

Weekly Beat

September 19th, 2025

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City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- 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
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

Leadership in Action: Seymour Council Champions Growth and Fiscal Strength

SEYMOUR, TX — September 19, 2025

The Seymour City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 7:15 PM in the City Hall Auditorium. The meeting followed an executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Mayor Mark McCord officially opened the public portion of the meeting, and roll call confirmed that all council members were present. Mayor Pro-Tem Billy Henricks expressed his appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce for organizing the recent 3-Man Golf Tournament, commending the event for its excellent execution and community engagement. Mayor McCord also addressed the upcoming “Garbage Only Cleanup Week,” encouraging residents to participate in the citywide effort to maintain a clean and welcoming environment. In addition, Mayor McCord announced that a grant is currently in development through the Seymour Beautification Program, aimed at enhancing the appearance of the downtown esplanades. His comments reflected the pride and unity that continue to define Seymour’s civic spirit. During the announcements, City Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher, speaking on behalf of the Mayor and Council, recognized Bob Simpson as the 2025 Salt Fork Golf Course Champion and presented him with a trophy in honor of his achievement. Dr. Brasher then delivered the City Administrator’s Report, which included updates on Seymour Police Department activity and a financial overview showing the city remains in strong fiscal health, operating with more revenues than expenditures. City Secretary Lauren Bush provided an update on dilapidated properties, reporting continued progress and plans for additional removals during the fall and winter months. Three public hearings were held during the meeting. The first addressed Resolution No. 1591, amending the fiscal year 2024–2025 operating budget to reallocate funds between line items, ensuring departments are properly funded and the budget is ready for audit. The second hearing focused on Resolution No. 1592, approving and adopting the City of Seymour’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2026. The third hearing presented Ordinance No. 2025-11, which levies ad valorem taxes for tax year 2025 at a rate of \$0.41175 per \$100 valuation. The ordinance outlines due dates, penalties, and includes a roll call vote of the council. Following the public hearings, the council approved the consent agenda, which included the minutes from the August 21, 2025 Regular Called Meeting, accounts payable bills for August, final adoption of Resolution 1591 for budget adjustments, and updates to the City Council’s Rules and Procedures. The council then addressed five action items. First, they approved a request from Emma Kate Pribyla, Seymour High School Junior Class President, to host a Homecoming Street Dance on October 18, 2025, at the intersection of Washington and McLain Streets known as The Lot, including necessary street closures. Second, the council unanimously adopted Resolution 1592, formalizing the fiscal year 2025–2026 budget after deciding to maintain the current level of staffing at the Salt Fork Facility. Third, Ordinance 2025-11 was approved unanimously, establishing the 2025 ad valorem tax rate at \$0.41175 per \$100 valuation, matching the voter-approval rate. Fourth, the council tabled the bids for roof replacements at City Hall, the Police Department, and Fire Hall until the consultant can analyze the proposal from Booe Roofing. Lastly, they approved the implementation of a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) as an optional benefit for city employees, aimed at enhancing workplace wellness and financial flexibility as presented by HR Specialist John Davis. The meeting concluded at 8:25 PM. Residents are encouraged to visit the City of Seymour’s official website or contact City Hall for more information on upcoming meetings, concerns, and initiatives.

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

If you think **animal control** is all barking dogs and stray cats, think again. This week, Officer Rick Shumate proved once again that no creature is too wild, too stubborn, or too stuck for him to handle. It all started with a call that could've come straight out of a nature documentary: a red-tailed hawk, majestic and fierce, had collided with a vehicle and was lodged in the front grill—alive, but clearly shaken. Without hesitation, Officer Shumate sprang into action. With the precision of a surgeon and the heart of a conservationist, he carefully freed the hawk from the tangled metal. After a quick assessment, he transported the bird to a quiet city-owned property near water, where he offered it a perch—literally. The hawk accepted the meal, gathered its strength, and soared off into the sky, ready for its next adventure. Some say it circled once in gratitude before disappearing into the horizon. But the hawk was just the beginning. Over the course of the week, Officer Shumate responded to eleven animal-related calls, each with its own twist. He removed a dead squirrel, a cottontail rabbit, two deceased raccoons, and a skunk—all part of keeping Seymour's streets clean and safe. He also captured and relocated five raccoons, two cats, and two wild hogs from the RO Plant. One hog tipped the scales at 112 pounds, the other at 93—a hefty reminder that Seymour's wildlife doesn't mess around. On the domestic front, four dogs were picked up and placed in the pound, later reunited with their owners. However, one persistent pup earned its owner a citation after repeated escapes from the yard. Officer Shumate handled the situation with fairness and a touch of humor—because in Seymour, even the dogs know how to keep things interesting. Whether it's rescuing raptors or wrangling raccoons, Officer Rick Shumate continues to be a steady hand and a compassionate heart in the wild world of animal control. His work keeps Seymour safe, clean, and just a little more adventurous. So next time you see a hawk soaring overhead or a raccoon peeking from the brush, tip your hat to the man who makes sure every creature—great or small—gets the care it deserves.

Even with **Street Department Supervisor Ronnie Kolacek** away on a well-deserved vacation this week, the Seymour Street Department continued its outstanding work without missing a beat. Under the capable leadership of Davis Mailhos and Kenny Davis, the team maintained its momentum and delivered high-quality service across the city. One of the department's key accomplishments this week was preparing the walking track and surrounding park area for the Cross Country meet held on Wednesday. Their attention to detail ensured the grounds were clean, safe, and ready for athletes and spectators alike—demonstrating the department's commitment to supporting community events. In addition to event preparation, the crew responded to a number of work requests from residents and city staff. Their efforts included cleaning up several alleys and patching potholes throughout town, helping to maintain safe and accessible roadways for all. The continued dedication of the Street Department reflects the strength of the team and the leadership culture fostered by Mr. Kolacek. Whether preparing for public events or tackling everyday maintenance, the department remains a vital part of Seymour's operations and community pride. Residents are encouraged to thank the Street Department for their hard work and to report any maintenance needs through the proper city channels.

