

Motion approving the Consent Agenda with the addition of 7. Disposition of Flower Pots on Main Street and 8. Compensation to Library Tech was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented for the Council's review Accounts Payable and Financial Reports. Interim City Administrator Zwiener reviewed with the Council the larger bills. After review, the following action was taken:

Motion by:	NEWMAN	Seconded by:	JOHNSON
For:	ALL	Against:	NONE

Motion approving the Accounts Payable and Financial Reports as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called for the Committee Reports. Minutes of the Planning & Zoning Board held on April 8, 2025; the Blooming Prairie Public Utilities Commission Meeting held on April 8, 2025; the Blooming Prairie Fire Commission held on April 15, 2025; the Blooming Prairie Police Commission held on April 23, 2025 and the Blooming Prairie Ambulance Commission held on April 15, 2025 were presented. The following action was taken:

Motion by:	NEWMAN	Seconded by:	SUNDINE
For:	ALL	Against:	NONE

Motion accepting the Committee Reports as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented the temporary easements for the Highway 218 project. Interim City Administrator Zwiener explained that the temporary easements are for payment for the use of our land during construction. The Council made the following motion:

Motion by:	JOHNSON	Seconded by:	SUNDINE
For:	ALL	Against:	NONE

Motion authorizing Interim City Administrator Zwiener and Mayor Ressler to sign the temporary easements for the work on Highway 218 as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented bids for the Central Park bathroom. Bids were received from Dahl & Sons Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$78,550.00 and from Crete Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$86,365.00. After discussion, the Council took the following action:

Motion by:	NEWMAN	Seconded by:	CLARK
For:	ALL	Against:	NONE

Motion accepting the low bid from Dahl & Sons Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$78,550.00 to construct the Central Park bathroom as part of the Central Park Improvements project as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented a request from South Central Service Cooperative for a travel stipend in the amount of \$500.00 for out of state candidates to come for the open house and the interview for the City Administrator position. After discussion, the Council took the following action:

Motion by:	JOHNSON	Seconded by:	SUNDINE
For:	SUNDINE, RESSLER, JOHNSON, CLARK		
Against:	NEWMAN		

Motion denying the \$500.00 travel stipend for out-of-state candidates for the open house and interview for the City Administrator position as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented the hiring of Bethany Anderson for the Library Director position at step one of the 2025 wage scale with 20 hours of starting vacation. After discussion, the Council made the following motion:

Mayor Ressler called on Fire Chief Naatz to update the Council on the Fire Department. Fire Chief Naatz informed the Council that the three new recruits have completed their training.

Chief Naatz informed the Council that the FEMA grant that the Fire Department applied for is still on hold and that there is still a need for 18 sets of turn out gear before the middle of 2026.

Mayor Ressler called on Ambulance President Tyler Wilson to update the Council on the Ambulance. Ambulance President Wilson informed the Council that four new recruits have completed the EMT course.

Ambulance President Wilson informed the Council that the new computers are in the rigs and they will be finding a way to install them properly in the rigs.

Mayor Ressler called on Interim City Administrator Zwiener for the Administrator's Report. Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council of the updates with the search for the next City Administrator.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that there has been no update from the House or the Senate on the Bills that have been presented.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener updated the Council on the change over of ambulance billing and the steps involved. The go live date is still set for June 15, 2025.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that LGA has been cut by 3.1% for 2026. This means a decrease of about \$25,000.00 for Blooming Prairie.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that the total fundraising by the Park Advisory Committee currently sits at \$144,123.00 with the Mother's Day Brunch, the Duelling Pianos and the Throne Challenge still in the works.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that the 2024 Audit has been completed and the Utility audit will be presented tomorrow at the Utility Commission meeting and the City and Utility audit will be presented to the Council at the June 9, 2025 Council meeting.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that the Police Department, the City Attorney and herself met with the Steele County records department and Sheriff Lon Thiele to review report writing, issues with report information and other procedural items. Interim City Administrator Zwiener reminded the Council that Steele County will start charging the City of Blooming Prairie for their records services in 2026.

Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council of an Open House for the Highway 218 resurfacing project from Blooming Prairie to Austin will be held at the Lansing Town Hall on May 22, 2025 from 4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Ressler called on City Attorney Iacovino for the City Attorney’s report. City Attorney Iacovino informed the Council that he would like to see a Resolution passed by this Council declaring who the custodian of the Blooming Prairie Police Department records is. Steele County has kept them at no cost for many years. Their plan is to start charging the City of Blooming Prairie for this service starting in 2026.

Mayor Ressler called for Council Member’s Reports.

Council Member Newman inquired about a columbarium for the Blooming Prairie city cemetery. This has been looked into in the past. Interim City Administrator Zwiener informed the Council that City Administrator Aeschliman has a file with the prices and she would share them.

City Council Member Clark inquired about paying employees as fire fighters and EMT’s. Interim City Administrator Zwiener and Council Member Johnson informed Council Member Clark that city employees are paid their regular wage for going on the call. They are not being paid the additional \$10.00 per call as this is considered double dipping. There were other questions asked about how firefighters and EMT’s are compensated. Ambulance Director Wilson and Interim City Administrator Zwiener explained the stipend, pay or retirement that the fire fighters and EMTs are paid.

There being no further business to come before the Council, the Council took the following action:

Motion by:	SUNDINE	Seconded by:	JOHNSON
For:	ALL	Against:	NONE

Motion adjourning the Meeting was duly carried.

Terri S. Zwiener
Interim City Administrator