

City of Seymour Texas

At the Crossroads of North Texas

June 20th, 2025

“Weekly Beat”

KEEPING YOU
INFORMED!

Nancy Townley Sworn in as City
Council Member Place 4



The City of Seymour proudly welcomed Nancy Townley as the newest member of its governing body during Thursday's City Council meeting. Mrs. Townley, who recently retired as Senior Vice President of United Regional Health Care System, brings decades of leadership experience and a deep commitment to public service. Following a unanimous vote by the Council, City Secretary Lauren Bush administered the oath of office, officially swearing in Mrs. Townley to Council Place 4. The ceremony marked an exciting addition to the team leading Seymour's future. "The City of Seymour is excited to have the services and support of Mrs. Townley as we continue working to make our city better and safer," said Mayor Mark McCord. "Her healthcare background and executive leadership are tremendous assets to our mission" Mrs. Townley expressed her enthusiasm for the new role, stating, "I'm seeking the opportunity to contribute toward sustaining and improving Seymour as a great small town to live and work."

CITY OF SEYMOUR UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 28th, 2025, Kid's Fishing Tournament at the Big Stock Tank at Salt Fork Recreational Complex 9:00-10:30 AM
- July 17th, 2025, at 7:00 PM City Council Meeting at City Hall
- July 23rd – 25th, 2025 City of Seymour Kids Golfing Camp. 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

Carrington Honored as Lifeguard of the
Month for Outstanding Service



The City of Seymour is proud to recognize Jaxon Carrington as the Lifeguard of the Month, applauding his commitment to safety, service, and professionalism at the Seymour City Pool. Nominated by Pool Manager Leonard Estraca and Team Leaders Ariaah Ladd and Garett Gwinn, Jaxon has consistently demonstrated exceptional focus on swimmer safety, while going beyond expectations to maintain the cleanliness of the facility and provide dependable, courteous service to pool patrons. At the June City Council meeting, Mayor Mark McCord and the City Council formally recognized Jaxon for his outstanding contribution to the lifeguard team. His reliability, strong work ethic, and dedication to public service make him a valued member of the city's seasonal staff and a role model for peers and patrons.

Seymour PD Embraces Cutting-Edge Technology with ALPR Cameras



Pictured above is AXON Representative Larry Thomsen installing the new ALPR Cameras into the City of Seymour Police Cars.

Seymour, Texas: The Seymour Police Department is taking another step forward in modern policing with the installation of Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) camera systems in patrol vehicles, thanks to a collaboration with Larry Thomsen of Axon, a leader in public safety technology. These new ALPR systems, now being deployed in Seymour's fleet, are designed to scan and process license plates in real-time as officers patrol the city. The system instantly checks plate numbers against databases for stolen vehicles, wanted individuals, expired registrations, or Amber Alert notices. It's a powerful tool that helps officers respond faster, identify threats more effectively, and increase overall situational awareness. Here's how it works: high-speed cameras mounted on patrol cars capture images of license plates, even at night or in poor weather. The system uses optical character recognition (OCR) to digitally convert plate numbers into searchable data. That data is then compared against national and local law enforcement databases, all within seconds—helping officers make informed decisions quickly and safely. “Our goal is to stay a step ahead when it comes to protecting our community,” said Police Chief Bryce Sawyer, who has led the department with a strong focus on innovation and modernization. “The addition of ALPR technology allows us to proactively address criminal activity, recover stolen vehicles faster, and better support public safety across Seymour.”

The ALPR system also enhances accountability and transparency, as it stores a secure log of license plate scans, complete with timestamps and locations, aiding in investigative work and criminal case documentation. Seymour residents can take pride knowing their police department is not only investing in advanced technology but doing so responsibly—always with a focus on community trust, officer safety, and service efficiency. The installation was completed this week, marking a major milestone in the city's ongoing efforts to improve public safety infrastructure. Chief Sawyer and the Seymour Police Department remain committed to using forward-thinking tools to ensure the city stays safe, prepared, and well-equipped for the future.

