

CITY COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 12, 2024

MINUTES OF THE PLUM GROVE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR OPEN MEETING HELD ON THE 12th DAY OF AUGUST, AT THE PLUM GROVE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, 7733FM 1010, CLEVELAND, TEXAS 77327, IN THE CITY OF PLUM GROVE, COUNTY OF LIBERTY, STATE OF TEXAS AT 7:00 PM.

The Council met in a REGULAR session with the following council members present.

Mary Arrendell-Mayor

Deborah Bell

Froy Ortiz

Danielle Enloe

Diana Chunn

Kevin Lee

\*\*\* CM denotes Council Member\*\*\*

\*\*\*AM denotes Audience Member\*\*\*

1. Call Meeting to Order at 7:00 P.M.
2. Roll Call

**Present-**

Mary Arrendell-Mayor

Kevin Lee-Mayor Pro-Tem

Deborah Bell-CP1

Froy Ortiz-CP2

Danielle Enloe-CP3

Diana Chunn-CP4

Melissa Pouncey-Secretary/Disaster Relief

Frank Longoria-Police Chief

Monica Palacios-Police Sergeant

Jillian Frazier-Court Administrator

**Absent-**

3. Pledge of Allegiance lead by Mayor Mary Arrendell
4. Invocation lead by AM Cynthia Silva
5. Public Comments-

Mildred Sowell- Was there an elevation certificate for the city hall. Mayor Arrendell- Yes mam. Mildred- Then why did it flood. Secretary Pouncey- Due to all the development all around us. That is why Fema Flood plain management has been out here. All of the levels and zones are possible going to change again. Mayor Arrendell- Fema said they do not understand how we flooded because of the benchmark. The city hall should not have flooded. Mildred- The housing permits that are being given are going to meet the same criteria that is needed. Mayor Arrendell- New buildings must get the elevation certificate. Secretary Pouncey- If we do not come into compliance or attempt to Fema will remove everyone's flood insurance.

Mark Kelley- My first time attending a meeting. I have decided this is the safest place to be with all the police presence. I have had a few things happen. I started receiving exceptionally large bills in the mail which led to my discovery that my identity had been stolen. I called Liberty County and within 10 minutes Officer Jerney Dodson showed up to

Speak with me. I didn't expect it to be that quick. He gathered information, got pictures of the false bills and false charges and within twenty-four hours Dodson had the video and pictures of the guy and within seventy-two hours he had the guy's name. There is now an arrest warrant, and the guy will be charged in Brazoria County. So, I feel like he deserves some recognition for that. He has restored my belief in the Police department.

6. Pinning ceremony for Plum Grove Police Department

Mayor Arrendell- Thank you everyone for attending and watching our city grow. I am now going to hand this over to Ms. Cynthia.

Cynthia Silva- As some of you know I would not be here reporting if it wasn't for Chief Longoria. He called my boss Vanessa Brashier and let her know that I had a huge passion for our communities and that I was ready to take the next steps forward. I have a few things I would like to share with y'all about Chief Longoria and Sergeant Palacios. Tonight, we are honoring the dedication of two of the strongest people that I know. Two people that have helped me become who I am today and two people that have helped make Plum Grove what it is today. Tonight, Plum Grove makes history by pinning the first Hispanic Chief and the first ever bilingual Chief, and a thirty-two-year veteran whose dream of being an officer started at the early age of 13-14 after reading the Blue Knight which is a book that he loves. Chief Longoria is exactly what this town and the neighboring community needs. Having Chief Longoria in this position not only makes history but makes it easy for both communities to mend the bridge that has literally been broken. Congratulations to my wonderful friend Chief Longoria. Tonight, we also honor Sergeant Monica Palacios who has not only become a sister to me but a mother figure since my own mother lives so far from me. Sergeant Palacios has shown what it truly means to bring two communities together. She has worked tirelessly to make sure both communities are taken care of. Even during the devastation of storms in May and Hurricane Beryl to Palacios came in on her days off to hand deliver food and supplies to residents in Plum Grove. I was able to be right next to her to do those things and that was such an honor thank you. Plum Grove is blessed to have such a strong and nurturing Woman like Monica. Congratulations.

