

City of Seymour Texas

At the Crossroads of North Texas

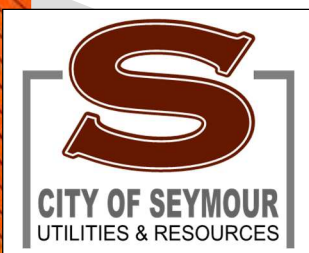
May 16th, 2025

“Weekly Beat”

KEEPING YOU
INFORMED!

CITY OF SEYMOUR UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 15th, 2025, City Council Meeting at City Hall at 7:00 PM.
- May 26th, 2025 (Memorial Day) City Hall Closed (Pool Opens)
- May 31st, 2025, Splash Day: 12-1 Senior Swim 1-6 Pool Opens
- June 28th, 2025, Kid's Fishing Tournament at the Big Stock Tank at Salt Fork Recreational Complex 9:00-10:30 AM
- July 23rd – 25th, 2025 City of Seymour Kids Golfing Camp. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.



HOT Board Members seated left to right: Lauren Bush, Mary Beth Miller, Debbie Gillispie, Mayor Mark McCord, Bill Brown, Lynn Smith, Bobby Morrow, and Cathy Woolbright. Not pictured, Dr. Jeffrey Brasher

Seymour, Texas: On May 12, 2025, at 12:00 PM, the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund Board convened at City Hall for its first official meeting of the newly appointed board, marking the beginning of a new chapter in managing local tourism funding. Appointed by the City Council, the board is tasked with overseeing and distributing HOT Tax funds collected from Seymour's hotels, ensuring they support projects that enhance tourism and local economic growth. During the meeting, board members first reviewed the City Council's recent approval of a \$5,000 expense for auditing LaSiesta Motel and the Sagamar Inn, ensuring proper tax compliance. Next year, the remaining hotels in the area will also undergo audits. In addition to financial oversight, the board moved forward with approving several funding allocations aimed at boosting tourism-related initiatives:

- \$425 to the Seymour Chamber of Commerce for advertisement.
- \$900 Funding for the City of Seymour's billboard on Main and California Street
- \$4,000 for the Whiteside Museum of Natural History to support marketing efforts for its upcoming Perma Feast.
- \$2,000 for the Seymour Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, an event expected to attract visitors and business engagement.
- 2,000 for Bobby Morrow's annual Seymour Shoot Out gun show, which draws regional attendees and promotes economic activity.

The HOT Board's decisions ensure that hotel tax funds are effectively reinvested into Seymour's local tourism economy, supporting events and attractions that benefit both residents and visitors alike. The next HOT Board meeting is scheduled for 12:00 PM on July 7th, 2025, at Seymour City Hall. Applications for HOT funding can be found on the City's website or by calling Cathy Woolbright at the Chamber Office.

Seymour City Council Acts on Key Community Initiatives in May 2025 Meeting

The Seymour City Council convened on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at City Hall, where local leaders discussed important community matters. Mayor Mark McCord called the meeting to order, followed by an invocation led by Council Member Lan Winn. After invocation, the mayor reflected on the city's accomplishments over the past two years under his leadership, highlighting the progress made in addressing dilapidated properties through extensive teardowns and cleanups. He also expressed gratitude to the Fire Department for their swift and effective response to the downtown fire, as well as to city crews for their dedication in managing storm cleanup efforts and ensuring that utilities remained operational. His remarks underscored the collective effort that has strengthened the city and contributed to its ongoing improvement. City Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher took a moment to recognize Nita Hons as Employee of the Month, honoring her for her dedication and outstanding service as a utility clerk. The meeting also included a significant event as Mayor McCord was sworn in for his second term, reaffirming his commitment to serving Seymour for the next two years. The Seymour Youth Leadership Team, represented by Heaven Betts and Jeramiah Fobbs, provided an update on the progress of the Bark Park construction on California Street. Their presentation highlighted the ongoing work and the positive impact the park will have on the community.

