

City of Blooming Grove
Council Minutes
05/05/2025

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held a regular scheduled meeting on Monday, May 5, 2025, at the 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, Renee Watson, James Jones, Sarah Southard, Haley Ehly, 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 Renee Watson seconded to approve the minutes of the April meetings. The motion carried.

Visitors-

Kelly and Marsha Page.

Open Forum-

Marsha Page spoke in regards to her back yard flooding whenever there is heavy rainfall. She presented pictures to the Council to show how high the water gets. She requested that the City look into seeing what could be done to prevent future flooding.

Department Reports-

Administration-

City Secretary Carrie Sweeney reported that due to the ongoing issues with printing water bills on the Xerox copier, she ordered a Lexmark printer that will hopefully work better.

She also mentioned that this will be James Jones' last meeting as a Council Member. The Council thanked him for his years of service.

Public Safety-

Police Chief T.C. Lawhon reported that he is still trying to fill the full-time position for an Officer. The Council requested that he speak to Juan Zuniga about having more of a set schedule, especially during the summer.

Public Works-

Water Superintendent Rory Evans informed the council that he had gotten a quote of \$14,000 for two culverts that would help with the flooding at the Page's residence. He will work on getting more quotes.

Volunteer Reports-

There were no volunteers present.

Old Business-

Mayor Ashley Mahone gave a presentation of TDA Form A1024 CDBG Section 3 – Goals and Concepts, as related to the CDBG Program and Grant Contract CDV23-0115.

New Business-

Haley Ehly made a motion and Bill Carroll seconded to approve STV’s proposed advertisement schedule for the Elevated Storage Tank Project. The motion carried.

Haley Ehly made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to appoint Renee Watson to fill the vacancy on the City Council until the next election. The motion carried.

Renee Watson made a motion and Haley Ehly seconded to approve a quote from Water Works Metrology for 20 meters and nodes for \$2,800.00. The motion carried.

Discussion Items-

The Council discussed the tap fees for outside the city limits due to Senate Bill 1413 which takes effect on September 1, 2025. The Bill will allow an owner of a tract of land that is 25 acres or more and is not receiving water or sewer service to petition for expedited release of the area from a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (the area in which a public utility serves).

The concern is that since the City’s tap fee outside of the city limits is substantially cheaper than neighboring water supplies, eligible property owners would be able to choose to tap into the City’s supply line, putting a burden on the City’s water supply. The Council discussed talking to an engineer to find out the proper procedure for increasing the tap fee outside of the city limits. Mayor Mahone mentioned that she didn’t think it was good practice to raise the tap fees since a property owner outside of the city limits had recently approached the City about the possibility of purchasing several meter taps.

The Council also discussed updating the building permits and procedures. They would like to see exactly how many inspections are required for each permit. The City Secretary will coordinate with the inspector on updating the current procedures.

James Jones made a motion and Haley Ehly seconded to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Mayor Ashley Mahone

Attest:

City Secretary, Carrie Sweeney