JUNE 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Seymour City Council convened for its regular meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at Seymour City Hall. Mayor Mark McCord called the meeting to order, and Mayor Mark McCord opened with a heartfelt prayer that set a thoughtful tone for the evening. Mayor McCord began by mentioning the annual Rodeo coming up and reviewed the speaking rules prior to the beginning of the evening. Following the mayor's remarks, City Administrator Dr. Jeff Brasher on behalf of the Mayor and City Council recognized Jaxon Carrington as Employee of the Month. Jaxon, who serves as a lifeguard at the City Pool, was praised for his exceptional commitment to swimmer safety. Beyond his core responsibilities, he has gone above and beyond by maintaining the cleanliness of the facility, delivering dependable customer service, and consistently showing reliability in his role. His dedication stood out as a model for public service.

The meeting continued with a significant moment as the Council interviewed Nancy Townley for City Council Place 4. Following a heartfelt presentation from Mrs. Townley, Mrs. Townley was unanimously approved as the newest addition to the governing body. City Secretary Lauren Bush administered the oath of office, officially welcoming Mrs. Townley to her new role. She promptly took her seat at the council dais, ready to serve the citizens of Seymour. The Council then welcomed a presentation from John Davis, Supervisor of the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant. Mr. Davis offered a detailed update on the ongoing improvements at the plant, including enhanced operational efficiency and infrastructure upgrades designed to improve the quality and reliability of Seymour's water supply. Next, Kim Stephenson of Seymour Helping Hands addressed the Council with a forward-thinking proposal: the development of an ADA-accessible park area aimed at providing a welcoming, inclusive space for all visitors. Her vision was met with interest and support, as it aligned with the city's broader goals of accessibility and community engagement. Finally, Pam Hughes with Atmos Energy shared an update on the utility provider's continued work in Seymour, including system upgrades and safety enhancements designed to better serve residents. Her report highlighted Atmos's ongoing commitment to infrastructure reliability and public safety.

The evening continued with the Administrator's Report from Dr. Jeffrey Brasher, offering a comprehensive overview of key operations and citywide progress. Dr. Brasher began with an update on city personnel, noting that staffing levels remain stable maintaining service efficiency. He also reported that Salt Fork Recreational Complex membership has reached 111, a healthy sign of community engagement and growing interest in local wellness and recreation opportunities. Turning to public safety, Dr. Brasher praised the Seymour Police Department for its continued proactive presence in the community, highlighting recent initiatives under Chief Bryce Sawyer's leadership, including Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) camera systems. A financial overview revealed that Seymour's operating budget remains in good standing, with expenditures tracking as expected and revenue collections aligning with projections. This fiscal steadiness positions the city well for upcoming projects and strategic investments. Progress was also shared on the city's initiative to address dilapidated properties, with several locations either cleared or in the process of enforcement action—part of a broader effort to enhance neighborhood safety, aesthetics, and property values. Dr. Brasher closed with a preview of upcoming community events, encouraging residents to participate and stay involved as the city works to foster civic pride and connection. The report reflected the city administration's commitment to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and continuous improvement across all departments.

The public hearing portion of the meeting brought forward several important items for community review and consideration. The first hearing addressed a request involving property at 500 East Ingram, where the property owner sought permission to temporarily reside in an RV/Travel Trailer while remodeling an existing trailer home on the site. The Council listened to the request and community input before moving the item forward for discussion and potential action. Next, the Council heard public comment on Ordinance 2025-05, which proposes amending Ordinance 2023-05 to increase the surrender fee for animals from \$100 to \$140. This adjustment was presented as necessary to reflect the rising costs associated with animal care and shelter operations, and to ensure that the City remains financially responsible in its handling of stray and surrendered animals. The third hearing focused on Ordinance 2025-06, an amendment to Ordinance 2024-25, proposing an increase in both commercial and residential trash rates. This change aligns with the current contract between the City and Waste Connections, the city's contracted solid waste provider. The proposed rate adjustment is intended to cover escalating service costs while continuing to provide reliable waste management services. Finally, the Council held a public hearing on Resolution 1587, which would amend the City Council's regular meeting schedule to begin Executive Session at 6:00 PM, followed by the regular public session at 7:00 PM. The proposed change is designed to better accommodate community participation by providing a more accessible and consistent meeting structure for residents who wish to attend and stay involved.

