

CITY COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 13, 2026

MINUTES OF THE PLUM GROVE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR OPEN MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH OF JANUARY, AT THE PLUM GROVE CITY HALL, 9485 PLUM GROVE ROAD, 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

Robert Sanchez

Froy Ortiz

Sarah Woodbury

Nicole Rose

Mildred Sowell

*** 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

Robert Sanchez-CP1

Froy Ortiz-CP2/Mayor Pro Temp

Sarah Woodbury-CP3

Nicole Rose-CP4

Mildred Sowell-CP5

Melissa Pouncey-Secretary

Jillian Frazier-Court Clerk

Absent-

3. Pledge of Allegiance lead by Mayor Arrendell
4. Invocation lead by Mildred Sowell
5. Public Comments-

Jackie Johnson-Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. I am running for county treasurer. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I am a mother, a grandmother and most of all I am a public servant. I am very nervous tonight I am not going to read off my speech I am just going to talk about myself and tell you about me. I started at the Liberty County sheriff office when I was 18 years old. I have been in law enforcement for 38 years. I started at the sheriff's office then I went to the Dayton Police Department in both places where I was dispatcher. Then I went to Humble

police department and then became a police officer then a detective. Where I retired as a detective. I investigated very sensitive and crucial cases mostly involving children for 20 years, mostly involving children. I met with victims and witnesses at that time the witnesses were at the lowest part of their life. It was my job to be a voice for the children. Whether it was to find a missing child or sex crimes and visible abuse. So, I was very much entrusted with sensitive information. I have always been entrusted to do the right thing even if nobody was looking. Have a very long and great career with Humble police department. I would now like to give back to the citizens. I Graduated from Hull Daiseta. My entire life has been in service to others. I want to make this a wonderful position I want to make this better than when I found it. I want to make good positive changes for everyone. I want to be transparent, and I want to be present. I am trustworthy to a fault, and I want everyone to know that as your treasurer I want to be trusted and will guide all of the employees in my office to be good stewards of the monies that are collected. I want to help the county employees with Hr and payroll issues. I want to help every single resident in Liberty County with no exception. I want to make it available in parts of our communities. I want to make sure that if they are trying to pay their taxes then they can speak with someone. I saw the need and had two county employees ask me to run for this position. They saw a need as well to improve this office, and I want you all to know I will be present and have an open-door policy. If anyone needs to speak with me, I want to be able to serve the community. I want to carry this into the office so that you know I am working for you guys. I am not a politician I am just a normal person I just want to do the best that I can. I just want to continue my line of work equally and do the best that I can. Does anyone have any questions? I ask everyone to pray for me and to vote for me.

Mayor Arrendell- So if we pray for you and vote for you and we see you in person, are you going to recognize us?

Jackie Johnson- I will always recognize your face, but I am not sure I will remember your name.

Mayor Arrendell-As a politician you can say and do things to just get into the office.

Jackie Johnson- I see. I vow to be the same person I am today and tomorrow.

6. Receive reports, discuss, and provide input on reports from:
 - A. the Plum Grove Police Department Report there was no report for January 2026.
 - B. the Plum Grove Fire Department Report no report for January 2026.
 - C. the Plum Grove Municipal Court no report for January report attached.

At 7:12 Mayor Arrendell adjourned the meeting to speak with Council Member Nicole Rose in City office.

At 7:13 Meeting was called back to order and Nicole Rose excused herself from the meeting.

7. Motion to approve December 9, 2025, minutes made by CM Sancez, 2nd by CM Woodbury, passed unopposed.
8. Motion to approve the financial report for December 2025 made by CM Sowell, 2nd by CM Sanchez, passed unopposed.

9. Motion to table action on property lines for 7700 FM 1010 made by CM Ortiz, 2nd by CM Woodbury, passed unopposed. **Discussion-** The council would like the property owner to be present. Council asked the city secretary to reach out to them to see if they are available for February meeting.
10. Motion to approve a license plate reader funded by Liberty County to be placed at the intersection of Trinidad and Plum Grove Road made by CM Woodbury, 2nd by CM Sowell, passed unopposed.
11. Motion to not offer back pay for October 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, for Plum Grove Police Department personnel made by CM Ortiz, 2nd by CM Sanchez, passed unopposed.

Discussion- When the budget was completed in September of 2025, the Council reviewed every line item to ensure the city was not operating at a deficit. There was no discussion in the budget meeting minutes regarding backpay. The only adjustment reflected was the change from implementing the raise on October 1, 2025, to moving it to January 1, 2026. At no point was back pay discussed. Council thoroughly evaluated each line item on the budget, and even if back pay had been considered, it would place the city back in a deficit position. It was important to bring this forward, as the city cannot afford to offer back pay at this time. This item was placed on the agenda so that the decision would be made by the full Council, rather than solely by the Mayor.

