

# Notice of a Budget Meeting Minutes

## CITY OF BEVIL OAKS, TEXAS

August 26, 2025

1. **Call to Order @ 6:00 p.m.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation- given by Councilman Mannette**
  - 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- non**
5. **Discussion**
  - a. Discussion shall be limited to evaluation of current budget and of items pertinent to establishing the budget for the City of Bevil Oaks for fiscal year 2025-2026. The City will receive input from private persons and entities including but not limited to its engineering firm, legal counsel, accountant, personnel with specific information related to the proposed budget.
    - **Charlotte Yeates-** begins to present budget. States that the budget numbers are based off of what has been spent the year before. States that she wasn't aware of the new tax law. Suggests leaving the tax rate income the same until we know what the outcome of the new law will be and then the budget can be amended.
    - **Councilman Wright-** Asks if the budgeted amount is based on what Charlotte's projects the income amount will be?
    - **Charlotte Yeates-** States that it is based on the current tax work sheet. States that she wasn't sure what amount was going approved by Council on the tax rate work sheet. States that the tax income that she has on the new budget is \$120,000, but the Council may want to decrease it to \$115,000 based on the amount that has been received for the fiscal year of 2024-2025.
    - **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that there are 8 new homes occupied. There are around 2 new homes built.
    - **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go through the budget.* States that the projected numbers on the budget are based on her looking at the past two years.
    - **Sabrenna Crain-** Asks what communications were on the budget?
    - **Charlotte Yeates-** Southwestern Bell franchise. States that the franchise fees are designated for the road fund. *Continues to go over budget.* Asks if gaming permits is still something that the City anticipates to received?
    - **Sabrenna Crain-** Yes. It is an annual permit.
    - **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over budget.*
    - **Councilman Wright-** Where would the fees for the trailer park show up?
    - **Charlotte Yeates-** Adds trailer park permit fees to revenue. *Continues to go over budget.*
    - **Councilman Wright-** Asks if the audit is \$19,000.
    - **Charlotte Yeates-** Yes. It is split 50/50 between the City and Public Works. States that the City hasn't gone out for bid for an auditor, but it can be done if that is what Council wants to do. States that there are 3 local firms that do audits. States that if the Council is wanting to go out for a new auditor, it needs to be done as soon as possible that way by October, a new auditor will have time to do it.

- **Councilman Merendino-** States that even if it's the same price for a new auditor, a different set of eyes on something is helpful.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over the budget.*
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks if the stuff that is listed under "other" can be labeled so that Council can tell what its listed in other?
- **Charlotte Yeates-** States that it is broken down in the monthly financials.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** Asks how much the Council wants to budget for elections? States that there has already been \$3,900 spent on elections this fiscal year. Asks Sabrenna what election year that was for.
- **Sabrenna Crain-** States that the invoice for elections is usually due in January, so that was for the 2024 election. States that the election used to cost \$10,000, but there have been several more cities signing up for Jefferson County to host their elections, so the cost isn't as much now.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over budget.* Asks if Council wants to lower the amount budgeted for CRS.
- **Sabrenna Crain-** Explains that CRS is on hold right now due to unforeseen circumstances within their personnel. States that the reason that there was more spent on CRS last year is because the City had to do a 5-year walk-through, so the bill shouldn't be as high if the City has to do CRS this year.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Goes over cost for general insurance.*
- **Sabrenna Crain-** States that general insurance did increase, but the increase is going to reflect more on the Public Works budget. The budget of \$10,000 on the City side will cover the cost.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Goes over the cost for health insurance.*
- **Sabrenna Crain-** States that the cost has increased on this as well.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over budget.*
- **Councilman Merendino-** Suggests raising the budgeted amount for payroll taxes because there was another employee hired and there is more work being done.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over budget.* Raised budget for utilities from \$4,000 to \$6,000.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** States that since there are 2 part time employees, that the wages need to be increased. *Continues to go over budget.*
- Community Development Discussion
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she thought that the senior citizen lunch was free. States that she wants to take out half of the events that were on the proposal. States that she thinks there should only be one event. States that the budget is already 109 over and something needs to be cut. States that we can't do all the events with the budget being over. States that there has been more added to the budget than what is being made.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that we haven't even gotten to everyone, yet.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** States that there is \$200,000 in the budget for depreciation, which is a buffer.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that she understands that. Suggests subtracting from the expenses. States that events are the last priority. States that the events that are on the flyer that was provided by Councilman Thibodeaux, are events that the City wasn't supposed to be paying for.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that when he is allowed to explain, he will go over the events. States that the '25 budget is the same as his budget for '24.

