



THE BEVIL OAKS CHRONICLE

JANUARY 2012

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Council Members:

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Building & Grounds
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Investment Officer
790-2703
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Street Lights & Signs
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City Clerk: **Charlene Kent**
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755-7377

Code Enforcement
Lynn Foote
753-1475
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Next City Council
Meeting
Thursday,
February 16, 2012
@ 7pm at City Hall

Bevil Oaks is Online

at:

www.citofbevilocks.com

City Council News:

Regular Council Meeting night has been changed to the third Thursday of each month beginning with the February 16, 2012 meeting. In order to assure that all citizens participating in the "Citizen Comment" section of the meeting are allowed equal time and to bring decorum to our meetings, Council recently approved **"Rules for Citizen Comments"**. They are as follows:

RULES/PROCEDURES FOR CITIZEN COMMENTS SECTION OF AGENDA

*The **Citizen Comments Section** of the City Council Agenda is an opportunity for citizens to speak on any subject that may fall under the scope of the Council's duties, whether or not that subject is actually on the day's agenda.*

The City Council of the City of Bevil Oaks, Texas wishes to balance the benefit of providing an "open mike" against the possible disruption to the Council's and the people's business when the process of public input at a City Council meeting significantly distorts the agenda. For this reason, the City Council of the City of Bevil Oaks, Texas follows these rules/procedures to create and manage the "Citizen Comments Section" in formal Council meetings.

CITIZEN SPEAKERS:

Citizens who wish to speak in the Citizen Comment Section are asked to notify the City Secretary in advance of the beginning of the Citizen Comment Section of their intention to speak. The City Secretary will ask the speaker to complete a short sign up card to capture the citizen's name, address, and any other information required by the Council. If there are multiple speakers on a topic, the presiding officer may elect to alter the time available to permit multiple speakers the opportunity to address the Council.

- ◆ *The citizen speaker shall address the Presiding officer of City Council at all times, and not address individual Council members or the audience.*
- ◆ *The citizen speaker is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.*
- ◆ *The citizen speaker may speak on one or more subjects, but must stay within the 3 minute limit.*
- ◆ *The citizen speaker may speak only once during a Citizen Comment Section.*
- ◆ *The citizen speaker must avoid discussion of personalities and indecorous language, and refrain from personal attacks and verbal abuse.*
- ◆ *The presiding officer has the authority to declare a question out of order to prevent disruption of the Council meeting for whatever reason.*

The presiding officer will request that a person who is violating a rule cease the violation and warn the person that he or she will be required to leave the meeting room if the violation continues. If the violation continues, the presiding officer will ask the person to cease speaking on the violating topic and continued communication of any type constitutes a disruption of the meeting.

If the citizen speaker continues to cause disruption he or she may be removed from the meeting by the on-duty peace officer at the discretion of the peace officer

*The citizen speaker may make a presentation, not engage in a discussion or debate with Council members. While the citizen speaker may ask questions, the presiding officer may only answer the citizen's question **provided that the question concerns an agenda item where statutory notice has been given. If the question regards an agenda item, the presiding officer may give:***

- ◆ ***a statement of specific factual information given in response to the inquiry; or,***
- ◆ ***a recitation of existing policy in response to the inquiry.***

Rules and Procedures for Citizen Comment Section are continued on Page 2.....



MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Members of the public shall not engage in any of the following in the meeting room during a City Council meeting:

- ◆ Shouting, unruly behavior, distracting side conversations, or speaking out when another person is talking.
- ◆ Defamation, intimidation, personal affronts, profanity, or threats of violence.
- ◆ Audible use of phones, pagers, radios, computers or other electronic equipment.
- ◆ Booming, hissing, foot stomping, parading, singing or other similar behavior that impedes or disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting.

Any citizen in attendance, whether a citizen speaker or not, who disrupts the meeting by talking while others or speaking or causing disruption of any kind, may be removed from the meeting by the on-duty officer at the officer's discretion (see On-Duty Peace Officer)

NOTE: NO deliberation (e.g., "a verbal exchange during a meeting", as defined in Part VI.A of the Open Meetings 2008 Handbook from the Texas Attorney General's office) may take place, other than to make a "proposal to place the subject on the agenda for a subsequent meeting."

ON-DUTY PEACE OFFICER:

A Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff or other state licensed peace officer will be in attendance at all City of Bevil Oaks Council Meetings to assure that City business is conducted in a business-like manner and that citizen concerns are heard without disruption. The officer is authorized to uphold the laws of the State of Texas as he/she manages public activity during the meeting including but not limited to controlling the amount of time allotted to a citizen speaker and the removal from the meeting of a disruptive citizen.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Rules previously established for Citizen Comment Section apply to a Public Hearing whether or not the public hearing takes place during a regularly scheduled council meeting or is a special meeting called for citizen input on a specific issue.