12. No action to change internet provider for the city hall and the police department.
13. No Action on Humberto Jose Martinez to move forward on the project located at 570 County Road 347 South he needs a letter from an engineer accepting full responsibility for the building and electrical and passing plumbing inspections.

Discussion- Secretary Pouncey reported on the timeline for the property at the referenced address. Despite a stop-work order and Liberty County red-tagging the structure and septic the construction continued. Mr. Martinez later achieved compliance with Liberty County for the septic system and with TCEQ. After those items were resolved, the city secretary consulted Mike from Bureau Veritas, who advised that because the house was constructed without required inspections, the owner must submit signed letters from a general contractor, licensed electrician, and licensed plumber accepting responsibility for their respective work. Although an electrician initially submitted such a letter, that electrician later revoked it and Mr. Martinez repeatedly re-submitted the revoked document. Mr. Martinez then submitted a letter claiming responsibility as the general contractor; Bureau Veritas advised that owner self-certification is not acceptable. Bureau Veritas reported no inspections were performed: plumbing appears to lack roof vents and may vent into the attic, creating a sewer-gas hazard; electrical work lacks a meter socket, appears to have only a single grounding conductor instead of the required grounding configuration, lacks a 100-amp whole-house surge protector, and has not been inspected inside for protections such as nail guards. The insulation should follow Texas state laws and there should be smoke detectors in each room. These electrical deficiencies present a significant risk of fire or electrocution. To avoid removal of walls, Bureau Veritas recommended that a licensed engineer write a

letter claiming and assuming responsibility to clear the city of liability and then inspections to be performed on the existing plumbing.

14. Motion to approve Interlocal Agreement between Liberty County and the City of Plum Grove for Manpower, equipment, and other resources to maintain streets, roads, and ditches made by CM Oritz, 2nd by CM Sowell, passed unopposed.
15. Motion to pass Ordinance No 0113-2026 amending the city of Plum Grove, Texas Ordinance No 0929-2025A, which approved and adopted the 2025-2026 fiscal budget of the City of Plum Grove, by approving "Budget amendment 1"; providing for supplemental appropriation and transfer of certain funds; providing for severability; and providing other matters related to the subject made by CM Sowell, 2nd by CM Sanchez, passed unopposed.
16. Receive reports, discuss, and provide input on reports from:
 - D. Discussion of Local, County, and State Updates
 - E. GLO Grant Discussion- There are a few rumors and falsehoods circulating on Facebook that need to be addressed. The million-dollar (Glo) grant being discussed on social media is specifically for Orange Branch, which runs under 347 North and Plum Grove Road by the pipeline. This funding is NOT for the washout at Rocky Branch, and it will not cover the full cost of repairing that washout. The city just wants to share accurate information, so the community stays properly informed.
 - F. FEMA
 - a. Hurricane Harvey
 - b. May 3, 2024, flooding
17. Motion to adjourn @ 8:16 P.M made by CM Sanchez, 2nd by CM Woodbury, passed unopposed.



City of Plum Grove Municipal Court

PO Box 1358, Splendora, TX 77372

Phone: (281) 659-4300 Option 2

January 2026 Report

Emails to Judge Goodwin reviewing the October-December 2025, City Council meeting along with weekly reports to Mayor Mary Arrendell and all City Council members are reviewed below.

November 2025 Court Night went smoothly. We did not have court in December. Our next Court Nigh will be January 26, 2026.

Closed for holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Day. During these closures the phone systems were updated, and signs were put on the door in English and Spanish.

Texas Court Clerk Association (TCCA) yearly dues were paid.

February 2-4, 2026 Judge Goodwin and I will be out of the office to attend the annual Gulf Coast Regional Conference.

I am now Court Clerk Certified-Level 1. I passed my test, my hours were approved and my application was accepted.

Working on day-to-day operations such as on Mondays pulling down credit card payments and applying them to cases. On Fridays doing a citation audit to make sure all citations issued by Plum Grove Police Department have been turned in. If there are any questions about citations this is when I communicate with the issuing officer for clarification so I can answer any questions for the prosecutor before the court date. During the week, I also return and answer phone calls, emails, and any walk-ins. Monthly reports for GHS, Comptroller, and Omni Base have been completed on time and mailed out.

Jillian Frazier
Court Administrator