

# Weekly Beat

## August 22, 2025

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### City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- August 30th, 2025 "One Man Scramble Club Championship" at Salt Fork Golf Course
- September 1st, 2025 City Hall Closed for Labor Day
- September 18th, 2025 City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at City Hall
- October 6th-12th "Residential Garbage Only Cleanup Week"
- October 16th, 2025, City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at City Hall
- October 25th, 2025, Haunted City Hall at 6:00 PM -7:00 PM
- Chamber 3-Man Scramble September 13-14, 2025
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

## Seymour City Council Holds August 2025 Meeting

**SEYMOUR, TX-** The Seymour City Council held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 22, 2025, at 7:00 PM at City Hall in downtown Seymour. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mark McCord, who led the roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance. All members were present except Nancy Townley. An opening prayer was offered by Mark McCord, followed by announcements from Mayor McCord and Mayor Pro Tem Billy Henricks. One of the highlights of the evening was a special recognition by the City Administrator for the Street Department. Their hard work and dedication over the summer months were commended, especially their efforts to keep public areas mowed and maintained despite extreme heat. The Administrator specifically noted their work at the City Transfer Station, where the crew cleared brush on a scorching day to prepare the site for the construction of a new fence—an example of their commitment to meeting the city’s needs. The City Administrator also delivered several important updates. The city continues to operate efficiently, with revenues exceeding expenditures through July of \$360,238.00, reflecting strong financial management. Council members received a follow-up review of the proposed 2025–2026 budget, building on discussions from their recent budget workshops. The review emphasized transparency and responsible governance as the council works to ensure the city’s operations remain effective and accountable. Earlier in the week, on Monday, August 18, a representative from the Texas Municipal League Finance Bootcamp was on-site to assist with final preparations for the 2024 city audit. This support helps ensure the city remains compliant and ready for financial review. Additionally, the council was informed that the city has received several property deeds from owners of severely dilapidated properties. These transfers will allow the city to move forward with cleanup efforts and potential redevelopment, improving safety and aesthetics in affected neighborhoods.

Following the reports and recognitions, the City Council moved into the consent agenda portion of the meeting, which included several routine but important items aimed at maintaining city operations and supporting community initiatives. Council approved the minutes from three previous meetings: the July 17, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting, the July 21, 2025 Budget Workshop, and the August 11, 2025 Budget Workshop. These approvals help ensure accurate recordkeeping and transparency in city governance. Also approved were the City of Seymour’s accounts payable bills for the month of July 2025, reflecting the city’s continued commitment to fiscal responsibility and timely financial management. In preparation for seasonal maintenance, the Council gave the green light for Fall Trash Only Clean-Up Week, scheduled for October 6th through 12th. This initiative provides residents an opportunity to dispose of unwanted items and helps beautify the community ahead of the holiday season. The Council adopted Ordinance 2025-09, approving the RRM Rate Review Agreement with Atmos Energy. This agreement allows the city to participate in a collaborative rate review process, ensuring fair and transparent utility pricing for residents. In support of local events, the Council approved moving the Spring Fling Car Show to the second weekend in May. The motion also reaffirmed permission to close all originally approved streets for the event, helping organizers plan effectively and maintain public safety. Council also authorized the city to open bidding for the property located at 402 E. Morris, a lot with a garage. This step allows for potential redevelopment and encourages investment in underutilized properties. Two Façade Grant applications were approved—one submitted by Super Stop and another by Seymour Helping Hands. These grants support exterior improvements to local businesses and nonprofits, enhancing the visual appeal of Seymour’s commercial areas and encouraging community pride. Each item on the consent agenda reflects the Council’s ongoing efforts to support infrastructure, economic development, and quality of life for Seymour residents. The meeting concluded with a renewed sense of momentum as the city prepares for the months ahead.