The Council then moved forward with the consent agenda, approving a number of routine but essential items to keep city operations running smoothly. Among the approvals was the acceptance of the May 15, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, ensuring accurate public recordkeeping. Council also approved the accounts payable bills for the month of May, reflecting the city's ongoing financial obligations and fiscal transparency. Additional items included the formal adoption of Ordinance 2025-05, which increases the animal surrender fee to \$140.00, a necessary adjustment to help offset rising operational costs. Council also approved the appointment of City Secretary Lauren Bush as the Mayor's proxy representative to the NorTex Regional Planning Commission, allowing Seymour to maintain an active voice in regional coordination and development planning. Two other important financial items received approval as well. The Council passed Ordinance 2025-06, amending the city's solid waste rates for both commercial and residential customers in line with the updated Waste Connections contract. Finally, the Council approved the Baylor County Appraisal District's proposed 2025 budget of \$328,300, an increase from \$311,369 in 2024, reflecting rising operational costs while maintaining essential appraisal services for the county and city. With these approvals, the Council demonstrated its continued focus on fiscal responsibility, regional collaboration, and support for operational services that keep Seymour functioning effectively.

During the action portion of the agenda, the Seymour City Council moved swiftly through a series of decisions impacting operations, facilities, and community events. In a key leadership vote, the Council elected Billy Henricks as Mayor Pro-Tem, recognizing his continued service and commitment to the city. Administrative updates followed, including the Council's approval to remove Monty Glass from the City of Seymour's signature cards and add newly appointed Councilmember Nancy Townley, aligning signature authority with current officeholders. A community event received fresh energy as the Council voted to relocate the Spring Fling Car Show to downtown Seymour, aiming to boost visibility, foot traffic, and local business involvement in the annual celebration. Several zoning and property-related actions failed due to the lack of a motion, including the approval of a Specific Use Permit at 608 North Odom Street to establish an RV park with ten spaces. The Council also denied a separate request for 801 North Odom Street, where the applicant had sought to place two RVs for permanent residential use. The Council also approved a temporary residence permit for 500 East Ingram, allowing the owner to live in a trailer on-site while remodeling an existing structure with a six-month evaluative progress check. As part of its commitment to improving neighborhood conditions, the Council reviewed updates on substandard properties—continuing enforcement and cleanup efforts from action taken roughly ninety days ago. In addition, the Council approved the proposal for going out for bids for a property located on North Stratton. To improve accessibility and increase public engagement, the Council amended future meeting schedules, moving executive sessions to 6:00 PM, followed by regular meetings at 7:00 PM. They also approved an interlocal agreement with the Baylor County Appraisal District for the abatement of dilapidated properties held by the district, establishing a process for shared cleanup and enforcement responsibilities. In a discussion surrounding pool operations, the Council requested that City administration improve the communication regarding the restriction of private party rentals between 6:00 and 8:00 PM so that members will have advanced notice that a private party has been scheduled. Finally, as part of environmental maintenance efforts, the Council approved the mulching of the city's brush pile at the City Transfer Station, a step that will aid in debris management and potentially provide mulch for city use or public distribution. Altogether, the actions taken reflect a balance of forward thinking and responsiveness, with Council continuing to shape policy and investment in ways that support the community's safety, vitality, and growth. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.

