

Notice of a Regular Meeting Minutes
CITY OF BEVIL OAKS, TEXAS
May 15, 2025

1. **Call to Order @ 6:41 p.m.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation**
 - a. The United States Flag
 - b. The Texas state flag: *"Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."*
3. **Roll Call-** All but Councilman Wright present
4. **Conflict of Interest Statement-** None
5. **Citizen Comments** (3 minutes each) – An opportunity for the citizens to address Council on agenda items or concerns not on the agenda – those wishing to speak must complete the comment card, present the comment card to the City Secretary prior to the beginning of the meeting, and observe a 3-minute time limit- None
6. **Review/Approve Consent Items M/M/2/C- Councilman Merendino/Councilman Clayton- Approved-Unanimous**
 - a. **Financial Reports for City of Bevil Oaks**
 - b. **Financial Reports for Public Works**
 - c. **Utility Innovations Report**
7. **Review/Approve Action Items**
 - a. **Consideration/Discussion/Approval** of resolution adopting a retention policy M/M/2/C- Councilman Merendino/Councilman Clayton- **Approved-Unanimous**
 - **Dru Montgomery-** States that the retention policy will be filed with the Texas Archives & Library
 - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks if there would be any issues with the storage facility for the files? Is anything going to change with where the files will be stored?
 - **Heather Steelman-** States that everything will be behind double-locks.
 - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks if the video surveillance throughout the City has to be stored?
 - **Dru Montgomery-** States that there isn't a specific description for the video surveillance.
 - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** So a procedure needs to be adopted as to who does what with the records.
 - **Dru Montgomery-** Each department will have someone that maintains the records.
 - **Mayor Mitchell-** States that this policy has been needed for a long time, so it needs to be done.
 - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks if there is a timeline to have all the files completed?
 - **Dru Montgomery-** We have 30 days to file the policy with the Texas Archives & Library.
 - **Councilman Mannette-** Asks if there would be a record of who deletes the files.
 - **Councilman Merendino-** States that there doesn't need to be. States that the only difficulty there would be is with the security cameras because we don't have the ability to keep the recordings for a year.
 - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that there will need to be a City sponsored person for this policy.

b. Consideration/Discussion/Approval of resolution regarding the City's security systems M/M/2/C- Councilman Clayton/Councilman Merendino- *Approved-Unanimous*

- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that this was brought to the Council because the City has never had a fully functional camera system and now there is one at City Hall, the Event Center and we are about to have one installed at the sewer plant. States since he has been on Council, he has been the admin on the cameras and a few other systems, and it will be a relief for the admin to be turned over to someone else. States that Jeremy (City's I.T.) is on payroll, but he's not sure if it falls under his jurisdiction or not.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that there is a contract with Jeremy. States that once the resolution is passed, there will be a form that must be completed by anyone who wants access to the City's systems. The form has to be signed by the Mayor and 2 Council members.
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that if everyone were to leave at one time, having an independent person to keep control over the systems would be better. This isn't to limit the access that Council has.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks if this will raise the cost for Jeremy?
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that he would just be responsible for the administrative log in as well as the creation of members that want access to the system. We wouldn't be creating extra work for him.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks who would be responsible for making sure that the records are backed up?
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that there is a records management officer, which will be Sabrenna.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that the last meeting that we had, the Council voted to remove the cameras.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that the Council voted to give the access to Jeremy as admin.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that we need to make sure that Jeremy is the only one that has access to turn the audio on the cameras
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that the only way someone is given admin access is by signing a paper to request that and the Mayor and 2 Council members must sign it.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that we aren't supposed to have audio in City Hall. States that we don't need to have cameras that even have the option to have the audio turned on.
- **Councilman Clayton-** Are you suggesting that the cameras be removed?
- **Councilman Merendino-** Yes
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that this has been discussed a few times already and we all said no to having audio capable cameras. States that he wasn't aware that the cameras that were installed had audio until it was brought to his attention. States that as soon as he found out that there was audio on the cameras, he turned the audio off.
- **Councilman Clayton-** Asks if it would be healthy spending to replace the cameras when all that has to be done is the audio be turned off?
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that if you have a camera that doesn't have audio capability, then we don't have to worry about it being turned on.

- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that it would be more secure without audio capability.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** Asks if there is any more discussion
- **Councilman Merendino-** Asks if the passwords will be changed to the systems once Jeremy takes over them?
- **Heather Steelman-** States that Jeremy will have the administrative access rather than someone else.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that Jeremy will change the password to the admin and he will be the only one with access to the admin control.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Except for Sabrenna
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that Sabrenna won't have that access either.
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that Sabrenna could have more access.
- **Councilman Merendino-** Asks if it will still be possible for the audio to still be turned on in the office?
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** No
- **Mayor Mitchell-** Only if the Mayor and 2 Council members authorize it.
- **Councilman Mannette-** Jeremy is the only one with the admin control? What happens if something happens to Jeremy?
- **Mayor Mitchell-** Jeremy works for a company.

