

Notice of Regular Meeting Minutes  
CITY OF BEVIL OAKS, TEXAS

December 18, 2025

1. **Call to Order @ 6:30**
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-** Councilman Merendino and Councilman Clayton NOT present
  - a. Since a quorum of Councilmembers will be physically present, the Council hereby provides notice that one or more Councilmembers may participate via video conference.
  - b. The announcement of those participating by videoconference will be announced at roll call and all members of the public attending the meeting shall be able to hear and see remotely attending Councilmembers.
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
  - **Joe Evans (candidate for Jefferson County Justice of the Peace)-** introduces himself and gives a history of things that he has accomplished.
6. **Presentation**
  - a. Presentation given by Verkada- *Matt Brisendine from Solid IT gives presentation.*
    - **Matt-** Gives details on what the Verkada cameras can do.
    - **Councilman Wright-** Asks if the 10-year quote that the Council was given comes with a 10-year warranty?
    - **Matt-** Yes, The device themselves and the software have a warranty.
    - **Councilman Wright-** Will it cost to have the continual software upgrades?
    - **Matt-** No it will not be additional cost. If a camera fails during the contract period, they will replace it at no extra cost. States that if it was something extensive, then there could be a service charge.
    - **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that electronics typically don't last 10 years.
    - **Matt-** States that the cameras are rated for 20 years.
    - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks if the cellular sim card is included in the quote?
    - **Matt-** No. It would be a much lower cost if the City were to get their own sim card. States that the sim cards that the City currently has will work for the Verkada cameras. It will be one sim card per gateway, so the City would only need 4 sim cards.
    - **Councilman Wright-** Asks if that will be an additional monthly cost? States that he was under the impression that there wouldn't be a monthly cost.
    - **Matt-** States that the City is already paying a monthly fee for the sim cards that are in the cameras now. States that there are no hidden costs in the quotes that

were given. The only monthly cost would be the sim cards. States that if there is an issue with a camera, then Verkada will send a new one and you would send the one that is not working back to them. If you didn't have anyone to put it up, then the City could call them and they would install it, but there would be a service fee.

- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Would we need a separate service contract?
- **Matt-** Yes. States that his company is based locally in Sour Lake.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks how the videos are stored?
- **Matt-** States that the storage is stored on the camera. It is stored for 30 days. There is unlimited storage for clips. The clips get stored in the cloud.
- **Councilman Wright-** Asks how many locations are covered in the quote?
- **Matt-** 4.
- **Councilman Wright-** Can we expand the number of cameras if we wanted to?
- **Matt-** States that with the cameras, each camera supports itself, so they could have an unlimited amount of cameras if they wanted to.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks if Verkada has smart locks for gates?
- **Matt-** States that they do have them and they are capable of storing license plate numbers that can be cleared in the system so that when that vehicle pulls up to the gate, it unlocks.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks if the quote is for the 2 or the 4 way cameras?
- **Matt-** 4 way. States that when/if the contract is signed, the trial cameras that are currently in place will be replaced with new ones. The trial cameras are refurbished.
- **Councilman Wright-** States that he doesn't agree being charged for the travel expense. States that travel is the cost of doing business.
- **Matt-** States that they try to be transparent with their costs. States that the travel cost is for the hotel stay for the people that will be installing the cameras.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he thought that they were based out of Sour Lake.
- **Matt-** States that headquarters are based in Sour Lake.

**7. Review/Approve Consent Items-M/M/2/C-Councilwoman Cramer/Councilman Thibodeaux- *Approved-Unanimous***

- a. **Financial Reports for City of Bevil Oaks**
- b. **Financial Reports for Public Works**
- c. **Utility Innovations Report**
- d. **Previous Meeting Minutes**

**8. Review/Approve Action Items**

- a. **Consideration/Discussion/Approval** of camera system for the City and Public Works facilities. *M/M/2/C- Councilman Thibodeaux/Councilman Wright- Tabled*

- **Councilman Wright-** States that the only other thing that we looked at was Starlink. States that with the two systems, he likes that the Verkada camera picks up their travel pattern. States that in the quote, the 10 year contract is the cheapest to go with. Suggests accepting the quote for the Verkada cameras.