States that the '25 budget is the same as '24 and all of the allotted budget was not spent. States that everything that is listed is based off the budget that was given. States that the events that are listed, are events that were suggested.

- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks if the budget is the same, then why is a presentation needed? States that just because something has been done in the past, does not mean that it needs to continue to be done the same way. States that the budget is already in the hole. States that she doesn't want to hear the presentation because she doesn't agree with the money being spent on events when the budget is already negative.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he presents the budget so that he is accountable for what is spent.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that Councilman Thibodeaux needs to get to the point.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he keeps getting interrupted.
- **Councilman Wright-** States that he thinks the events that are being presented are being presented to fill the budget that is set for Community Development.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that Christmas shouldn't cost as much this year because there was a lot that was bought the previous year, so there should be supplies.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that the budget is always the same and there isn't a compromise. State that she won't vote for the proposed Community Development budget.
- **Councilman Wright-** Asks Councilwoman Cramer what she thinks the budget should be.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Half. States that there are new laws in place that don't allow you to go over the previous year's budget unless you are a growing population.
- **Councilman Wright-** Suggests that the Community Development budget be decreased to \$10,000.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks why the City is supposed to be paying for the senior citizen lunch when it was supposed to be free?
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that it was in the budget from the previous year.
- **Councilman Wright-** Suggests that the budget for Community Development be decreased to \$10,000. States that he has value in Community Development. States that there are things on the proposed budget that he doesn't agree with.
- **Councilman Mannette-** Asks Councilman Wright what he doesn't agree with?
- **Councilman Wright-** The senior citizen activities, public safety awareness, porta potties in the park, and the heritage day celebration.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that the citizens asked for the potties in the park during the town hall meeting.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that they aren't Council members, they are citizens.
- **Councilman Mannette-** Asks that no matter what the community wants, we are supposed to ignore them?
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that the Council is supposed to listen to everyone, not just 20 citizens from the CAB group.
- **Councilman Wright-** States that if we need to get porta potties for the fourth of July celebration, then that comes out of the cost for that event.


- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that the porta potties are put at the park during the summer time because there is more activity. States that not having a restroom at the park is a deterrent.
- **Councilman Wright-** States that not having restrooms is part of grounds and parks, not Community Development.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Suggests doubling the charge for the dumpsters so that they can be provided to the residents more than once a year.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that there has been a lot of discussion about the speeding in the neighborhood. Part of the proposed budget includes a portable speed trailer for 30 days.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that speed trailers were discussed before. States that the only way that speeding can be controlled is with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** States that speeding will continue to happen until we can afford to get another marshal.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that he is fine with the reduced budget. States that the budget that he presented was because he was being accountable. States he has bought water and coffee for the seniors for the senior lunch as a courtesy. States that if the Council refuses to do something for the seniors, shame on them.
- **Councilman Merendino-** Asks if the City stops supplying water for the senior lunch, if that will stop the seniors from coming.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** States that there is no reason for the City not to supply bottled water. States that he is asking for a \$12,000 budget for Community Development.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over the budget.*
- **Councilman Merendino-** Asks if the budget that is in place for City Hall is split between City side and Public Works since the water department is part of City Hall.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** No. *Continues to go over the budget.*
- **Councilman Merendino-** Asks if the grounds maintenance is split?
- **Charlotte Yeates-** Yes
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks if the cost to maintain the vacant properties is separated from the ground's maintenance?
- **Charlotte Yeates-** Yes.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that the vacant property maintenance is listed under ordinance enforcement.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over the budget.*
- **Mayor Mitchell-** Can the equipment for the maintenance department be covered under the line item of equipment?
- **Charlotte Yeates-** Yes
- **Councilman Mannette-** States that the park equipment needs to be inspected.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** Suggests adding a line item for the inspection. States that it is important to have the inspections done.
- **Sabrenna Crain-** Asks if there is a project, couldn't the money come out of the insurance account (money that was received, but not used after Harvey) rather than the money for the project coming from the operating account/
- **Charlotte Yeates-** States that if there is a project, then it wouldn't be something that is budgeted. If it was budgeted, it wouldn't be in operating, it would be in capital outlay.