8. Discussion

a. Discussion of shelving installed at City Hall. **Councilman Clayton/Councilman Mannette- *made the motions to open for discussion.***

- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that this is just an open discussion so that Council can look at invoices/bids and ask questions if anyone has any.
- **Councilman Mannette-** There are two bids?
- **Councilman Merendino-** Suggest going into executive session to discuss it.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** Declined
- **Councilman Merendino-** makes a motion to adjourn to executive session
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Suggests discussing it to see if there is a reason to go into executive session.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks if we are discussing the second bid received?
- **Dru Montgomery-** reminds Council that a motion was made to go into executive session so that motion needs to be voted on
- **Mayor Mitchell-** Calls for a vote
- ***The motion was not seconded so the motion to go into executive session does not proceed.***
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that he would like to ask his question in executive session. States that there are two bids. The bids are not the same, but the guy with the lower bid would not answer any calls and wasn't interested in proceeding with the job so the other bid was chosen.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that the work is already done, so we are talking about it after the fact?
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Yes. Asks all of Council if they have any more questions. They all stated "No". *Proceeds with discussion.* States that there was a bid received from Romero, he looked at the design and submitted a bid. States that bid that was submitted contained 78 brackets and that wasn't what Sabrenna requested. She wanted the shelves to have clear span as the drawing presented itself. States that the second bid came

in and it was given by a contractor that he uses. States that he made the drawing for the shelves and volunteered to help build the shelves. States that he got all the material for the job. States that the contractor did a really good job. States that the discussion is the turmoil that happened during the process of the shelves being built. States that Councilman Merendino went to the office and asked about the contract that was legally given to Garcia Contractors. Asks Councilman Merendino what his understanding was about the approval of the contract?

- **Councilman Merendino-** States that no one on City Council nor the Mayor had approved for the work to be done. States that, to him, it meant that Sabrenna approved for the work to be done, even though he knew that she wouldn't do that. States that he went to the office to see what was going on. States that Sabrenna pulled the bid out of a notebook that showed that Mayor Mitchell had signed for the work to be done. At that point, it was game over. States that the guy that gave the first bid was brought down to the office by him. States that he wishes there would have been more communication so that he could let Romero know that his bid wasn't approved. States that he called Romero once he figured out what was going on and Romero said that he wasn't interested. States that the problem was that he wasn't sure that the Mayor approved the work because she told him that she didn't know what work was going on at City Hall.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks Councilman Merendino if he had a conversation with the Mayor.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that she was asking who was in the Event Center. States that her and Sabrenna approved the bids. States that Sabrenna will not approve anything without the Mayor or someone else's signature. Also, in the minutes, it says that there was a \$4,000 budget and a second bid must be obtained. States that both quotes were under the budget.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that the quote received from Garcia Contractors was labor only.
- **Councilman Clayton-** States that there was a credit at Ritters
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that the credit at Ritters was from when we did the buildings. States that just because there was a credit, doesn't mean that it didn't cost the City money.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that it cost \$995.62 for the material without the credit applied.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that even if the credit wasn't applied, it stayed under the budget of \$4,000.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States Romero's quote was cheaper, but it wasn't for the same scope.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux- @ Mayor Mitchell-** States that on Friday she had a conversation with Councilman Merendino stating that she was unaware of what was going on with the shelves.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that she was in Livingston, so she didn't know that he was supervising, but when it came to the bid, she knew about that.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux- @ Mayor Mitchell-** states that when she saw him on Saturday, she told him that she wasn't aware of what was going on.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that she knew about the bid because she signed it.

- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** @ Mayor Mitchell- States that she told him that she was not aware that the shelves had been approved. States that he saw her signature on the bid so it concerns him that she would say that. States that there is a force that is not cohesive.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she was told that someone said that she had a problem with the shelves. Asks that if someone thinks that she has a problem with something to talk to her. States that she is over the drama. States that the Mayor talks out of both sides of her mouth.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux suggests going into executive session. Councilman Merendino makes the motion & Councilman Clayton seconded.**
- **Convened into executive session at 7:14 pm**
- **Resumed in regular meeting at 7:46 pm**

