

City of Blooming Grove  
Council Minutes  
07/07/2025

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held a regular scheduled meeting on Monday, July 7, 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, Jody Gantt, Sarah Southard, City Secretary Carrie Sweeney, Police Chief T.C. Lawhon, Utility Superintendent Rory Evans and Assistant Utility Superintendent Chris Bird.

**Minutes-**

Bill Carroll made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to approve the minutes of the June meetings. The motion carried.

**Visitors-**

Visitors present were Charlene Coker, John Putman, Jo McKee, Raejeana Beckham, Paul Borsellino, Kent Ferrell, and Elizabeth and Jeff Dees.

**Open Forum-**

John Putman said that a cast iron valve stack was left approximately 15-20 foot inside Charlene Coker's yard by the City and that he ran over it while mowing, causing \$1,050.77 worth of damage to his mower.

Jo McKee wanted to thank the City for everything that was done for her mother, Odessa Smith on her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Smith was appointed the Grand Marshall of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and was presented with a crown, birthday sash and a framed Mayoral Proclamation making July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 "Odessa Smith Day". Ms. McKee said that her mother has been smiling ever since.

Raejeana Beckham asked the City to please do something about all of the junk cars that are sitting in people's yards around town.

**Department Reports-**

**Administration-**

City Secretary Carrie Sweeney reported that there would be no increase in the employee's health insurance for FY 2026.

The City received notice of a water rate increase from the City of Corsicana. The water rates will increase by \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons, effective October 1, 2025.

The auditor has sent over a draft of their FY 2024 audit report, but they are still reviewing a few items before it will be finalized.

The City received an award letter from TDEM for Public Assistance Grant DR-4781, Texas Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding in the amount of \$9,991.12, for which the Federal Government will cover 75% and the City will match 25% to repair culverts on Kerr Street to help with drainage issues. The work will need to be completed by November 17, 2026.

**Public Safety-**

Police Chief T.C. Lawhon said that there hasn't been much activity, but he has been working on code enforcement. They have sent out a number of letters to citizens regarding code violations.

**Public Works-**

Water Superintendent Rory Evans started off by thanking his assistant, Chris Bird for making the park look great for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

The sewer line extension on West Fourth has been completed. They just finished up a sewer main issue on South Walton. Rory informed the Council that the line may need to be replaced in the near future.

**Volunteer Reports-**

There were no Volunteers present, but Mayor Mahone reported that the Bloom Project was able to raise \$150 for the Blooming Grove Education Foundation.

**New Business-**

Judge Hickman spoke to the Council regarding \$111,792.87 in uncollected fines/fees owed to the City. She mentioned that she's not seeing much action with our current collection agency and would like to try something new.

Bill Carroll made a motion and Jody Gantt seconded to follow Judge Hickman's recommendation to let the City's contract with Linebarger, Goggins & Blair expire on July 9<sup>th</sup> and sign a new contract with MVBA for collections of unpaid fines & fees. The motion carried.

Sarah Southard made a motion and Jody Gantt seconded to approve an application to re-plat 601 North Kerr Street into two tracts. The motion carried.

Bill Carroll made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to approve Ordinance 396 renewing Oncor's Electric Franchise contract until May 31, 2045. The motion carried.

Sarah Southard made a motion and Bill Carroll seconded to approve Ordinance 395 amending Chapter 13, Utilities. The motion carried.

Bill Carroll made a motion and Jody Gantt seconded to approve Resolution No. 819 suspending Oncor's proposed rate increase until October 29, 2025, giving the City time to review their application to the Public Utility Commission.

Jody Gantt made a motion and Bill Carroll seconded to award TxCDBG Project Contract No CDV23-0115 to Maguire Iron, Inc. for the Base Bid (\$295,500.00), Alternative A (\$102,500, and Alternative C (\$77,600) for a total contract amount of \$475,600.00. The motion carried.

**Discussion Items-**

Mayor Mahone informed the Council that she had declared July 4, 2025 "Odessa Smith Day" in honor of her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Council will have an ordinance workshop on Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to go over Chapter 6, Health and Sanitation in the Code of Ordinances.

**Executive Session-**

Mayor Mahone called the Council into Executive Session at 7:14 p.m. to discuss the City Secretary's 6-month performance review.

**Open Session-**

The Council reconvened in Open Session at 7:34 p.m. No action was taken on Executive Session.

Sarah Southard made a motion and Jody Gantt seconded to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. The motion carried.

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Mayor Ashley Mahone

Attest:

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City Secretary, Carrie Sweeney