

## City of Bryson Special Called Meeting

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Lutitia Ford called the special meeting of the Bryson City Council to order at 7:00 pm November 4, 2025, in City Hall.

**Roll Call:** The following people were present: Mayor Lutitia Ford, Ald. Jesse Laine, Ald. Justin Hand, Ald. Heather Neer, Ald. Travis Rhoten, PWD Cory Allen, City Secretary Cheryl Adams. Guests Henry Birdwell, Jr. and Sheila Birdwell. Ald. JR Stearns and APWD Kevin Sharp were absent.

II. Special meeting was called to discuss with Henry Birdwell, Jr. and Sheila Birdwell an agreement for the City of Bryson to irrigate treated wastewater onto their property.

The Birdwell's are asking for \$1,500 monthly payment and a cleanup bond for the City to irrigate onto the property. Cleanup bond would hold the City responsible for any cleanup should anything detrimental to agricultural use be found to be caused by the wastewater irrigation.

Discussion was held on the results of soil and water samples that were requested by the landowners. Samples came back in range or non-detectable for PFAS.

The Birdwell's expressed concern about the state of the mesquite trees and presence of water weeds inside the pivot area.

Ald. Jesse Laine asked the landowners how the \$1,500 price was figured. Henry Birdwell, Jr. said he looked at the current sewer rate and it was low. He figured \$2 to \$3 for each sewer tap in town. City Secretary Cheryl Adams stated that the City did not have that many active sewer taps. After short research she found that the current number of taps is 216. Jesse Laine spoke about the \$1,500 price not being in the City's budget.

Sheila Birdwell, a former mayor, spoke about remembering the previous landowner got a benefit from the irrigation. She claimed it is no longer a benefit because too much water is going out and now it is a hindrance on the landowner. Henry Birdwell complained about the ruts caused by the pivot system because it has been so wet. A question of changing TCEQ permitting was asked by Jesse Laine to allow Bermuda grass on the land. PWD Cory Allen said it could be repermitted.

Ald. Heather Neer repeated that the City could not afford \$1,500 a month. Henry Birdwell asked about the state of the current sewer system and why the City was going to pay \$650,000 to fix it if it is working correctly. The Council and PWD Cory Allen told him it is working correctly but it is at capacity and no more customers could be added to the system. To keep the current system the ponds would have to be repaired and irrigation would have to be increased to add any customers to the system. The package plant only costs a little bit more and will eliminate the need for irrigation.

APWD Cory Allen explained that the previous agreement for irrigation that the landowner could run the irrigation however they wanted to and they wanted to put out as much water at one pass as they could. Cory Allen wanted it set to 1" per irrigation, the landowner wanted 3" and Cory said no, the most you can do is 2". This is the reason for the flooding of the field that caused the ruts and water weeds. Sheila Birdwell asked how often at 1" it would need to be irrigated. Cory Allen said it could be run every couple of days and it would dry up in between. Twice a week or less would be typical. Henry Birdwell asked if irrigation would be year-round. Cory Allen answered that he could not irrigate during winter months, it has to be above a certain temperature.

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Discussion was held on fences, grass, permitting and other items.

Ald. Jesse Laine brought discussion back to price and said that 216 taps at 2-3 dollars each would be closer to \$500. Sheila Birdwell said let her and Henry discuss it. They said that the soil tests did make them feel a little better.

III. Adjournment – There being no further business before the Council, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm by Ald. Jesse Laine; seconded by Ald. Justin Hand. Vote 4-0.

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Lutitia Ford, Mayor  
City of Bryson

Attest

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Cheryl Adams, City Secretary  
City of Bryson