In the final portion of the meeting, the City Council addressed a series of action items. These decisions reflect the Council’s commitment to proactive governance, infrastructure improvement, and community safety. Council approved the Proposed Tax Rate of Voter Approval Rate of 0.41175, a key step in finalizing the city’s budget and ensuring continued funding for essential services. The rate was carefully reviewed to balance operational needs with fiscal responsibility. The future of the Putt-Putt Shed, located near the Chamber of Commerce office, was also discussed. While the structure holds historical value as part of Seymour’s former miniature golf course, it is currently in a state of disrepair. Council approved action to demolish and remove the old Putt Putt shed. Council reviewed bids for roof replacements at City Hall, the Police Department, and the Fire Hall. The decision included upgrading the roofing system at City Hall and potentially the Police Department with more durable materials, while the Fire Hall will receive a similar replacement due to budget constraints. These improvements are expected to extend the lifespan of each facility’s roof by up to 20 years. After much discussion the Council tabled the item until an additional bid could be obtained from Booe Roofing. In a related action, the Council selected Engineering and Architectural service providers to support technical design and execution of FEMA-funded projects. These professionals will play a vital role in ensuring compliance and successful implementation of infrastructure improvements. Council also approved updates to the City Council’s Rules & Procedures, reflecting modern governance practices and aligning with current state laws and regulations. The revisions aim to improve meeting efficiency, transparency, and public engagement. One of the most impactful decisions of the evening was the adoption of Ordinance No. 2025-10, which amends the city code to establish Child Safety Zones. This ordinance prohibits certain registered sex offenders from entering the city park, swimming pool, and Memorial Drive. It includes provisions for penalties, severability, and public notice, and will take effect following publication. The ordinance is a proactive measure to protect children and families in public spaces. Finally, the Council authorized city staff to begin the procurement process for the 2026 Downtown Revitalization Program, funded by the Texas Department of Agriculture. If awarded, the city could receive approximately \$1 million in grant funding, with a 5% match of \$50,000. The program would support lighting upgrades, walkway improvements, street drainage, demolition of non-historic structures, and street reconstruction—transforming the heart of Seymour. The August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 meeting showcased the Council’s dedication to thoughtful planning, community safety, and long-term investment in Seymour’s future. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

# Building a Sign: Craftsmanship and Teamwork



Pictured above Gareth Hons and Johnathon Olinger Build a new sign for the Trasfer Station.

**SEYMOUR, TX** — The City of Seymour is proud to recognize the skilled work of Electric Department employees Johnathon Olinger and Gareth Hons, who recently teamed up to construct a new sign for the Transfer Station—a project that highlights both craftsmanship and resourcefulness. The new sign, which was installed to replace the old, weather-damaged signage that served the Transfer Station for years, was built entirely in-house. This effort not only improves the appearance and visibility of the facility but also reflects the city’s commitment to cost-effective solutions. Johnathon Olinger, who originally learned sign-building while working with the Street Department, has continued to refine his skills and now builds signs as needed for various city departments. His growing expertise has become a valuable asset, allowing the city to save time and money by avoiding the need for outside contractors. “Johnathon has really developed a talent for this work,” said city administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher. “His ability to take on these projects internally is a great example of how our employees go above and beyond to serve the community.” Working alongside Gareth Hons, the duo completed the sign with precision and care, ensuring it will stand up to the elements and serve the Transfer Station well into the future. The City of Seymour thanks Johnathon and Gareth for their hard work and dedication, and looks forward to seeing the new sign proudly displayed at the Transfer Station.

## Major Infrastructure Upgrades Coming to Seymour: ATMOS Energy Begins Year-Long Project

**SEYMOUR, TX** — Residents can expect to see increased construction activity around town over the next year as ATMOS Energy begins a comprehensive infrastructure upgrade project. The initiative will involve replacing much of the aging natural gas infrastructure throughout Seymour, improving safety, reliability, and long-term service for the community. The project is scheduled to unfold in eight phases, with work beginning immediately. The first crews on site will be from Pipe View, a subcontractor tasked with inspecting sewer lines before gas line replacement begins. This step is critical to ensuring that existing underground utilities are protected and properly mapped before new installations move forward. City officials urge residents to exercise **caution** when approaching work zones and to drive safely around construction crews. Many of these workers will be operating in residential areas and along busy streets, so patience and attentiveness are key to keeping everyone safe. “We understand that construction can be inconvenient,” said a city spokesperson, “but these upgrades are essential to maintaining and improving our infrastructure. We ask for the community’s cooperation and patience as ATMOS Energy works to complete this important project.” ATMOS Energy will coordinate closely with the City of Seymour throughout the process, and updates will be provided as each phase progresses. Residents are encouraged to stay informed and reach out to City Hall with any questions or concerns. This long-term investment in Seymour’s infrastructure is a positive step toward ensuring safe and efficient utility service for years to come.