The Seymour **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant**, under the expert supervision of John Davis, continues to play a vital role in providing clean, reliable water to our community and surrounding areas. This past week, the plant produced an impressive 4.8 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation—a testament to the plant's efficiency and importance in regional water management. Throughout the week, plant operators carried out a range of essential tasks to ensure water quality and system performance. They monitored chlorine residuals across town to maintain safe disinfection levels, and tracked wastewater discharge from the plant to ensure compliance with environmental standards. Daily readings on the primary RO units were taken to monitor system health and optimize performance. Operators also titrated chemical feeds, including antiscalant and caustic soda, which are critical to maintaining membrane integrity and water quality. In addition to technical operations, the team cleaned and organized the main RO building, reinforcing their commitment to safety, efficiency, and professionalism. Maintenance was also performed on the chlorination outbuilding, ensuring that all components of the system remain in top working condition. Thanks to the leadership of John Davis, Seymour continues to benefit from a robust and well-managed water treatment system. His work not only supports daily life for residents but also strengthens the city's infrastructure for future growth and resilience.

This week, the **Seymour Electric Department**, under the leadership of Supervisor John Joyce, continued to demonstrate its commitment to keeping the city powered and running smoothly. The team began the week with routine vehicle maintenance checks to ensure all department vehicles were in safe working condition. They also completed their weekly readings of reclosures, helping monitor system performance and prevent outages. Throughout the week, the department responded to various service needs across the city. They reinstalled power to the Sewage Plant and conducted a circuit inspection on the south side of Circuit 6. A pole on South Stratton Street was trimmed to maintain safety standards, and the crew also mowed and weeded around the shop to keep the area clean and presentable. The department took responsibility covering service behind Interbank to assist contractors, and installing new service at 198 West Custer Street. The team also installed a new pole and service at 1101 North Oak. In addition, they restrung and hung a new flag for Meals on Wheels, showing their support for community programs. The department collaborated with the technical specialist to work on transformer 20 and partnered with the Street Department to trim trees and brush along the 200–300 block of East Custer and the 400 block of South Donald Street. After trimming, they dragged brush to clear the area and maintain public safety.

Under the leadership of **Chief Bryce Sawyer**, the **Seymour Police Department** continues to serve our community with professionalism, compassion, and a strong commitment to public safety. The department's work over the past several weeks reflects a balanced approach to enforcement, community engagement, and crisis response. Officers investigated multiple criminal cases, including a felony offense and a criminal mischief incident, demonstrating their diligence in protecting property and pursuing justice. The department also responded to a mental health-related call, providing support and ensuring the individual received appropriate care—an example of the team's growing role in handling sensitive, non-criminal emergencies. In addition to enforcement duties, officers conducted school visits to build relationships with students and staff, reinforcing the department's commitment to youth outreach and campus safety. Traffic enforcement remained a priority, helping to maintain safe roadways for all residents. The department also assisted in a domestic violence arrest, ensuring swift action and protection for those involved. Officers mediated several disputes between citizens, helping to de-escalate tensions and resolve issues peacefully. In the month of August alone, the Seymour Police Department issued 51 citations and 104 warnings, reflecting a fair and proactive approach to enforcement. The team also tagged an abandoned vehicle, issued six weed violation letters, conducted six grass and weed inspections, and responded to six citizen complaints—each handled with care and attention. Chief Sawyer and his team continue to uphold the values of integrity, accountability, and service. Their work is a testament to the department's dedication to keeping Seymour safe, responsive, and united.

The Seymour **Water Department**, led by **Supervisor Chase Hoyt**, continues to make impressive strides in maintaining and improving the city's water infrastructure. This week's work reflects the team's dedication to reliability, regulatory compliance, and long-term planning for Seymour's growing needs. One of the department's major accomplishments was the complete replacement of a service line on Weiss Street, ensuring residents in the area have consistent and dependable water service. This upgrade not only improves flow and pressure but also reduces the risk of future leaks and costly repairs. In addition, the team addressed equipment maintenance by repairing a leaking radiator on the department's backhoe, a critical piece of machinery used for excavation and utility work. Keeping equipment in top condition allows the department to respond quickly and efficiently to service needs across the city. At Well 4B, crews dug out an aging line and replaced it with durable PVC piping, a key step in modernizing the well's infrastructure. The team also poured a new concrete slab around the casing extension in accordance with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulations. This slab must meet specific standards—including a minimum thickness of six inches and proper drainage slope—to ensure safety and compliance. Once final approvals are secured, Well 4B will be tied into the main water line that feeds Seymour's Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant, adding valuable capacity to the city's water supply. This connection represents a major win for the community, reinforcing Seymour's commitment to securing reliable water resources for today and for future generations. Thanks to the leadership of Chase Hoyt and the hard work of the Water Department team, Seymour continues to build a stronger, smarter water system—one project at a time.

Bob Simpson Claims Victory in Seymour Golf Club Championship



Pictured Left to Right: Jeff Brasher, Lan Winn, Debbie Gillispie, Skyler Henricks, Club Champion Bob Simpson, Billy Henricks, Nancy Townley, Mayor Mark McCord, Todd Hmcirik, Sean Weiser, and Shawn Sanchez present and celebrate Bob Simpson as Club Champion of the Seymour Salt Fork Golf Course at Thursday night's City Council Meeting.