MINUTES of WORKSHOP Meeting
CITY OF BEVIL OAKS, TEXAS
Thursday, March 26, 2015

1. Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Ford.
2. Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation (Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible) led by citizen Ronnie Adams
3. Roll Call: All present
4. Conflict of Interest Statement: none; Mayor Ford informed the Council this Workshop was for the Council to listen only, and no decisions would be made at this time.
5. **Review/Approve Action Items**
    a. Discuss potential actions that can be taken regarding unrestrained animals within the City Limits of Bevil Oaks. Mayor Ford turned it over to Barbara Emmons. Mrs. **Barbara Emmons** stated she went over the notes given to her by Mayor Ford from the last time the City looked into animal issues. Mrs. Emmons went on to discuss that both herself and Mayor Ford went to Sour Lake to discuss their solution to animal control, and they have an animal control officer who would be willing to euthanize our animals if needed. The City would have to build pens to hold the animals, either by the sewer plant or water plant, and have people who would feed them daily and catch them as needed. She continued by discussing how Sour Lake requires the owners to register the animals with the City and turning in the vaccination records. Mrs. Emmons explained there was a recent attack on another dog by a vicious dog near their home in which another citizen, Larry Landry, had also witnessed. **John Gundolf** – opposed to any ordinance that he can't take a dog with him; feels you should knock on the door and tell them if it is a dangerous dog and would cost the City too much money. **David Barrows** – owns 3 dogs and 2 cats; his lab which is 4 years old he spent over $4,000 on training to include hunting, but they are still animals, but the City doesn't need to spend a bunch of money chasing down animals and is opposed an ordinance. **Dorothy Markland** – has an irish wolfhound with a chain link fence. She feels the answer is to fence the animal in put that putting a dog on a chain will only make it more aggressive. **John Fisher** – While he is concerned about vicious dogs, he is opposed to any more rules. **Joan Howard** – Oversees the pet clinic that is normally held in October each year; she is very against animals being on a chain, and stated the Humane Society is against it too. She stated they suffer physical, psychological and other damages when on a chain. She also stated she is very much against dogs being held down by the poopie pond. **Julie Arisco** – She owns Australian shepherds but doesn't understand dogs running loose, barking at everyone and sure doesn't appreciate them pooping in her yard, stating that doesn't make for a good neighbor. She is for a City ordinance. **Miranda DeLaTorre** – Her dogs run loose and she rescues dogs that are not currently trained. She stated she could not afford a fence and is also against chains. She stated she does have an issue with vicious dogs but the City must define vicious. She continued stating she is opposed to any new ordinance or rule and would vote to keep the same rules and regulations that are now in place. She discussed how she also has a dashound that lies in the road, but that just makes people slow down and keeps her children safe, and if anyone has an issue they can come knock on her door. **Nan Nelson** – She stated if someone has an animal, regardless of what type, they take on that responsibility, which includes vets, training, etc., otherwise, don't

have the animal. She finished by saying if someone could not afford a fence, then they cannot afford a dog, and she has seen multiple animals killed by loose dogs. She is for any ordinance that would help take care of such an issue. **Michelle Nelson** – She stated that we must remember the intention of this workshop, which is loose/stray dogs and vicious animals, which are not good or nice pets. She stated we must find a balance and that there must be a compromise from all. **Kim Roberts** – She stated she has dogs in a fence, but that the lab can get out sometimes. She continued by stating the cats all stay inside. The dogs used to run loose until recently, but she has been on the other side of the spectrum. She has had a neighbor continually call the cops on her dogs even though they didn't do anything, and the neighbor even would open her gates to let them out. Eventually, Mrs. Roberts stated the Sheriff's office finally told the neighbor about harassment. She stated if we have an ordinance, the neighbor could then complain about the dogs, when in actuality it could be about the grass. She is opposed to any ordinance. **Jennifer Rhoades** – She stated she agrees with Michelle Nelson and there needs to be balance, but she will protect her 10 year old daughter over anyone's pet. Celeste Fisher – She stated everyone has a right to dogs but must have something to hold them responsible, especially so when going to the neighbor first doesn't work. **Paige Y'Barbo** – She asked if a mastiff attacks her little dog, can she shoot the dog. Mayor Ford stated Rod Carroll, of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, stated everyone has a right to protect themselves, but suggested pepper spray as an alternative. Mrs. DeLaTorre stated a dog coming towards you barking does not mean it is an attack. **AJ Brisco** – Mr. Brisco stated he moved out here for freedom but is slowly losing that freedom when you cannot even walk down the street without worrying about getting attacked. He continued by stating the Council is trying to find a reasonable solution to the problem. **Ken Barrington** – He stated he had to put up a fence and that bad dogs are a problem. **Doug Emmons** – He discussed how he used to have a border collie on a leash and it had never been aggressive. However, it got loose one day and bit a guy. The Sheriff Officer at the time told him it could be the wrong cologne, scent, another dog, or any smell, etc., and it can make them attack. He had to put his dog down. **Glenn Timberlake** – He stated he has 3 dogs he walks and all are on leashes. But he has seen many things, such as children riding on or after midnight on golf carts with no lights or no reflection. He did state his dog Sam has been bit 3 times, and he is against having to build a fence. **Larry Landry** – He stated he doesn't have any pets, but others keep pooping in his yard. He doesn't want a pound, but does want to get the troubled dogs out of Bevil Oaks. He stated we need to find some way to fine the owners so high that it will make them do something. He is for doing something, but against any kind of pound. **Nan Nelson** – She asked if the Council could think about registering the animals for a fee, then the nuisance and vicious animal owners could be found and fined.

6. Adjourned Workshop Meeting by Mayor Ford at 8:57 p.m. **M/M/2/C: Meredino/Grimes APPROVED**

Rebecca M. Ford
Rebecca M. Ford, Mayor

Sherry Adams
Sherry Adams, Secretary