# Working for You: How Every City Department is Shaping Seymour's Future and Safety

This week, **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate** demonstrated unwavering dedication and swift action in responding to a wide range of animal-related incidents across Seymour. In just five days, Mr. Shumate captured eight raccoons and removed five possums, helping to reduce nuisance wildlife in residential areas. He also handled the removal of one deceased cat, one deceased armadillo, and one skunk, ensuring public health and sanitation standards were maintained. On the domestic front, three dogs were safely picked up and returned to their owners, while one dog remains in quarantine at the city pound following a bite incident involving a young boy. The situation is being monitored closely in accordance with safety protocols. Mr. Shumate also responded to a call from a concerned citizen regarding a snake inside their home. Although no snake was located, his prompt response provided reassurance and support. In addition, he captured and relocated thirteen stray cats, helping to manage the local feline population and reduce potential health risks. Throughout the week, Mr. Shumate fielded eleven animal-related calls, each met with professionalism and care. Officer Shumate's work continues to play a vital role in keeping Seymour safe, clean, and compassionate toward both residents and animals. His efforts reflect the city's commitment to responsible animal control and community well-being.

Under the leadership of **Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek**, the **Seymour Street Department** has had a productive and impactful week, tackling a wide range of projects that enhance safety, visibility, and service across the city. Crews began the week by cleaning curbs throughout town, improving drainage and overall street appearance. They also patched potholes with fresh asphalt, addressing wear and tear to ensure smoother and safer travel for motorists. At the transfer station, the team successfully laid conduit for a new surveillance camera system, which will help monitor bin usage and improve operational oversight. Despite inclement weather, the department remained active, repairing various pieces of equipment to keep essential services running without interruption. In addition to infrastructure work, the department built and installed new street signs at key locations, improving navigation and visibility for drivers and pedestrians alike. They also responded to multiple work orders from community members, including chipping brush for residents who contacted City Hall to request assistance. The dedication and responsiveness of the Street Department continue to make a visible difference in Seymour's day-to-day operations. Their commitment to efficiency and public service ensures that the city remains safe, clean, and well-maintained—rain or shine.

Under the leadership of **Chief Bryce Sawyer**, the **Seymour Police Department** continues to demonstrate its commitment to public safety, proactive enforcement, and community engagement. This week, the department officially launched Operation Rapid Raider, a targeted initiative focused on curbing reckless driving and improving traffic safety throughout the city. As part of the operation, officers have increased traffic enforcement in school zones, ensuring that drivers are observing speed limits and pedestrian safety protocols during peak hours. These efforts are especially timely as the school year begins and foot traffic around campuses increases. The department also conducted a school visit, reinforcing its presence as a trusted resource for students and educators. These visits help build positive relationships and foster open communication between law enforcement and the community. In addition to local operations, Seymour officers assisted the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) with multiple vehicle crashes across the county, providing support and coordination during emergency responses. Internally, the department held training sessions to sharpen skills and review procedures, ensuring that officers remain prepared and professional in all situations.

## July Activity Snapshot:

- 226 calls for service
- 32 citations issued
- 48 warnings given
- 3 arrests made
- 20 grass and weed violation letters sent by Code Enforcement

These numbers reflect a steady and responsive approach to law enforcement, with a balance of enforcement, education, and community support. Chief Sawyer and his team remain focused on keeping Seymour safe, informed, and connected—whether through high-visibility operations or behind-the-scenes coordination. Their work continues to make a meaningful impact across the city.