Our little City is in the midst of completing major projects that benefit all citizens. We encourage citizens to attend council meetings to offer suggestions, ask questions, and be a part of this exciting process. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your elected officials at the numbers and email addresses listed on page 1. They will be happy to answer your questions and give you up-to-date and first-hand information regarding City business.

GRANT PROJECTS UPDATE:

As stated in our last newsletter, the County has completed the road work that was originally approved in the Hurricane Ike grant. However, when the job was originally estimated and the cost approved, the engineer's assumptions were that labor and cost of materials would continue to rise. Instead, they declined over the past two years and approximately \$67,000 remains in the grant fund. Our Grant Administrator applied to the General Land Office (GLO) for permission to apply those funds to repair other streets in our community that were also damaged by debris clean-up. Should this request be approved plus the \$60,000 the City has already budgeted for roads this year, we should be able to repair/replace nearly all remaining streets. Hopefully, we will be able to complete the road projects by end of summer 2012 and will see our streets in the best condition ever. Then, it will be Council's responsibility to budget funds annually for maintenance to keep the streets from deteriorating.

The fire station project speaks for itself. It is going up and going up fast! It has been exciting to watch this finally happening! Our volunteers have needed more space for their operations for a long time. This will be an addition to our community for all to be proud of and a great big "thank you" to our well-deserving Jefferson County Emergency Services District #1 Volunteers. We look forward to an official "grand opening" ceremony later this year. We will keep you posted on that.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER HIRED:

Lynn Foote, a full-time Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Beaumont, has been hired as part-time Code Enforcement Officer for the City of Bevil Oaks. This job was posted in the Examiner and Lynn was the applicant the City considered best qualified to enforce City ordinances. Her job is to make citizens aware of violations by written notification; allow them time to abate the issues; re-inspect the property and, hopefully, be able to report that the violation no longer exists. If not, she will continue working the violation until it is resolved in accordance with City ordinance.



UPCOMING COMUNITY-WIDE EVENTS

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

Saturday, May 12, 2012 is City Council Election Day. The first day to make application for a place on the ballot is February 4, 2012 and the last day to make application is Monday March 5, 2012. Council terms expiring are currently held by the following Council members:

Ward 1: Cathy Crane Ward 2: Don Smith Ward 3: Sherry Adams

Applications for a place on the ballot are available at City Hall during regular business hours. Election will be held at the Civic Center and polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Further information concerning early voting, etc. will be forthcoming in accordance with Texas Election Law.

APRIL 21, 2012—CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

If you would like to participate, please call **Stacey Smith at 782-6972 or 753-2633** to add your address to the map. There is no cost to participate and the event will be advertised on-line @Southeasttexas.com as well as in the newspaper. Maps showing all participating homes will be made available at K Mart (formerly, King’s Mart) for residents on Friday as well as at the entrances to the neighborhood on Saturday morning. **Deadline to register for the sale is Wednesday, April 19th.**

APRIL 21, 2012 — TRADE DAYS IN THE PARK

Location: Civic Center and LaRousse Park
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Vendors will have booths both inside the civic center and in LaRousse Park with a wide variety of interesting products and crafts for sale. If you are interested in participating as a vendor, booths are still available both inside the civic center and outside in the park. Cost for the booths are: Inside 8 X 10 booth -\$20.00; Outside booth—\$10.00; Kitchen—\$30.00. Cash or checks made payable to the City of Bevil Oaks are acceptable and will be accepted when the booths are set up. Set up time will be Friday from 3:00 p.m. until all are complete. **For more information or to reserve a booth, please contact Colleen Grimes at 409-880-5526 or 409-753-3377.**

APRIL 28, 2012— CITY-WIDE CLEAN-UP DAY

Roll-offs will be on the Boulevard at 7:00 a.m. Saturday, April 28, 2012 until noon for big trash clean-up day. Remember, no household garbage, tires, paint or chemicals. If you have an item that might be questionable, please call IESI at 409-246-4022 for clarification.

NEW BLACKBOARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

Thanks to the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, Bevil Oaks will be participating in the “**Blackboard Connect**” program and **ITS FREE!** In addition to emergency messages, when it is critical to notify residents immediately of pending dangers, etc., we will be able to use it to notify citizens regarding boil water notices, cut-off dates for water bill, office closed dates, special events and many other useful purposes. **If you want to participate in this notification program, please clip out and complete the following form and drop it in the City drop box as soon as possible. February 15 is our projected start up date provided we can complete the contact information.**

Please include my telephone numbers and/or email addresses in the Blackboard Connect program

Name: _____ Telephone # _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Telephone # _____ Email: _____

Please note: Each contact is allowed up to 10 contact numbers. If you have multiple telephone numbers and email addresses in your household that you want to include, please list them separately and attach to this form.

JANUARY 2012 NEWSLETTER

Council Meeting—February 16—7:00 p.m.
City-wide Garage Sale—April 21
Trade Days in the Park—April 21
City-wide Clean-up Day—April 28
City Council Election—May 12

Resident
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7525 Sweetgum
Beaumont, TX 77713



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