- **Councilman Mannette-** States that he likes the feature that the Verkada cameras have with being able to look up a color of a vehicle and it would show you all the times that the camera picked them up.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that his biggest concern is the overall cost of the Verkada cameras. States that it is a big expense. States that he would recommend that the camera system waits until we can budget for the expense. States that with the Starlink package, is the lowest cost and it has been sufficient with the cameras.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Suggests tabling this until we have more information.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that we can do what we did with the vehicles and assign it to a committee. States that the Reolink cameras it comes with numerous cameras, so if one of the go out, then we can replace it.
- **Councilman Wright-** States that with Reolink, there isn't a service rep that can be called when a camera isn't working. States that being able to call a service rep when there is something wrong with the camera is an effectiveness in use. States that he doesn't have a comparison between Reolink and Verkada, so he can't make a decision other than Verkada.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that Sabrenna is the one who purchases the cameras and pays the bills, so she would be the only one that knows. Suggests looking into getting a cellular gateway to compare to what Verkada is offering.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks how long the Reolink cameras are rated to last?
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he isn't sure.

**b. Consideration/Discussion/Approval** of transferring funds and closing accounts per the recommendation of the City's investment officer. *Presented by Councilman Jim Wright- M/M/2/C- Councilman Thibodeaux/Councilman Wright- Approved- Unanimous*

- **Councilman Wright-** States that after meeting with the CPA, the City is currently receiving interest, but not as much interest as it could. States that the TexPool account that the City currently has for the Public Works account, it receives more interest. States that we didn't have a TexPool account for the City side, so an account had to be set up. States that the TexPool account was set up so that money can only be transferred between the assigned accounts. States that the TexPool account is getting 4% interest. States that we are going to close out several of the unused accounts. States that the funds that are in the accounts that will be closed, will be transferred to the operating accounts and then transferred to the TexPool account. States that the plan is to move \$300,000 from the City operating account into the City TexPool account. In the Public Works account, \$750,000 will be moved from the operating account to the TexPool account.
- **Mayor Mitchell @ Dru Montgomery-** Once the funds are moved, do we need to do a resolution stating that the funds were moved?

- **Dru Montgomery-** States that a resolution doesn't have to be done before the funds can be transferred.
  - **Councilman Wright-** States that the Council elected him to be the financial officer. States that it is a requirement that he brings a quarterly financial report to the Council.
  - **Dru Montgomery-** States that we would do a resolution stating that the transfers have been done per the recommendation of the financial officer.
  - **Councilman Mannette-** Does a discussion have to be done for the other transfers that are done over a certain amount?
  - **Councilman Wright-** No because he has to make a quarterly report.
  - **Dru Montgomery-** States that the Council will still need to approve of the transfers per Councilman Wright's recommendation.
  - **Councilman Wright-** States that the way he understood it is that he could do it without Council approval and report what transactions have been done in his report.
  - **Dru Montgomery-** States that it is better to have a notice issued with the Council approving it. States that he recommends that Councilman Wright reports his recommendations to the Council.
  - **Councilman Wright-** States that he should be able to make transactions without the Council approval per the course that he took.
  - **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks if Councilman Wright has an opportunity to make a transaction, does he have to wait for Council approval to do so?
  - **Dru Montgomery-** No, but when there is an opportunity to validate those actions, we should that way the Council is aware. States that it's preferable to notify the public that a transaction has been made by doing a resolution and it is noted in the meeting minutes. Legally, it doesn't have to be done, but that is his recommendation.
- c. **Consideration/Discussion/Approval** of updates to the storage container ordinance # 246. *Presented by Mayor Mitchell- M/M/2/C- Councilman Thibodeaux/Councilwoman Cramer- Tabled*
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that this is a continuation of the discussion that they had last month.
  - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that the original ordinance states that you have to have at least an acre to have a storage container. States that this needs to be included. States that the maximum number needs to be one or two per acre.
  - **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that there needs to be clarity with the FEMA set back regulations.
  - **Councilman Wright-** States that the deed restrictions will trump anything else.
  - **Councilman Mannette-** Suggest no electrical and no water.
  - **Councilman Thibodeaux-** If they are using it for a workshop, then why wouldn't we allow electric and water.

- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that the FEMA regulations are more strict.
- **Councilman Mannette-** States that if there is electrical and water allowed, then they could be doing something that doesn't need to be happening.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that there are a lot of FEMA regulations.
- **Councilman Mannette-** Is there a height and length regulation?
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that they would have to build a fence to suit.
- **Councilman Mannette-** Suggests that the containers would need to be out of sight.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Suggests that they be out of sight for long term, but not short term. States that it also needs to be specified that they shouldn't be allowed unless there was a house present.
- **Councilman Mannette-** States that the people that he has spoken to, were not in favor of allowing the containers.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that there should be regulations on long term and how they need to look for long term use.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Suggests bringing in other examples of ordinances from different Cities.
- **Councilwoman Clayton-** States that she has researched the use of the storage containers and she doesn't think that the community would like us to allow the containers.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Asks what we are doing about the ones that are already in Bevil Oaks?
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that she isn't sure.
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that he would suggest allowing it only on a temporary basis. States that there are some understandable short-term uses, but there isn't for long term.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that our current ordinance just needs to be updated.
- **Dru Montgomery-** States that if the Council wants him to research other City's ordinances, then he can. He just needs some guidance.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that there hasn't been any complaints about the containers that are currently in Bevil Oaks, so he brought this up to give everyone the option to have one if they wanted to with a lot of requirements.
- **Councilman Cramer-** States that if someone doesn't anchor them down properly and it floods, then it could potentially damage the neighbors homes.

d. **Consideration/Discussion/Approval** of updates to the gaming machine ordinance # 248. *Presented by Mayor Mitchell- M/M/2/C- Councilman Thibodeaux/Councilman Mannette- Approved- Unanimous*

- **Councilman Wright-** What is the city's liability?

- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** None.
  - **Dru Montgomery-** States that the regulations of the machines have changed to games of skill.
- e. **Consideration/Discussion/Approval** of addendum to the employee handbook in regard to PTO as well as the IRA retirement plan. *Presented by Mayor Mitchell- M/M/2/C- Councilwoman Cramer/Councilman Wright- Tabled*
- f. **Consideration/Discussion/Approval** of addendum to current mowing contract to extend the expiration date to coincide with mowing season. *Presented by Councilman Merendino- M/M/2/C- Councilwoman Cramer/Councilman Wright-Tabled*

**9. Reports**

a. **Mayor Mitchell**

- States that for breakfast with Santa, she received donations from Judge Ben Collins for \$250, Rodney Robichau donated \$250, and Republic donated \$483. States that the money will be transferred into the Community Development account. States that the funds received, will be used at a different event.

b. **Councilman Clayton-** Not present

c. **Councilwoman Cramer-** No Report

d. **Councilman Thibodeaux**

- States that there has been little to no response on having a new years firework show. States that he would like to combine the designated funds from new years with the July fourth celebration. Asks Mayor Mitchell what event the Mayor was talking about in February?
- **Mayor Mitchell-** Kids ID.

e. **Councilman Wright-**No Report

f. **Councilman Mannette**

- States that all the street signs have been put up.

g. **Councilman Merendino-**Not Present

- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he heard a rumor that someone canvassed for donations and pocketed some of the money.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that she hasn't heard anything about that.
- **Councilman Wright-** States that he recommends that Councilman Wright gets to the bottom of that rumor.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that if they are going to be accused of stealing when they are hosting an event, that she would not do any more events.

**10. Adjourn Meeting @ 8:15 pm** Councilwoman Cramer/Councilman Mannette

Approved this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Cheri Mitchell

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Secretary, Jeff Thibodeaux