to bring them into compliance. Mayor Carroll closed this hearing at 6:56 p.m.

Public Hearing-The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 6:57 p.m. to discuss Special Use Permit at 209 N. Fordyce for a Storage Building. Mayor Carroll closed that hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Public Hearing- The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 7:04 p.m. to discuss Special Use Permit at 704 S. Kerr for Travel Trailer carport. Mayor Carroll closed that hearing at 7:05 p.m.

Public Hearing-The Mayor opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m. to discuss Special Use Permit at 504 N. Fordyce for Storm Shelter. Mayor Carroll closed that hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Department Reports –

Administration- Deena Smith, Interim City Secretary mentioned that packets are still available to pick up at City Hall to have your name placed on the ballot for the May election. The packets are due by February 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. The auditors are requesting items daily to complete the FY 2023 audit.

Public Safety – Chief T.C. Lawhon reported that he responded to a couple of crashes on Hwy 22 and that it was not a very eventful month. The Racial Profile report has been completed and submitted to the state. He also stated that the City was able to procure the last 2024 Tahoe SUV available statewide for the grant we received from the Governor’s office.

Public Works – Public Works Superintendent Rory Evans reported that they worked on multiple small water leaks. They also have been mowing, patching city streets and have had several sewer calls on nights and weekends.

New Business Voting Items-

Gary Patterson made the motion and Lola Forman seconded the approval of Joint Contract for Election Services between Navarro County and the City of Blooming Grove. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made the motion and Renee Watson seconded the approval of Election Order for May 4, 2024 General Election. Motion Carried.

Renee Watson made a motion and James Jones seconded to approve the proposal by Mao Mony at 309 N. Fordyce, 90 days from date of this meeting weather permitting, to properly clear out land and demolish the house. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made a motion and Lola Forman seconded to approve the proposal by Sherry Lynn at 409 N. Fordyce, 90 days, weather permitting, from date of this meeting to properly clear out land and demolish the house. Motion Carried.

James Jones made a motion and Renee Watson seconded to have the house at 108 E. Lone Cedar Pike demolished within 90 days from date of this meeting. No comments were made during the Public Hearing by the property owner. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made a motion and Lola Forman seconded to approve the proposal by Pat Larremore at 209 W. Hancock, 90 days weather permitting from date of this meeting, to properly clear out land and demolish the house. Motion Carried.

Lola Forman made a motion and Renee Watson seconded to approve the proposal by Victoria Coleman at 201 S. Elm Street, 90 days weather permitting from the date of this meeting, to properly clear out land and demolish the house. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made a motion and Lola Forman seconded to approve the proposal by Everlene Nelson and Marcus Nelson at 305 S. Hinckley, 90 days weather permitting from the date of this meeting, to properly clear out land and demolish the house. Motion Carried.

Renee Watson made a motion and Gary Patterson seconded to approve the proposal by Terry Loftis at 104 E. North Main to submit within 10 days from the date of this meeting his plans for repairing and remodeling the house within six months. Motion Carried.

Mayor Carroll recommended to table any discussions on 407 W. Second, Tyree Methodist Church, because Everlene Nelson stated that she could call and get in contact with someone at the Church and have them contact the city. The City Council was in agreement to table this item.

James Jones made a motion and Gary Patterson seconded to have the house at 405 W. Second demolished within 90 days from date of this meeting. No comments were made during the Public Hearing by the property owner. Motion Carried.

Renee Watson made a motion and Gary Patterson seconded to approve Replat Lot 1 and Lot 2, Little Bluestem Addition. Motion Carried.

Renee Watson made a motion and James Jones seconded to approve Special Use Permit and Site Plan for Storage Building at 209 N. Fordyce. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made a motion and Renee Watson seconded to approve Special Use Permit and Site Plan for Travel Trailer Carport at 704 S. Kerr. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made a motion and Lola Forman seconded to approve Special Use Permit and Site plan for Storm Shelter at 504 N. Fordyce. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made a motion and Renee Watson seconded to approve the city paying \$1,064.25 quarterly towards the Volunteer Fire Department's new insurance policy and continue to keep the Fire Department on the City's Workers Comp policy. Motion Carried.

Gary Patterson made a motion and Lola Forman seconded to approve the city changing the duration of the two maturing CDs in April 2024 to 7 months to secure a higher interest rate. Motion carried.

Discussion Items –

Mayor Carroll updated the council on the DR 4485 Application for Generators stating they are the same as they have been for a year now.

Mayor Carroll updated the council that the city did receive a request from the Texas Department Agricultural concerning the close out process for the Water Storage Grant. We will be sending cancelled checks, proof of deposits and ledger items for last three payments for the Grant in order to finalize everything for our final payment.

Mayor Carroll updated the council that the city had a meeting with GrantWorks and the Engineers and that the Texas Department of Agriculture is running behind on the Elevated Water Tank award and that he submitted information they were needing last week. He received an email today approving the submission. He expects in the next week or so we may receive the contract for the next grant for the rehab of the elevated tank.

Mayor Carroll updated the council that the city received good news from the TWDB AMPPS Program for small systems that we did get a grant award for up to \$100,000.00 to do an Asset Management Program for our Wastewater System.

Mayor Carroll updated the council that we currently have 7 applicants for the City Secretary/Admin job and Deena Smith, Interim City Secretary stated that we have some applicants coming in for proficiency testing. Mayor Carroll said he planned to call a Special Called Meeting during the last two weeks of February for the City Council to conduct interviews.

Mayor Carroll updated the council that the city received approval for the GLO Resilient Community Grant that was awarded to the city by the Texas General Land Office to update our Comprehensive Plan that is worth \$72,000.00 with no match for the City. We will have a kickoff meeting with the Land Office on February 21st.

Mayor Carroll reminded the council that on April 8th we will have a total Solar Eclipse right after lunchtime. He expects that there could be crowds of people and people parking throughout the City.

James Jones made a motion and Renee Watson seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Attest:

Mayor William E. Carroll

Interim City Secretary Deena Smith