

City of Blooming Grove
Council Minutes
09-10-2024

The City Council of the City of Blooming Grove held a special called meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 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, Haley Ehly, Sarah Southard, Interim City Secretary Deena Smith, Police Chief T.C. Lawhon, Utility Superintendent Rory Evans and Assistant Utility Superintendent Chris Bird.

Minutes-

Renee Watson made a motion and Hailey Ehly seconded to approve the minutes of the August meetings. Motion carried.

Visitors -

Emilie Parten, Jose Ramirez, Debbie Arreola, Tim Campbell and Derek Weaver.

Public Hearing-

Mayor Ashley Mahone opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m. for Special Use Permit for a carport at 909 S. Kerr Street. There were no speakers at the Public Hearing.

Open Forum –

There were no speakers during the open forum.

Department Reports –

Administration –

The Interim City Secretary Deena Smith stated that she and the Mayor are working on doing the Profit & Loss reports for the Council Packets so that they look like the reports that were in past meetings where it shows the percentage of the Budget used. It was also stated that Deena will get with the previous City Secretary Beth Nemeth and have her show us how she did the reports.

Public Safety-

Police Chief T.C. Lawhon was absent from the meeting. Court Clerk Deena Smith stated that we would be having court on September 19th.

Public Works-

Rory told the council that Atkinson Street is ready for L & S paving to start the chip seal process. He also briefly discussed the land acquisition with Debbie Arreola at the Dresden Pump Station.

New Business –

Haley Ehly made a motion and Renee Watson seconded to approve Ordinance 390-Water and Sewer Rates. Motion Carried.

Bill Carroll made a motion and Haley Ehly seconded to table the Special Use Permit for a carport at 909 S. Kerr until the Building Official Gary Garner meets with the property owner and discuss the plans he has for the carport. Motion Carried.

Renee Watson made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to approve L & S Paving to pave Atkinson and W. Second Street. Motion Carried.

Haley Ehly made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded table the request by Derek Weaver for plumbing and inspection permit credit until more research is done on the fees. Motion Carried.

Renee Watson made a motion and Haley Ehly seconded to approve J & J Services to install waterline on Forgey Street between Walton and Elm Street. Motion Carried.

Haley Ehly made a motion and Renee Watson seconded to approve one-year subscription software for the AMPSS Project for the wastewater system. Motion carried.

Renee Watson made a motion and Sarah Southard seconded to pay the final check to the former City Secretary for vacation and comp time for the meetings she attended. Motion carried.

Discussion Items –

The council and Debbie Arreola discussed the purchase of the land acquisition around Dresden pump station that her and her husband own. They propose that the city pay for two surveys one being the half acre the city is interested in purchasing and survey remaining parcel portion they own. They propose the city pay \$7,000 for half an acre and pay for both surveys. The city will get the price of the surveys and put it on the next agenda.

Mayor Ashley Mahone discussed the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (Generators) and told the council that we are moving forward on the grant and a meeting is set for October 10th with her and Bill Carroll and Deena Smith. Bill Carroll stated that we need to move quickly on this and hopefully have the permanent generator in before schools out, so we do not have to have a temporary one.

The council discussed amending Ordinance 356 and 377 (permits and inspections). Mayor Mahone stated that this seems to be the most complained about ordinances. Haley Ehly suggested that we see what other small cities are charging and how many inspections are needed. Bill Carroll had a few other cities permits and inspections to compare with. The inconsistency with inspections is something that needs to be addressed. The council would like the staff to pull permits and inspections for the last few new builds and put in a spreadsheet to compare. They would like to see John Conger, the current plumbing inspector, come to the next scheduled meeting to discuss his process in permits and inspections.

Discussion was made on the process of hiring a City Secretary. The council would like to put it on the city website and newspaper with a few changes to the job description.

Discussed the Personnel Organizational Chart and changing to have the Municipal Court Clerk/Deputy City Secretary report to the Mayor and Council. This will be put on as a voting item for the next meeting.

The council and staff set a date for the city wide cleanup for October 12th from 8-2 p.m.

The homecoming parade is going to be October 14th, and the time is still being decided on.

James Jones made a motion and Bill Carroll seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Mayor Ashley Mahone

Attest:

Interim City Secretary Deena Smith