During the City Administrator's Report, several updates were shared, including personnel changes within the city. All lifeguard positions have been filled, and Leonard Estraca has been appointed as Pool Manager for the 2025 Swim Season. Membership at Salt Form has grown to 113 members, reflecting increased community engagement. Financially, the city continues to operate in the black, maintaining a stable outlook. Efforts to remove dilapidated properties in town are making steady progress, contributing to the improvement of local neighborhoods. A storm recovery report was presented, outlining the ongoing work to restore infrastructure following recent severe weather. Lastly, upcoming events were shared, ensuring residents remain informed about community activities.

Thursday night's meeting also included eight public hearings on a variety of local matters. The Council reviewed a specific use permit for 608 North Odom, proposing the development of an RV Park with ten parking spots. Another permit was considered for 801 North Odom, requesting approval for two RV parking spots to be used as residences. The Council also heard a request for a specific use permit to allow three tiny homes to be used as short-term or long-term rentals, expanding housing options in the area. Additionally, Ordinance 2025-04 was discussed, repealing the current zoning ordinance in its entirety while introducing updated policies and clarifications to better guide future zoning regulations. The Council also held hearings on four dilapidated structures, including properties at 301 South May, 807 North Murrie, 607 West Pecan, and 311 North Stratton, addressing concerns about public safety and community improvement. The consent agenda consisted of approving the minutes from the April 17, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, approval of accounts payable bills for the month of April, approval of the declaration of disaster and its extension concerning the April 28, 2025, storms, and final approval of Ordinance 2025-04. Following the consent agenda, the Council entered a brief Executive Session for personnel discussions regarding Chief of Police Bryce Sawyer and matters related to the Baylor Water lawsuit.

During the action items portion of the agenda, the City Council denied the specific use permits for 608 North Odom, 801 North Odom, and approved the addition of three tiny homes at 1000 Plainview. The Council also took action on dilapidated structures by granting a 30-day review at 301 South May which includes 30-days to secure the structure and 90-days to begin demolishing the structure, at 807 North Murrie, 60-days to secure and 90-days to begin demolishing at 607 West Pecan, and 60-days to demolish the property at 311 North Stratton. The Council tabled discussion on City Council Operating Protocols until next month. Both agenda items concerning the mulching and maintenance of the brush pile at the City's transfer station was tabled due to the lack of voting council members after Councilman Winn recused himself from discussion and voting. The surrender fee for dogs was increased from \$100 to \$140 to align with the costs charged by the local veterinarian for euthanizing services. The Council also approved a payroll increase for dispatch services to match the pay rates recently established by County Commissioners. Lastly, the Council voted to approve an easement request submitted by Brent Sosolik and Baylor County Abstract.

The meeting was adjourned closing another productive session focused on city governance, planning, and community development.

Seymour's Commitment to Revitalization: Street Department Works to Restore Community



The City of Seymour continues to make significant strides in revitalizing the community by addressing dilapidated properties, ensuring a safer and more visually appealing town for residents. Under the leadership of Street Department Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek, has worked tirelessly to clean up neglected properties, brush, including the ongoing efforts at the site on North Main Street.

Removing rundown structures and clearing debris is more than just a beautification project—it directly impacts public safety, property values, and community pride. Abandoned buildings can pose hazards, attracting pests and creating unsafe conditions for nearby homes and businesses. By tackling these problem areas, the city is working to protect neighborhoods, encourage economic development, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek and his team remain committed to maintaining the integrity of Seymour's streets and properties, ensuring that the town remains welcoming, vibrant, and well-kept. Their dedication to cleanup efforts reflects the city's long-term vision of making room for future growth and safe.

As Seymour continues its mission to restore and improve the community, residents can take pride in knowing their city is working diligently to create a safe, thriving environment for all citizens.