Building a Better Seymour: Departmental News and Initiatives

The City of Seymour Street Department, under the steady leadership of Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek, has continued its vital work this week in keeping our community clean, safe, and well-maintained. Crews have been diligently working to further the cleanup of the dilapidated property on Morris Street, contributing to the city's ongoing beautification and code enforcement efforts. Their work not only improves neighborhood aesthetics but enhances public safety by reducing blight and hazard risks. In the downtown district, the department weeded and sprayed the esplanades, helping maintain a welcoming and polished appearance for both residents and visitors. Meanwhile, over at the City Park, mowing and weeding were carried out to ensure the park remains a well-kept and enjoyable space for family outings and recreation. The team also trimmed brush obstructing street signs, an important task that supports road safety by improving visibility for drivers and pedestrians. Additionally, crews spent time clearing city drains to prevent clogs and reduce the risk of flooding during summer storms. As always, the Street Department remained responsive to the needs of the public, working through a high volume of community-submitted work orders, demonstrating their commitment to timely and reliable city service. Seymour is fortunate to have a street crew that consistently steps up to support the community. Their attention to detail, pride in their work, and ability to respond swiftly to local needs ensure that our city continues to shine—one street, sign, and storm drain at a time.

The Seymour Police Department, led by Chief Bryce Sawyer, maintained a visible and proactive presence throughout the month of May. Officers issued a total of 28 citations and 65 warnings, with a strong focus on traffic safety, community education, and ensuring compliance with local laws. Over the past week, the department continued its efforts with multiple calls for service, ranging from citizen assistance to incident investigations. Officers also conducted a series of traffic enforcement stops, reinforcing safe driving habits and deterring violations across the city. In a significant step toward enhanced operational transparency and officer safety, the department installed three new in-car camera systems. These state-of-the-art tools will improve incident documentation and accountability during traffic stops and patrol activities. Additionally, officers responded to a criminal trespass call, addressing the matter promptly and professionally in accordance with department protocol.

Under the leadership of **Chase Hoyt, the City of Seymour Water Department** completed a productive week focused on infrastructure repairs, preventative maintenance, and system responsiveness. A key task was the successful location and repair of a water line leak on Reaves Street, restoring full service to residents and minimizing water loss. Following the repair, crews worked to restore the surrounding area by filling any excavated holes and improving road surface safety for the community. In an important step toward proactive maintenance, the department utilized a leak detection device provided by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The device allowed crews to scan portions of the system for potential vulnerabilities, helping prevent future disruptions and promoting more efficient water management. Routine responsibilities were also met with precision. Staff handled scheduled turn-ons and shut offs for water service, ensuring timely connection and disconnection processes for customers. Additionally, the department responded to mechanical issues at the Torrez Lift Station, conducting troubleshooting and repairs to maintain stable wastewater operations. This past week's accomplishments reflect the Water Department's commitment to dependable service, quick response, and continuous investment in the health and efficiency of Seymour's water infrastructure.

This week, **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate** remained busy responding to a wide variety of calls and continuing his commitment to public safety and responsible animal care within the City of Seymour. Officer Shumate successfully picked up six stray dogs, all of which were safely housed at the city pound and later reunited with their owners—a testament to his thoroughness in identifying and returning lost pets. In wildlife matters, Mr. Shumate was called to relocate several animals from residential and public areas, including a possum, a domestic cat, an armadillo, and two raccoons—one of which made an unexpected appearance by falling through the ceiling at Seymour Hospital. All animals were removed humanely and relocated to a more suitable environment. Adding to the week's total, three skunks were also captured and relocated to prevent further public disruption or risk. Beyond fieldwork, Officer Shumate issued ten weed enforcement letters as part of ongoing property maintenance and city code efforts. He also responded to thirteen animal-related calls, handling each with professionalism and care. Mr. Shumate's wide-ranging responsibilities underscore the important role animal control plays in community safety, public health, and animal welfare. His responsiveness and reliability continue to serve the city well.