

Weekly Beat

November 21st, 2025

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City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- November 27th and 28th City Hall Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving
- December 4th, 2025 Mistletoe Market 5:00-8:30 PM
- December 11th, 2025 City of Seymour's Lighted Christmas Parade at 7:00 PM
- December 13th, 2025 Lighted Christmas in the Park 6:00-8:00 PM.
- December 18th, 2025 at 7:00 PM City Council Meeting
- February 21st, 2026 Trout Fishing Tournament at Salt Fork Recreational Facility: 9:00-11:00 AM.
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

Building Seymour's Future: Council Meeting Showcases Dedication, Achievement, and Growth

November 20th, 2025 – Seymour, Texas

The Seymour City Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at City Hall. Mayor Mark McCord called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance. All council members were present except Councilman Lan Winn. Skyler Henricks offered an opening prayer, and announcements were shared by Mayor Pro Tem Billy Henricks. Mayor McCord expressed gratitude to veterans for their service and commended city staff for completing another audit, noting that this accomplishment brings Seymour closer to finalizing the 2025 audit. Mayor Pro Tem Billy Henricks encouraged residents to attend the Seymour Community Theater production scheduled for the weekend and announced the upcoming Missletoe Market event scheduled for December 4th from 5:00-8:30 pm. City Administrator Dr. Jeffrey Brasher recognized the Electric Department for their dedication in responding to a power outage on November 19. Crews worked through the night until 4:00 a.m. to repair a transformer and restore service, demonstrating their commitment to the community. The meeting also featured a presentation from the Seymour Youth Leadership Team. Representatives Jeramiah Fobbs and Heaven Betts shared their recent accomplishments in Abilene, where both earned second place in the TNCN Youth Leadership Competition. They expressed gratitude to the council for its support, and their achievements were met with applause from the mayor and council members. During the administrative report, Dr. Brasher noted that the financial report was not yet available but highlighted the Police Department's commitment and presented the Dilapidated Property Report, reflecting Seymour's ongoing efforts to improve neighborhoods. The council unanimously approved the Consent Agenda, which included meeting minutes from October 18 and November 7, accounts payable bills for October, the quarterly investment report, an extension of the bank agreement with Peoples Bank, and an updated airport hangar lease requiring insurance coverage, clean-up clauses, and self-fueling options. The council addressed several action items. They took no action on the City Council Place 2 position until the upcoming election, tabled specific use permits for properties at 1669 CR 205 until the owner could be present, and approved a permit for Bobby Morrow at 505 N Stratton. They accepted the FY 2024–2025 audit presented by Paul Fleming, which confirmed the city's financial statements were accurate and compliant. Other approvals included a new No Smoking Ordinance proposal prohibiting smoking in Seymour businesses, authorization for administration to approve city road closures for events, and bids for roof replacements at City Hall, the Police Department, and the Fire Hall, with City Hall and the Police Department receiving higher-quality roofs with 30-year warranties. Resolutions tied to the Downtown Revitalization Grant were approved, appointing Public Management Grant Manager to oversee funding and Jacob & Martin to handle design and delivery if awarded. The council also approved a sick leave incentive buyout program to reward employees for consistent attendance, authorized bids for airport road improvements supported by \$100,000 in RAMP funding with the city covering 10 percent of costs, and approved pursuing qualifications with a Site Selector Company to support economic development. Mayor McCord was reappointed to the Baylor County Appraisal District board, and the council approved a payout for accrued police vacation days to ensure staffing and reduce overtime. They also approved payment of a Baylor County bill for dispatch services outsourced to Archer County, despite the expense not being budgeted. From executive session, the council authorized going out for bids for a new metal roof for the fan building owned by the City of Seymour, with bids to be reviewed before further decisions are made. The evening reflected Seymour's dedication to honoring public service, celebrating youth achievement, strengthening municipal operations, and maintaining open communication with residents while conducting city business with integrity. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

The City of Seymour continues to benefit from the dedication and hard work of **Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate**, whose efforts ensure both public safety and humane treatment of animals in our community. His recent activities reflect the wide range of responsibilities carried out by animal control to keep neighborhoods safe and residents at ease. Over the past reporting period, Mr. Shumate successfully removed eight possums and two raccoons, as well as one deceased raccoon, from local properties. He also responded to a call on South Cedar Street where a snake had become trapped in a water pipe cut-off. Thanks to his quick action, the snake was safely rescued and relocated. In addition, Mr. Shumate addressed a situation on Arkansas Street where five cats were removed from a residence, ensuring proper care and reducing potential health concerns. He also handled the removal of a dead squirrel, maintaining cleanliness and safety in the area. The city pound saw activity as well. One dog was bailed out by its owner, while another remains in the pound under Mr. Shumate's supervision. He also picked up two dogs that were later returned to their owners, demonstrating his commitment to reuniting pets with their families whenever possible. Altogether, Mr. Shumate responded to ten animal-related calls, showcasing the responsiveness and reliability of Seymour's animal control services.

Under the leadership of **Ronnie Kolacek**, the Seymour Street Department has continued its important work of improving the community by addressing long-standing property concerns and ensuring the reliability of city equipment. This week, the department focused on the removal of dilapidated structures that have been a source of concern for residents. Two houses located side by side on North East Street—properties that have been an eyesore for decades—were systematically knocked down. Mr. Kolacek and his team have become highly proficient in this process, approaching each demolition with careful planning and execution. Their efforts not only improve the appearance of neighborhoods but also enhance safety and open the door for future development. In addition to demolition work, Mr. Kolacek continues to place strong emphasis on training. His team is being taught how to operate heavy machinery effectively, safely, and efficiently. This ongoing training ensures that every project is completed with professionalism and care, while also building the skills of department staff for long-term success. The Street Department also devoted time to equipment maintenance. Keeping machinery operational is critical to the department's mission, and this week included work on the skid steer, which has been plagued with mechanical issues over the past four weeks. By addressing these challenges, the team ensures that essential tools remain available for daily operations.

