

**City of Blooming Grove**  
**Council Minutes**  
**06-11-2024**

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held a special meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Ashley Mahone.

Members present were Mayor Ashley Mahone, Council Members Renee Watson, Haley Ehly, Sarah Southard, City Secretary Sharon Settlemyer, Utility Superintendent Rory Evans, and Assistant Utility Superintendent Chris Bird.

**Minutes -**

Rory Evans had the council members follow his utility truck to the vault on Hwy 55. He explained that the entry point for the water system is that meter. He stated the meter is called a master meter, which tells how many gallons of water are purchased from the City of Corsicana. Chris Bird drives to that meter every day and reads it. Chris Bird showed the Council members how he reads the meter. Renee Watson asked what the average water purchased is. Rory stated usually between 75,000 to 85,000 gallons. The other day, 300,000 gallons were purchased, so he knew there was leak. They searched, and since there had not been rain for a few days, found it on FM 55. Haley asked if water in the ditch was how it was found. Rory stated yes. He then explained that on the transmission line, to water tower is the only valve until Dresden. An 8" valve costs around \$1,2000. The pump station at the vault is no longer used. Al Smith designed it when he worked as an engineer for the City of Corsicana. It was for the low-pressure line and when Blooming Grove changed over to high pressure line, the pump station was no longer needed.

Rory had the council members follow him to Dresden. He explained that the pumps inside the building alternate coming on and there's a clay valve. The pumps have been rebuilt this year and two years ago. He showed the sight glass and explained how the line is the level of water in the pressure tanks. The air compressor comes on to put air in the pressure tanks, then the pumps come on to add the water. The electrical panel needs replacement. The Turner controls company is no longer in business, so if that stops working a replacement will have to be found. Haley asked how much to replace it. Rory has not gotten any bids. If it goes out, then they will have to sit in chairs and turn the pumps on and off manually. Rory showed them the black mark on the wall and explained that the city has always used the same electrician. Then one day an employee suggested they use someone else. Something was hooked up wrong and the electric arc was about five (5) feet out from the box. They called the electrician they had always used to come and fix that problem. The ground storage tank had been restored with a grant two years ago. The roof was about to fall in.

Rory had the council members follow him to the water tower. Rory explained the eight (8) inch line pumps water to here. He explained the grant supplied the new building, and there is an overrated clay valve. The ground storage tank pumps into the tower. Haley asked if the pump is in good shape and what is the life span of a pump? Rory stated usually 40 years. He stated the chlorine room is no longer used. Renee asked when the tower was built. Rory stated in the 50's. The grant is going to put a catwalk around the tower and a cage around the ladder. Rory explained the name of the city and he would like to have a lion head put on the tower after the work is completed. Ashley asked if there is any equipment needed. Rory explained he would like to get a mini excavator. He stated that they had sold the dump trailer, and he needs to get bids for a new one and the mini excavator. Renee asked how much the mini ex would cost. Rory stated that a new one is between \$50,000 and

\$60,000, but a good used one will work. He looks at recovery websites and gov.deals regularly to see if there is one out there. Years ago, there was money put into an account to purchase equipment, but it is now closed. He saw a mini ex online that needed a new motor for \$5,000, but it did not last long. Rory explained that on Friday there is going to be a valve installed for interconnection, they are going to hot tap it, so the water will not be turned off.

The FEMA grant for the generators is still in the air. There has been no answer from FEMA. All our water and sewer are on the critical load list, which means that when the power goes out, they are supposed to turn ours back on first. The generators are part of the emergency preparedness plan with the TCEQ.

Rory had the council members follow him to the sewer plant. He explained that in the chlorine room there is a constant flow of water; around 200,000 gallons a month. Ashley asked about the paperwork. Rory explained he must do tiers, and there is a whole lot more paperwork with the sewer. The council then went to the area where the screens are. Rory explained that he had Chris Bird leave what they had raked off, so they could see the kinds of things people are flushing down the toilets. A whole lot of baby wipes and feminine products. He showed the council the racetrack and explained that by the time the water gets to the lift station, it is drinkable. He has never tried it. Ashley asked about testing. Rory explained they test at all the entry points daily, and there is another person who tests for nitrates, nitrites and ammonia. Ashley asked about his license. Rory explained he must take 48 hours of training every three (3) years. He takes classes for dual credit from TEEXS. Renee asked about the windmill object in the racetrack. Rory explained that it puts air in, so the product can go out. Rory showed the council the lift station and explained that there are three (3) more in different areas of town.

Sarah made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Haley seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

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Mayor Ashley Mahone

Attest:

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City Secretary Sharon Settlemyer