- **Sabrenna Crain-** Asks if there is a project that needs to be done, can the Council just do that through a resolution instead of putting it in the budget.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** States that if there is a specific project, then they can budget for it under that code if they wanted to.
- **Mayor Mitchell-** States that a line item needs to be added for park equipment improvements. States that new equipment will need to be purchased to make the playground ADA compliant.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** Suggests putting it under capital outlay. States that park equipment is an asset. States that if there isn't a cost for the project, then she wouldn't advise budgeting for it yet.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that when we get a quote, it can be brought to Council to vote on like we did for the signs.
- **Councilman Thibodeaux-** Is that something that we could get a grant for/
- **Charlotte Yeates-** Probably.
- **Councilman Wright-** Asks what is the criteria of the project to know if it will be capital outlay or something that will come out of the operating expenses/
- **Charlotte Yeates-** If it's more than \$5,000 and it lasts more than one year.
- **Councilman Wright-** Couldn't the money for the project just be taken out of what we have budgeted for depreciation.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** States that we don't budget for depreciation on the general side because the funds coming in aren't enough to cover it.
- **Councilman Mannette-** States that it was just brought to his attention that we could look into getting funds donated from Exxon, Valero, etc. to do the park.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that it would take some leg work to get it.
- **Councilman Mannette-** States that the people that brought it to his attention, are reaching out to their contacts.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** States that if the Council doesn't increase the tax rate, the funds for the general side won't build.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that it could go up because the sales tax and permits are going up so the general side could be built up.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over the budget.*
- **Councilman Clayton-** States that the maintenance department is using their own vehicles, so can we increase the budget to \$9,000? The City needs to have their own equipment if they are going to allow the employees to do their job duties efficiently.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that the employees get paid mileage if they use their own vehicles for City tasks.
- **Councilwoman Cramer-** Asks if Councilman Clayton is asking about buying a golf cart?
- **Sabrenna Crain-** Asks if the City were to purchase a golf cart, would the funds come out of the operating budget, insurance funds or ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds?
- **Charlotte Yeates-** States that the insurance money has been decommitted, so the money can be used on whatever the Council chooses to use it on.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that if you spend more than \$5,000 or it lasts more than a year, then it is a capital expenditure.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** States that a golf cart would be a long term asset.

- **Councilman Merendino-** States that if one of the Council members wants the City to purchase a tractor or some other equipment, it can be brought to Council for a vote.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over the budget.*
- **Heather Steelman-** Asks if the budget that Council voted on at the last meeting for the signs will need to be included in this budget?
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that the budget for the signs has already been voted on and isn't included on this budget. States that the signs that are being replaced will come out of the insurance funds.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** *Continues to go over the budget.*
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that he anticipates to spend more than the current listed budget.
- **Sabrenna Crain-** States that the road work the County is about to start has already been voted on outside of the budget. States that it doesn't need to be included on this budget.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that he is suggesting a large amount for the road maintenance budget because there is still a lot of rock left and more roads could be done. States that there wouldn't be a cost for the material because we already have it.
- **Councilman Merendino-** States that the utilities that are categorized under roads isn't just streetlights. States that the City receives a franchise fee from Entergy every year and the way that the utilities are coded right now, we are giving that money right back to Entergy. The utilities coded under roads also includes lights at the park, so it needs to be coded to something different than the roads.
- **Charlotte Yeates-** State that it can all be put under utilities. *Continues to go over budget.*

b. Discussion of proposed tax rate

6. Adjourn Meeting @ 7:52p.m. M/M/2/C- Councilman Clayton/Councilman Mannette

  
 Mayor Cheri Mitchell

Attest:   
 City Secretary, Jeff Thibodeaux

Approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2025.