

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
March 9, 2026
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Mayor Ressler, Council members Sundine, Newman, Johnson and Clark

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Martens, Deputy City Clerk/Finance Director Zwiener, City Attorney Iacovino, Kay Fate of the Steele County Times, Officer Brad Busho, Firefighter Jake Lembke, Karen Peterson of the Blooming Prairie Chamber of Commerce, Police Chief Greg Skillestad, Library Director Bethany Anderson, Abigail Nachreiner and Ethan Rindfleisch of the United Way

Absent: None

Mayor Ressler called the Regular City Council Meeting to order on March 9, 2026, at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Ressler led the Council, and others present in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ressler presented the Consent Agenda for the Council's approval. Included in the Consent Agenda were the following:

1. Approval of Agenda of March 9, 2026, City Council Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2026 – Regular City Council Meeting
3. Accept Land O'Lakes donation of \$2,500.00 to the Blooming Prairie Fire Department
4. Accept CFS donation of \$2,500.00 to the Blooming Prairie Fire Department
5. Accept Hanson Family Foundation donation of \$10,000.00 to the Blooming Prairie Fire Department
6. Accept Blooming Prairie Women of Today donation of \$1,500.00 for park equipment
7. Accept donation of \$4,000.00 from the Blooming Prairie Fire Relief Association for fireworks
8. Designate responsible authority for data requests
9. Approve Gambling Request – Blossoming Community Foundation
10. Approve gambling request – St. Columbanus Catholic Church

The Council made the following motion:

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

Motion approving the Consent Agenda as presented was duly carried.

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

Motion by:	SUNDINE	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 February 3, 2026; the Blooming Prairie Public Utilities Commission Meeting held on February 10, 2026; The Blooming Prairie Economic Development Authority held on February 11, 2026; the Blooming Prairie Fire Commission held on February 10, 2026; the Blooming Prairie Police Commission Meeting held on February 18, 2026 and the Blooming Prairie Ambulance Commission held on February 3, 2026, were presented. The following action was taken:

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

Motion accepting the Committee Reports as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called on Abigail Nachreiner and Ethan Rindfleisch for information on the Smoke-Free Ordinance. After their presentation, the Council took the following action:

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

Motion to direct staff to investigate and start creating a smoke-free ordinance as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called on Karen Peterson of the Blooming Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce to present their various requests for the Old Fashioned 4th of July. After discussion, the Council made the following motion:

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

Motion to approve the presented items except for the use of the new pickleball court by the 4th of July Committee for the Annual 4th of July celebration as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called on Firefighter Jacob Lembke to present the proposed increase in firefighter retirement benefits. Firefighter Jacob Lembke proposed a benefit increase of \$450.00 per year of service. This would increase the yearly benefit from \$2,300.00 to \$2,750.00. The Council made the following motion:

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

Motion approving the increase in the fire relief yearly benefit level to \$2,750.00 per year of service as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called on City Administrator Martens to present the LELS Local #606 Police Contract. City Administrator Martens presented the proposed contract for the Councils' consideration. The Council took the following action:

Motion by: SUNDINE Seconded by: NEWMAN

For: ALL Against: NONE

Motion to approve the contract between the City of Blooming Prairie and LELS Local #606 as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called on City Administrator Martens for information about the establishment of an Insurance Committee. City Administrator Martens recommends that the Council authorize an Insurance Committee to address insurance and supplemental benefit options for 2027 to address the rising cost of health insurance. The committee should be made up of 2 members of City Council, City Administrator Martens, Finance Director Zwiener, BPPU General Manager Mausbach, 1 - member of LELS Local #606, 1 - BPPU employee and 1 - Public Works/WWTP employee After discussion, the Council made the following motion:

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

Motion to establish an insurance committee to include Council Member Clark and Newman as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler presented the donation of a batting cage at Victory Field from the Blooming Prairie Recreation Association. The Council took the following action:

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

Motion accepting the donation of a batting cage at Victory Field from the Blooming Prairie Recreation Association as presented was duly carried.

Mayor Ressler called for Public Comments. There was no public requesting to be heard.

Mayor Ressler called on Police Chief Skillestad to present the Steele County Exchange Club's Officer of the Year award to Officer Brad Busho. Officer Busho serves as our ICAC Officer, he went above and beyond solving a burglary and aided a choking infant this year.

Police Chief Skillestad read aloud a letter of resignation received from Officer Taarud.

Mayor Ressler called on Library Director Anderson to give her department update. Library Director Anderson informed the Council that this year is the 50th Anniversary of the Blooming Prairie Branch Library. Director Anderson informed the Council of the schedule of events for the 50th Celebration.

Mayor Ressler called on City Administrator Martens for the Administrator's Report. City Administrator Martens informed the Council of what he has accomplished this month along with recognizing employee birthdays and employment anniversaries.


Mayor Ressler called on City Attorney Iacovino for the City Attorney's report. Attorney Iacovino informed the Council of some of the things completed this month.

Mayor Ressler called for Council Member's Reports. There were none.

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

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

Motion adjourning the Meeting was duly carried.



Anthony Martens
City Administrator