Former Chief Brandon Frazier- I was asked to Pin or badge Chief Longoria today. That's a pretty big deal for me, usually you don't turn to someone like me for that. It is with great pride and honor that I stand before you today to take part in this important ceremony. The badging of a Police Officer especially a Chief of Police, is a moment of great tradition and significance. In many ways, it is the modern-day equivalent of knighting. A public acknowledgement of authority, responsibility, and the trust that the community places in the individual. Frank Longoria, the Chief of Police badge is not just a symbol of position. It is the recognition of the commitment to lead with integrity, to serve with honor, and to protect with unwavering dedication. This badge represents the authority granted by the city, but more importantly, it symbolizes the trust and confidence being placed in you to guide the police department and ensure the safety of the community. Chief Longoria, as I present you with this badge, know that it is a symbol of the great responsibility you now carry. A responsibility to lead, to serve, and to protect with the highest standards of ethics and honor. It is my privilege to be part of this moment, and I am confident that under your leadership, the police department will continue to thrive and serve this community with distinction. Congratulations Chief Longoria.

a. Chief Frank Longoria Pinned/badged by former Chief Brandon Frazier.

b. Sergeant Monica Palacios Pinned/badged by her two daughters

Chief Longoria- Introduced Monica Palacios. She has been with the department from the beginning. She has really shown that she is very capable of being in the sergeant position. She has shown that she has great leadership.

7. Receive reports, discuss, and provide input on reports from:

- a. the Plum Grove Police Department Report, June-2 burglaries, 1 DWI, 1 theft, 1 assault call, 1 use of force on an emergency protection order, 62 citations, and 22 warnings, and worked one crash. July- 1 theft, 1 criminal trespass, 1 DWI, 1 crash, 1 emergency protection order, 1 hit and run report, 1 evading arrest, 1 unauthorized use of a vehicle, 68 citations, 1 blue warrant arrest, 15 warnings, 1 crash.
- b. the Plum Grove Fire Department Report,
- c. the Plum Grove Municipal Court, Report attached.
- d. Discussion of Local, County, and State Updates
- e. Ag grant
- f. FEMA
  - a. Harvey
  - b. May 3 flooding
  - c. Beryl
- 8. Motion to approve June 26, 2024, made by CM Chunn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Bell, passed unopposed.
- 9. Motion to approve financial reports for
  - a. June made by CM Chunn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Bell, passed unopposed.
  - b. July made by CM Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Ortiz, passed unopposed.
- 10. Motion to award bid to Tech Tough for the ARPA grant for Police department laptops for the PD vehicles made by CM Chunn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Lee, passed unopposed.
- 11. Motion to table the purchasing of:
  - a. Replacement of office equipment CM Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Bell, passed unopposed. CM Ortiz has a shredder and CM Chunn has surge protectors.
  - b. Replacement of safe CM Lee, CM Chunn, Passed unopposed. CM Lee suggested waiting until the safe will be on sale in November.
  - c. Replacement of office furniture CM Chunn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Lee, passed unopposed. The council wants staff to obtain pricing for furniture that is needed.
- 12. Motion to table ordinance 0812-2024A until September amending the City of Plum Grove, Texas Ordinance NO. 928-2023, which approved and adopted the 2023-2024 fiscal budget of the City of Plum Grove, by approving "Budget Amendment 1"; providing for supplemental appropriation and transfer of certain funds; providing severability; and providing made by CM Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Bell, passed unopposed. There will need to be adjustments made to reflect unpaid invoices and correct balances.
- 13. Motion to pass interlocal with Liberty County
  - a. Debris Removal made by CM Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Enloe, passed unopposed.
  - b. Vehicle Donation (Expedition and Crown Victoria) made by CM Lee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Enloe, passed unopposed.
- 14. Motion to approve Ordinance No. 0812-2024B adopting the decorum policy for elected and appointed officials of the City of Plum Grove, Texas; providing for a penalty in an amount of not more than \$500.00 for filing a false complaint or giving false testimony; repealing all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict herewith; providing for severability and providing for an effective date made by CM Chunn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Ortiz, passed unopposed.
- 15. No action required on Flood Plain management ordinance and compliance for FEMA Council and audience was updated that an Ordinance was passed in 2008 making the city responsible for the flood plain management. Secretary Pouncey explained that she has met several times with FEMA Flood plain management side of things and has been working with FEMA going house to house to determine who had substantial damages. That all flooded houses will need to obtain a permit that will be attached to the property. Depending on the damage will determine the type of permits issued for the house. We just need everyone in the city to be aware that the Ordinance does exist, and it will be available on the website.
- 16. No action Bridgehaven child advocacy center was not present.
- 17. Motion to Adjourn @ 7:51 P.M made by CM Chunn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by CM Ortiz, passed unopposed.