

City of Blooming Grove  
Council Minutes  
01/05/2026

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held a regular meeting on Monday, January 5, 2026, 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, Jody Gantt, Sarah Southard, Haley Ehly, City Secretary Carrie Sweeney, Utility Superintendent Rory Evans and Police Chief T.C. Lawhon.

**Minutes-**

Renee Watson made a motion and Haley Ehly seconded to approve the December meeting minutes. The motion carried.

**Visitors-**

Visitors present were Misti Hutchison and Cynthia Baumgartner.

**Open Forum-**

There were no requests to speak in open forum.

**Department Reports-**

**Administration-**

City Secretary Carrie Sweeney mentioned that the first day for candidates to file for a place on the ballot for the May 2, 2026 Election is January 14, 2026. The last day to file is February 13, 2026. There are four positions up for election this year: Mayor, two (2) Council/Alderman and one (1) Unexpired term for Council/Alderman.

The Request for Bids advertisement for the Block K property will be published in the Corsicana Daily Sun on January 7<sup>th</sup> and January 14<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to submit bids will be January 28<sup>th</sup> and bids can be opened no sooner than March 2, 2026.

The security updates for City Hall have been completed.

**Public Safety-**

Police Chief T.C. Lawhon reported that there was a great turn-out for the Christmas parade.

The next court date is scheduled for January 21, 2026.

There were two (2) attempted burglaries by a known suspect – these were filed as criminal mischief cases. The suspect was arrested by another department on other non-related charges and is currently in custody.

**Public Works-**

Utility Superintendent Rory Evans reported that they have repaired a few small leaks. There has been no progress on the Elevated Tank Rehab project.

**Volunteer Reports-**

None

**New Business-**

Haley Ehly made a motion and Bill Carroll seconded to approve Ordinance 401 – amending Chapter 6, Health and Sanitation, Section 6.02.039 Fee Schedule, of the City Code of Ordinances. The motion carried.

Renee Watson made a motion and Haley Ehly seconded to approve Maguire’s request for an extension to the exception to Article 8.04 “Offenses and Nuisances” in the Blooming Grove Code of Ordinances. The motion carried.

Haley Ehly made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to approve Ordinance 402 amending Chapter 13, Utilities, Article 2, Section 13.02.007 “Payment plan in case of excessive water usage”, in the Blooming Grove Code of Ordinances. The change to the Ordinance is to remove the need for Council approval of a payment plan, since it would already be in effect by the time it reaches Council. Any payment plans will be placed in the Council packets for informational purposes. The motion carried.

**Discussion Items-**

Misti Nicholson and Cynthia Baumgartner spoke to the Council regarding Kaisen Sparks, a 13 year old who passed away unexpectedly on November 27, 2021. Kaisen was a beloved member of the community and they would like to honor him by building a statue at the elementary school playground. In order to raise money, they would like to hold a fundraiser to include activities such as a car show, carnival, cook-off, auction and a family friendly street dance. The planning is still in the beginning stages, but they have set a tentative date of March 14<sup>th</sup> for the fundraising event.

The Council discussed Maguire’s proposal to paint the city name back on the elevated water tower. Maguire proposed that the City waive the liquidated damages that are incurred due to ongoing delays with the Elevated Storage Tank rehab project, in exchange for repainting the city name on the tower. The Council agreed that it would be best to explore other options.

Renee Watson made a motion and Haley Ehly seconded to adjourn at 7:11 p.m. The motion carried.

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Mayor Ashley Mahone

Attest:

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City Secretary, Carrie Sweeney