This week, **John Davis, Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant Operator** for the City of Seymour, continued his outstanding work ensuring the community's water supply remains clean, safe, and reliable. Under his watch, the RO Plant produced an impressive 4.6 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation. In addition to overseeing production, Mr. Davis and the plant team conducted daily chlorine residual monitoring throughout town, helping maintain water quality and safety standards. They also tracked wastewater discharge levels from the plant, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. Operational maintenance remained a priority, with daily readings taken on the primary RO units to monitor performance and detect any irregularities. The team changed the pre-filters in one of the primary RO trains, a critical step in maintaining filtration efficiency and prolonging equipment life. Further improvements included replacing a leaking valve on the antiscalant chemical feed system, preventing potential disruptions and preserving water treatment integrity. To round out the week, Mr. Davis took time to clean and organize the main office at the RO Plant, reinforcing the department's commitment to professionalism and operational readiness. Thanks to the dedication and expertise of John Davis, Seymour residents and neighboring communities continue to benefit from a dependable and high-quality water supply. His work behind the scenes keeps the city flowing—literally.

Under the steady leadership of **Supervisor John Joyce**, the **Seymour Electric Department** continues to deliver essential services that keep the city running smoothly and safely. This week, the team tackled a wide range of tasks—from infrastructure upgrades to routine maintenance—with precision and pride. Crews began with weekly vehicle maintenance checks to ensure all department vehicles are operating safely and efficiently. They also completed weekly readings of reclosures, a critical step in monitoring system reliability and preventing outages. The department responded to multiple service requests, including disconnecting and reconnecting power on N. Browning, and disconnecting and reconnecting service at Bayco's. A new service line was installed at Roots Retreat, and a new service was added at 601 E. McLain Street, expanding access to reliable electricity for residents and businesses. In addition, the team reconnected a yard light on North Tackitt Street and replaced a streetlight on East McLain Street, improving nighttime visibility and safety. One of the more complex tasks this week involved changing out and relocating a primary pole on N. Cooke Street, a job requiring careful coordination and technical expertise. Beyond electrical work, the crew also mowed and weed ate around the shop, worked on facility improvements, and built a new sign for the transfer station, contributing to the department's overall efficiency and appearance. They even installed new steps for Truck 8, ensuring safe access for operators. The Seymour Electric Department's commitment to service, safety, and community support continues to shine—literally and figuratively. Their work this week reflects the kind of behind-the-scenes dedication that powers Seymour forward.

This week, the **Seymour Water Department**, under the leadership of **Supervisor Chase Hoyt**, tackled a full slate of essential repairs and services to keep the city's water infrastructure running efficiently and reliably. Crews responded quickly to a 2-inch water line leak behind Allsup's, ensuring minimal disruption to nearby businesses and residents. They also repaired a 2-inch water meter leak on McClain Street, restoring accurate flow and preventing further loss. On West Clay Street, the team identified a meter leak on the customer's side, helping the resident address the issue and avoid unnecessary charges. Their responsiveness extended to the Housing Authority, where they assisted with a sewer backup, providing critical support to maintain sanitary conditions. Behind United Pharmacy, crews repaired a service line leak, reinforcing the department's commitment to fast, effective solutions in high-traffic areas. In addition to these repairs, the team handled multiple water turn-offs and turn-ons, supporting residents with routine service changes and ensuring smooth transitions. The Water Department's dedication to timely response, technical expertise, and community service continues to make a visible impact across Seymour. Their work this week reflects not just maintenance—but a commitment to keeping our city safe, functional, and future-ready.

## STREET DEPARTMENT HONORED WITH THE "IRON ASPHALT AWARD" FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE



Pictured above from left to right is Councilman Lan Winn, Councilwoman Debbie Gillispie, Mayor Mark McCord, Councilman Skylar Henricks, Street Department Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek, Street Department Team Members Kenny Davis and David Mailhos, Councilman Billy Henricks, and City Administrator Jeff Brasher. The Mayor and Street Department recognized the Street Department and awarded the team the "Iron Asphalt Award" for the month—an honor that recognizes their hard work, dedication, and resilience in improving the quality and performance of our city's infrastructure. Despite relentless heat and demanding conditions, this team has continued to operate with efficiency as a top priority, completing vital projects that make our streets safer, smoother, and more welcoming for every citizen. Their commitment to excellence and their tireless efforts are a true reflection of what it means to serve with pride.

Please join us in congratulating these outstanding individuals for their grit and determination. Their work doesn't just pave roads—it paves the way for a stronger, better Seymour.