

Notice of Regular Meeting Minutes  
CITY OF BEVIL OAKS, TEXAS  
January 16, 2025

1. **Call to Order @ 6:28**
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 Present**
4. **Conflict of Interest Statement- None**
  - **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she might have a conflict of interest concerning the executive session.
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
6. **Review/Approve Consent Items- M/M/2/C- Councilman Thibodeaux/Councilman Merendino- Approved- Unanimous**
  - a. **Financial Reports for City of Bevil Oaks**
  - b. **Financial Reports for Public Works**
  - c. **Utility Innovations Report**
  - d. **Previous Meeting Minutes**
7. **Executive Session @ 6:31 p.m.**
  - a. The Council may convene to executive session to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee
8. **Resume Regular Meeting @ 6:45**
9. **Review/Approve Action Items**
  - a. **Consideration/Discussion/Approval of change in employee title *from Office Manager to City Administrator*- M/M/2/C- Councilman Merendino/Councilwoman Cramer- Approved (with the suggested changes)- Unanimous**
  - b. **Consideration/Discussion/Approval of council responsibilities**
    - **Mayor Mitchell-** States that there needs to be two Council members on each responsibility.
    - **Councilman Merendino-** States that he will get with Councilman Mannette and Councilwoman Cramer about the mowing and what they are supposed to be doing
    - **Councilman Wright-** States that all the line items can be changed.
    - **Councilman Mannette-** Asks how stuff needs to be talked about
    - **Heather Steelman @ Councilwoman Cramer-** asks how she feels about the jobs that she is assigned to with her job.
    - **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she thinks 3 things are too many. States that she might have a conflict with doing the signs throughout the neighborhood due to the fact that her husband works for the City.
    - **Councilman Wright-** Suggests that the focus needs to be on having a primary on each item then a second Councilmember can be selected at a later time.
    - **Councilwoman Cramer-** Suggests moving on and deciding on a final later on.
    - **Councilman Merendino-** makes suggestions on moving things around on the Council responsibilities list.
    - **Councilman Wright-** Adds safety inspections for things in the buildings and the parks

- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** states that he requested being over the Event Center.
- c. **Discussion** of potential date and time of Town Hall/Council Workshop meeting for 2025 previously discussed via email.
  - **January 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m.**
  - **Councilman Clayton-** States that he is opposed to the 30<sup>th</sup> so that Councilman Mannette can make it to the first town hall meeting of his term.
  - **Sabrenna Crain-** Suggests moving it to February
  - **Councilman Clayton-** Suggests Councilman Mannette log in remotely
- d. **Discussion** of New Year's Eve expense report.
  - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** states that the budget was \$3,000. The expenses added up to \$2,835. Last year it was \$3,200. States that he received good reports about the event. States that there will be a licensed fire technician on site for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. States that the City's insurance does cover the event. States that Chief Gonzales brought it to his attention.
  - **Councilwoman Cramer-** asks if it is protocol to do an expense report for the amount of money spent?
  - **Mayor Mitchell-** States that the expense protocol isn't listed in the resolution to that the Council completed for the spending policy.
  - **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she will put it on the agenda for next time. States that in her opinion, an expense report shouldn't be typed up due to the fact that any amount of money could be entered into a report. Every penny that is spent should be accounted for.
  - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that all receipts were turned in for the amounts that it shows on the expense report.
  - **Mayor Mitchell-** States that there is a form that must be signed for reimbursements. States that there needs to be a time limit on submitting receipts. Currently that isn't added to the spending policy resolution.
  - **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she doesn't want a precedence to be set that receipts can just be typed up as that wouldn't look good on the City.
  - **Dru Montgomery-** States that the bookkeepers are strict about that as well.
  - **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks if there were any fireworks left over for the 4<sup>th</sup>
  - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** No. States that more money was saved than we originally thought would be so the fireworks we had were all used.
- e. **Discussion** of having an option to allow alcohol at the Event Center under a lease agreement.
  - **Councilman Merendino-** States that he would like to amend the agenda item to state on public property per his agenda request.
  - **Mayor Mitchell-** What do you consider public property?
  - **Councilman Merendino-** States every property that the City owns. States that if there is an event, people will be drinking.
  - **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that since we have an ordinance that prohibits drinking. There are also laws that prohibit that.
  - **Councilman Clayton-** States that if we haven't enforced it so far, then we need to think about hiring someone to enforce it for us
  - **Councilman Merendino-** States that the Sheriff's office won't enforce our ordinances

- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that they will enforce the law against drinking
- **Councilman Clayton-** States that him and his wife moved to the area due to the low crime rate, if this is allowed there will be an increase in the crime rate
- **Councilman Mannette-** States that if it's in the agreement for the Civic Center rental and they have law enforcement present, then he is fine with that. States that he isn't okay with allowing drinking at the parks.
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that we can allow a caterer that has their TABC license. States that the City can't allow alcoholic beverages on public property
- **Councilman Mannette-** States that he would like to keep the events as family events.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she likes the idea of possibly opening the door for allowing alcohol at approved events.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that there are several things that must be done to allow alcohol on City property. States that ordinances and rules will have to be amended to allow alcohol.
- **Councilman Wright-** States that we might be able to rent the building out more if we were to allow alcohol when someone rents the building out.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** State law doesn't have allow the City to ban it throughout the City, but it can be ban on City property.
- **Councilman Wright-** States that there hasn't been a lot of effort made to rent out the Civic Center, so we don't know if not allowing alcohol is affecting the building being rented.
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that the guidelines just need to be set by the Council. States that the City can set specific guidelines on what they can allow at which events and/or places it is allowed.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** it would take the liability off the City if there was a licensed person selling alcohol.
- **Dru Montgomery-** Most municipalities do allow alcohol is there is someone there with a TABC.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that at the YMBL, the alcohol can't leave the building.
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that the Council will need to set the guidelines.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that he would like to know if the City is hamstrung on allowing or not allowing alcohol.

## 10. Reports

### a. Mayor Mitchell

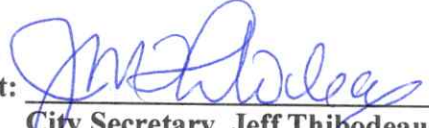
- **Allows Councilman Thibodeaux to do his report first since he is usually last to do the report.**
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks Council how many people view the City website a month. States that in the past 12 months there have been .... States that there are more people than expected visiting the website. States that we are working on doing another meeting with another website designer. States that he would like Council to be assigned 4 ordinances a month to review. Mark it for revision or mark it for removal. States this doing that would make us closer to the City charter.
- **Councilman Merendino-** asks if that's including revisions?
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Yes. States that he would love to see Council be engaged with that. States that he has been asked several times about a

pickleball court. States that instead of spending money, we could use a concrete pad that we already have. The basketball court or the covered pavilion. States that the equipment could be kept at the office and people could pay a deposit for the equipment. States that if it was promoted, we could give it a year and see how it turns out. Suggests making a demand for it and try to raise money for City.

- **Councilman Merendino-** States that it could be done at the opposite end of the basketball court so the kids can still play basketball. States that the covered pavilion has a drop off so it may not work.
  - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that the next event will be the garage sales.
- b. **Councilman Merendino-** States that he has a meeting with the County week after next. States that his goal is for the rock pile to be gone. States that the block of Thousand Oaks between Riverbend and Sweetgum is going to be the first thing that he shows the County. States that the East side of Chimney Rock needs to be fixed as well as the West end of the Blvd. States that the potholes can be fixed once the roads need to be addressed. States that if someone sees an issue that needs to be fixed as far as potholes so that it can be fixed. States that there is \$64,000 in the road fund except for the franchise fees that haven't been transferred over yet. States that the Council did a resolution for the franchise fees to be used for the road fund. States that there is \$155,000 in the ARPA funds that could be used for the roads. States that we are going to overorder pothole mix so that we can have a stockpile to fix the pothole mix to fix potholes if one comes up. States that it is piled by where the old office used to be.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks if he has considered putting it behind the Event Center so it's out of sight?
  - **Councilman Merendino-** States that it is easier to access by the old office.
- c. **Councilman Mannette-** No report
- d. **Councilman Clayton-** No report
- e. **Councilwoman Cramer-**
- States that she has been reading some ordinances and found some errors that need to be fixed.
- f. **Councilman Thibodeaux-** already made report
- g. **Councilman Wright-** No report
- **Councilman Mannette-** States that he got a message from someone about a road sign. States that he has also gotten reports on people running stop signs. States that he tells them that we aren't the County and we can't enforce it. Tells the citizens to contact Jefferson County with the license plates
  - **Councilman Clayton-** States that he recommends that they call Officer Miller.
  - **Councilman Mannette-** Suggests that the residents get a video of people running the stop sign so that they have proof before pursuing

11. Adjourn Meeting @ 7:52 Councilman Merendino/Councilman Clayton

  
Mayor Cheri Mitchell

Attest:   
City Secretary, Jeff Thibodeaux

Approved on this 20 day of February, 2025.