9. Reports

a. Mayor Mitchell- No report

- **Councilman Merendino made his report**
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that he spoke with Jason from DD6. States that the ditch on Sweetgum is cleared all the way to Riverbend. States that there is a ditch on River Road that has grown up. States that the City owns the property that runs adjacent to that ditch so the City can give them the right-of-way. States that DD6 came out during the rain again and picked up any sticks and limbs that were in their ditches impeding flow. States that he is going to recommend that the County come back out with the side mower again. States that the brush has grown up to the road on River Road and it needs to be cut. States that he is going to see if the County will come out and mow the spot on River Road along with the ditches in the curves on Riverbend. States that since DD6 has a culvert on Riverbend, he is going to see if they can keep it sprayed to eliminate it having to be mowed. States that there is a work order in with the County for Moss Hill. States that he would like to focus on the downstream side of the ditches first. States that there is still some pothole material left from when the County did pothole repair last time they came out. States that if the citizens have any potholes on their streets, they can report it to the office and him, and Chuck can get them filled in.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux made his report**
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he had a conference call with the National Park service discussing a kayak launch in Bevil Oaks.
- States that when emails are sent out to Council, if they could at least respond that they received the message, that would be great.
- States that there is a lot of opportunity with things that can be done within the City.
- States that there is another partnership that is being looked into for the City. There is a company that will build an outdoor fitness facility. They will also look for grants to help fund that project. States that he is looking for Council involvement.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that there are so many infrastructure issues that need to be corrected before we look into doing something new. States that there is issues with dog problems and other issues that have been brought up since the 90's.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Dog problems won't ever go away unless there is owner responsibility.

- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that the ordinances and charter could be changed and a \$100 fine could be given. If someone shoots a firearm, the fine could be \$5,000 rather than it being \$100.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that we don't have anyone to enforce that.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Suggests to stop spend \$20,000 on fireworks and get a Marshall.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that wouldn't even buy the bag for the Marshall.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that until the issues that are currently in place get addressed, that she won't participate in anything new like the outdoor fitness facility
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that if we sit around and wait for the world to be perfect that nothing will ever get done.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she isn't waiting for the world to be perfect. States that there is a lot of stuff to be fixed and no one is doing anything about it.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** There are a lot of things that are being done and that's why the reports are so important.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that there is a lot of work that needs to be done. States that he told Chuck he would have a workday with him. States that there is a sign that are missing and poles that are leaning.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** There are so many problems that need to be addressed.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he understands that, but there has got to be a method to the madness on the maintenance part of the problems.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Agrees, but states that fuel is being thrown on a fire because there is nobody that is willing to sign up for something major like the outdoor fitness facility. States that we are spread too thin.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that he thinks what Councilwoman Cramer is trying to say is that we don't get the fire put out before tackling something else.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she thinks it's a great idea, but we don't have the people to do something like that.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** We have a company willing to do a partnership with and there have already been other people that would match the money that is coming in from the other grant. States that if we aren't improving our overall infrastructure then we are digressing. These are just things that have popped up. We should at least see if it's something that can be done. As far as the signs go, we have someone to do it, money to do it, and a bid for the cost. States that he doesn't see what the hold up is.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that fixing the signs is a harder job that what it looks like.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that we can't even get anyone to hang flags. States that if someone asks Chuck to do it again, she is going to lose her mind because he is a veteran and doesn't need to be doing it. States that she would hang the flags before Chuck does it.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that the flags will be hung up next weekend. States that in the past the flags were hung up a week before and

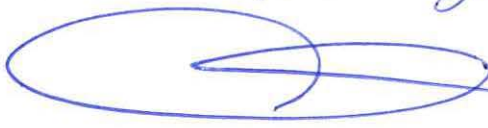
a week past the event. States that is too long for the flags to be hung up. Asks if there is a preferred timeline from anyone as to how long the flags need to stay up?

- **Councilman Merendino-** Suggests a week.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** 7-10.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Suggests leaving the flags up from Memorial Day to 4th of July.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he will put notice out on Facebook for volunteers.
- **Councilman Merendino-** Suggests not putting up flags as often as they have been put up in the previous years.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that speaking as someone who lives in a veteran household, flags should be put up for certain holidays.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he is the only one that has signed up to put flags up
- **Councilman Merendino-** Suggests just putting flags up in certain areas rather than City-wide.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she would help put them up.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks the Mayor to add I.T. to his responsibilities to his job duties to make it official?
- **Mayor Mitchell-** Yes
- **Councilman Merendino-** Asks Councilman Thibodeaux to train one of the office staff on recording the meeting.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Yes. States that once the City has a YouTube account set up and it is put on the laptop for the meetings; it will be easier to do the videos for the Council meetings.

- b. **Councilman Clayton-** *No Report*
- c. **Councilwoman Cramer-** *No Report*
- d. **Councilman Thibodeaux-** *report was given above*
- e. **Councilman Wright-** *Not Present*
- f. **Councilman Mannette-** *No Report*
- g. **Councilman Merendino-** *report was given above*

10. Adjourn Meeting @ 8:09 p.m. Councilman Thibodeaux/Councilman Merendino

Approved on this 19 day of June, 2025.



Mayor Mitchell

Attest: 

City Secretary, Jeff Thibodeaux