The City of Seymour continues to benefit from the dedication and expertise of Mr. John Davis, Supervisor of the **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant**. Over the past week, the plant produced an impressive 4.0 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation. This achievement underscores the critical role the RO Plant plays in ensuring safe, reliable water for residents and surrounding communities. Under Mr. Davis's leadership, the plant operator carried out a wide range of essential tasks to maintain water quality and operational efficiency. Chlorine residuals were carefully monitored throughout the town to ensure public safety and compliance with state standards. The operator also tracked the amount of wastewater discharged from the plant, a key step in maintaining environmental responsibility. Daily readings were taken on the primary RO units to monitor performance and detect any potential issues early. In addition to technical monitoring, the Mr. Davis dedicated time to cleaning and organizing the RO plant and office, reinforcing the importance of maintaining a professional and efficient work environment. Preventive maintenance was also performed on the finished water instrument panel, ensuring accurate measurements and reliable service delivery. Mr. Davis's commitment to excellence reflects Seymour's broader dedication to public health and infrastructure. By overseeing both routine operations and critical maintenance, he and his team ensure that residents can depend on a consistent supply of high-quality water. Their work not only supports daily life but also strengthens the city's resilience and readiness for future growth.

Under the supervision of John Joyce, the City of Seymour's **Electric Department** continues to demonstrate dedication, skill, and community service. Their work ensures that residents and businesses enjoy reliable power while also supporting special projects that bring the town together. Each week, the department performs routine vehicle maintenance checks to keep its fleet in safe and dependable condition. They also conduct weekly readings of reclosures and complete locates to identify underground utilities, helping prevent outages and protect infrastructure during construction projects. In recent weeks, the team replaced a cross arm on East Nevada Street, rehung service on the 700 block of North Bantau Street, and fixed a cross arm while adding a new cut out on the 200 block of East Custer Street. They also removed old service at a condemned house on the 800 block of North East Street and reinstalled power to homes in the 400–500 block of South East Street. On the 400 block of South Tackitt Street, the crew changed out a transformer and worked tirelessly until four in the morning to restore power to valued customers. In addition, they hooked up service to a water well on Highway 422 near Archer City. Beyond essential repairs, the department contributed to Seymour's holiday spirit by working on Christmas lights and banners, ensuring the town shines bright during the festive season. The Electric Department's efforts reflect a strong commitment to both infrastructure reliability and community pride. Whether it's routine maintenance, emergency response, or festive decorations, John Joyce and his team exemplify the dedication required to keep Seymour running smoothly.

The **Seymour Police Department**, under the supervision of Chief Bryce Sawyer, has continued its commitment to public safety and community service throughout the month of October. The department's activity reflects both its vigilance in enforcing the law and its dedication to responding to the needs of residents. During October, officers issued 32 citations and 30 warnings, addressing traffic and safety concerns across the city. In addition, the department recorded five offenses, ensuring that each case was properly investigated and documented. The police force remained highly responsive, answering a total of 215 calls for service. These calls ranged from routine assistance to urgent matters requiring immediate attention. Officers also responded to three accidents, providing support and ensuring public safety at each scene. Their work led to four arrests, including one felony arrest, underscoring the department's role in maintaining order and accountability. Beyond enforcement, the department also carried out important community-focused duties. Officers conducted school visits, reinforcing positive relationships with students and staff. They continued traffic enforcement to promote roadway safety, mediated civil issues to help resolve disputes peacefully, and performed various welfare checks to ensure the well-being of residents. Alongside the police department's efforts, the Seymour Fire Department also played a vital role in community safety, responding to 33 calls during the month. Together, the police and fire departments demonstrate the city's strong commitment to protecting residents and providing reliable emergency services.

Under the leadership of Chase Hoyt, the **Seymour Water Department** continues to make important strides in maintaining infrastructure, improving safety, and preparing for seasonal needs. The team's work this week reflects both technical expertise and a strong commitment to serving the community. One of the major projects completed was the installation of a 4-inch meter on Main Street, a key upgrade that supports reliable water service for residents and businesses. The department also tackled a long-standing issue on North Plainview by installing custom risers on two manholes. Because standard 1-inch risers are not manufactured, these had to be custom made. Their installation has already made a noticeable difference in both driveability and safety for citizens traveling that roadway. In addition to water system improvements, the department coordinated with SPS regarding the boring of a 12-inch gas main under West California Street, ensuring that utility work is properly planned and executed. Professional development also remains a priority. Team member Jay Smith attended a wastewater class as he prepares to earn his D wastewater license, strengthening the department's capabilities for the future. With colder weather approaching, the department has begun winter preparation, safeguarding equipment and systems against seasonal challenges. They also devoted time to organizing the shop, ensuring tools and materials are ready for efficient use in upcoming projects.

The Seymour Water Department's work under Chase Hoyt's guidance demonstrates a balance of infrastructure improvements, safety enhancements, professional training, and proactive seasonal preparation. Each project contributes to the reliability of essential services and the overall well-being of the community.



Pictured left from right Councilman Billy Henricks, Nancy Townley, Student Leadership Representatives Jeramiah Fobbs and Heaven Betts, Councilman Skyler Henricks, Mayor Mark McCord, and Councilwoman Debbie Gillespie. The Mayor and City Council proudly recognized the students at Thursday's City Council Meeting whose vision and hard work brought the Bark Park to life, honoring them for their meaningful contributions to the Seymour community.