Mayor Mark McCord Sworn in for Second Term



At the May 15, 2025, City Council meeting, Mayor Mark McCord was officially sworn in for his second term by City Secretary Lauren Bush, marking another milestone in his leadership of Seymour, Texas. Following his oath of office, Mayor McCord expressed his gratitude to the community for their continued trust and support. He emphasized his commitment to working alongside residents and city officials to drive progress, strengthen local initiatives, and create a lasting impact on Seymour's future. As he embarks on another two years in office, Mayor McCord remains focused on enhancing city services, supporting economic development, and fostering a thriving community for all Seymour residents.

Nita Hons Honored with Beyond Expectation Award for Outstanding Service



At the May 15, 2025, City Council meeting, Nita Hons was recognized for her dedication and exceptional service to the residents of Seymour, Texas. In appreciation of her hard work and commitment to excellence, Mayor Mark McCord, City Council members Lan Winn, Debbie Gillispie, Billy Henricks, and City Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher presented her with the Beyond Expectation Award, celebrating her efforts in going above and beyond in her role. Nita's contributions have had a lasting impact on the city's operations, particularly through her efforts in managing utility services, trainings, and undertaking critical records retention work. Mrs. Hons's ability to balance training while leading key initiatives has demonstrated her deep commitment to the efficiency and success of Seymour. In presenting the award, city officials expressed their gratitude, emphasizing how her dedication has strengthened both the organization and the community it serves. Mrs. Hons's hard work, reliability, and passion for public service continue to make Seymour a better place for residents and businesses alike.

Building a Better Seymour: Departmental News and Initiatives

The Seymour Street Department, led by Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek, continues to demonstrate dedication to maintaining the city's infrastructure and public spaces. This week, Ronnie and his team tackled several key initiatives aimed at improving the appearance and accessibility of parks, streets, and public areas. Their efforts included mowing the City Park and hospital hill, ensuring these areas remain well-kept and inviting for residents. In preparation for the upcoming pool season, the team focused on cleaning up the area around the City Pool, making sure it is ready for families to enjoy during the summer months. Beyond routine maintenance, the department worked diligently to pick up brush and clear overgrown areas, enhancing safety and aesthetics throughout Seymour. They also completed the cleanup of a property on North California Street, another step toward revitalizing neglected spaces. Additionally, weed control measures were implemented along city streets and within the City Park, helping maintain a clean and visually appealing environment.

Under the direction of **Supervisor Chase Hoyt**, the **Seymour Water Department** continues to carry out essential maintenance and repairs to ensure the reliability of the city's water infrastructure. The team has focused on multiple key projects this week, addressing operational issues and improving the system's efficiency. Efforts were made to change out panels on Haley Lift Station, with the goal of resolving ongoing issues where pumps were randomly shutting off. The department also worked on troubleshooting a valve at Washington and Morris, currently awaiting locates before digging up and replacing the faulty component. The team assisted with the replacement of the fountain pump by sucking out accumulated debris to facilitate the installation process. Additionally, a water leak on North Tackitt was identified and addressed, helping to prevent further disruptions. Routine cleaning and maintenance of the vac truck were completed to ensure proper functionality for future use. As part of the city's improvement efforts, the water department also located and dug up a water line for the Bark Park, supporting its continued development and ensuring proper service for the site. Through ongoing diligence, Supervisor Chase Hoyt and his team remain committed to maintaining and improving Seymour's water infrastructure, ensuring reliable service for residents while addressing emerging issues with efficiency and care.

The **Seymour Electric Department**, led by Supervisor John Joyce, has been diligently working to ensure the city's electrical infrastructure remains safe, reliable, and efficient. Their commitment to maintaining essential services has been evident in their efforts this past week. The department has conducted routine vehicle maintenance checks and performed weekly reclosure readings, ensuring the reliability of the electrical grid. They also responded to locate requests, assisting with underground utility identification to prevent disruptions. In addition to maintenance tasks, the team removed a broken communication line from the city's service line and made important repairs, including work on the city fountain. They replaced a broken pole, primary, and secondary line on South Cedar Street, restoring stability to the local power system. The department also inspected the electrical setup at Tip Top Cleaner, ensuring everything remained in working order. Streetlight repairs were completed at multiple locations, including the 700 block of North Cedar and the 700 block of West California, improving visibility and safety in these areas. The team also drove out circuit 6 to assess and monitor its function. Further infrastructure repairs included fixing a broken pole behind the softball field and replacing a bad capacitor on West Custer Street, reinforcing the city's electrical systems. Beyond electrical maintenance, the department contributed to city upkeep by mowing and using a weed eater around the shop. Additionally, broken tree limbs were trimmed at the Bark Park, enhancing the overall cleanliness and safety of public spaces. Through consistent maintenance, strategic repairs, and proactive improvements, the Seymour Electric Department continues to play a critical role in sustaining the city's electrical operations. The dedication of John Joyce and his team ensures that Seymour remains a safe, functional, and well-maintained community for residents and businesses alike.

Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate has been actively working to ensure public safety and proper animal management throughout Seymour. This week, his efforts have led to the successful adoption of two dogs from the pound, giving them new homes. He also picked up three more dogs, all of which were later reclaimed by their owners. Beyond animal rescues, Mr. Shumate has handled various wildlife-related incidents, including the removal of four dead squirrels, two possums, and a skunk. His commitment to maintaining city ordinances was evident as he issued a citation to a resident for unauthorized chickens and goats. Additionally, he has taken proactive steps to address property maintenance, sending out 15 weed control letters to residents to ensure compliance with city regulations. His office also responded to fourteen animal-related calls, demonstrating the crucial role he plays in keeping Seymour safe and orderly. Through his ongoing dedication, Officer Shumate continues to provide essential services, ensuring responsible pet ownership and community well-being.

Under the leadership of **Police Chief Bryce Sawyer, the Seymour Police Department** continues to serve and protect the community with dedication and professionalism. Over the past week, the department has handled critical law enforcement operations, responding swiftly to public safety concerns and supporting local agencies in their efforts. Officers made an arrest for possession of dangerous drugs, ensuring that harmful substances were removed from the streets. In another case, they successfully located a missing person from Wichita Falls, providing much-needed relief to family members and authorities involved in the search. The department also conducted an arrest for manufacture and delivery of a controlled substance, reinforcing their commitment to combating drug-related crimes. In addition to these individual cases, officers served numerous federal warrants, working closely with law enforcement partners to bring fugitives into custody. They also assisted Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) with executing a felony arrest warrant, demonstrating their dedication to interagency cooperation. Beyond criminal enforcement, the department stepped up to assist the Baylor County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) with a call for service, providing vital support in maintaining public safety. They also worked with ISD Police during the senior parade, ensuring a smooth and secure event for students and the community. Through proactive policing, teamwork, and swift action, Chief Bryce Sawyer and the Seymour Police Department continue to uphold their mission to protect residents and enhance the quality of life in Seymour. Their dedication to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community engagement remains a driving force in making the city a safer place for all.

Under the leadership of **Supervisor John Davis, the Reverse Osmosis Plant** continues to play a vital role in providing clean and safe water to the residents of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation. Over the past week, the plant successfully produced 4.1 million gallons of treated water, ensuring a consistent and reliable supply for the community. Throughout the week, the plant operator carefully monitored chlorine residuals across town, maintaining the necessary disinfectant levels to guarantee water safety. They also closely tracked wastewater discharge from the plant, ensuring environmental compliance and efficient wastewater management. Daily readings were conducted on the primary RO units, allowing operators to maintain performance and identify any potential issues early. Pre-filters were changed in one of the primary RO trains, an essential step in keeping filtration systems running efficiently. Additionally, the team calibrated the feed water and product water instrument panels, ensuring accuracy in water quality measurements. A major milestone was reached with the completion of the 2024 Water Quality Report, which provides residents with a transparent and comprehensive overview of the city's water standards. This report will be mailed out to customers with their June utility bills, reinforcing the plant's dedication to high-quality water management. Thanks to Supervisor John Davis, the Reverse Osmosis Plant remains a cornerstone of public health and sustainability in Seymour, continuously working to ensure that residents receive the best possible water service.