

Weekly Beat

December 19th, 2025

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Council Meeting

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News and Update

City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- City Hall will be closed December 24th-26th, 2025 in Observance of Christmas
- January 1st, 2026 City Hall Closed for New Year's Day
- January 15th, 2026 City Council Meeting at 7:00 PM City Hall
- 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

Seymour City Council Takes Action on Infrastructure, Public Health, and Community Initiatives

SEYMOUR, TX — December 17, 2025 — The Seymour City Council met Thursday evening at City Hall, beginning with an executive session at 6:00 p.m. During the closed session, council members discussed matters related to the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate involving the Salt Fork Recreational Complex. The council also received an update from legal counsel regarding the ongoing Baylor Water Special Utility District lawsuit. Following the executive session, Mayor Mark McCord called the regular meeting to order. Roll call confirmed that all council members were present. Mayor McCord opened the public session by noting that the city's fiscal year financial statements are up to date and that efforts to remove dilapidated properties continue. The City Administrator then recognized the winners of the parade float competition, commending their contributions to community spirit. First Baptist Church received first place, Knoxx Brasher earned second place, and Seymour Rehabilitation took third. Additional recognitions included United Ag for Best ATV, Rocky Hickman Towing for Best Vehicle, and Channing Moore for Best Bicycle. Pam Hughes-Pak with Atmos Energy provided an update on Atmos's ongoing work throughout the city. She discussed the impact of utility projects on city streets and outlined current and planned efforts to reduce disruptions and address infrastructure concerns. The City Administrator followed with an administrative report. He announced that the city has begun advertising for a new utility clerk following the retirement announcement of Nita Honswho is planning on retirement at the end of March 2026. Dr. Brasher also reported that the Water Department has hired Jared Hoper who will begin work on January 5th, 2026, bringing the department to full staffing. Work continues on the 2025 audit, and staff are gathering additional information required by TCEQ as the city moves forward with plans for an additional water well. Cleanup efforts are progressing on a dilapidated property along Tackitt Street. The Police Department reported issuing 48 warnings and 2 citations last month, reflecting ongoing efforts to improve community safety. Financially, expenditures exceeded revenues by approximately \$76,000, which is typical for this time of year. The city expects to recover the difference later in the fiscal year as water and electric sales increase. The council then held a public hearing for Ordinance 2025-12, which amends Chapter 6, "Health & Sanitation," of the Seymour Revised Code of Ordinances by adding Article 200, "Smoking Regulations," establishing rules for smoking in public places. Following the hearing, the council moved to the consent agenda and approved the November 20, 2025 Regular Called Meeting minutes, the City of Seymour Accounts Payable Bills for November 2025, Resolution 1595 authorizing a Solid Waste Grant Application to the NorTex Regional Planning Commission, Resolution 1596 appointing a board member to the Baylor County Appraisal Board, and Resolution 1597 approving bullet-resistant components for law enforcement vehicles in 2026. During the regular agenda, the council took no action on a Specific Use Permit request for 1669 County Road 205 and chose not to award a construction contract for the CDBG TDA 2023 grant project. The council did approve a Joint Election Contract for the 2026 elections. Bids for the roofing project at 1007 Kenning Drive were reviewed, but no action was taken. The council approved the purchase of a new CAT skid steer for the Street Department in the amount of \$72,368.00 to support ongoing maintenance and infrastructure work. The city received one Request for Qualifications for a Site Selector, and the council will schedule interviews at a later date to determine next steps. In other infrastructure matters, the council approved a \$144,000.00 bid for an overlay of the airport road and repairs to the apron on the south end of the airport. Ninety percent of the project cost will be funded through TxDOT's RAMP grant program. No bids were received for the Salt Fork Recreational Complex project, and no action was taken. The council formally adopted Ordinance 2025-12, "Smoking Regulations," which prohibits smoking in all public spaces within the city limits and within ten feet of any entryway into a public space. Responding to increased community interest in donating trees for city parks, the council approved the creation of a Tree Planting Committee. This committee will help guide donation requests, recommend planting locations, and support long-term planning for Seymour's tree canopy. The council also approved a request from Graham Quisenberry to place a Pegasus installation at the corner of West McLain and South Washington, adding a distinctive visual feature to the community. Regarding matters discussed in executive session, the council agreed to remain open to interest from any parties wishing to consider purchasing the Salt Fork Golf Complex. The council voted to close the current bids and revisit the bidding process in six months.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate had a productive and busy week responding to a wide range of animal-related issues throughout the city. Officer Shumate successfully captured eleven wild hogs at the RO Plant, helping reduce safety risks and property damage in the area. He also relocated two raccoons and six cats to appropriate locations. In addition, two skunks were safely handled, and two dogs were returned to their owners. A pit bull was placed in the city pound for holding and was later released back to its owner after proper procedures were followed. Officer Shumate also assisted in returning five sheep to their pen after they were found loose. Throughout the week, Officer Shumate responded to eleven animal-related calls, demonstrating his continued commitment to public safety and animal welfare.

The **Street Department**, under the supervision of Ronnie Kolacek, continued its cleanup efforts on the Tackitt Street property throughout the week. Crews made steady progress removing debris and improving the condition of the site. As part of a mutually beneficial exchange of services, the department spent several days mulching trees on an adjacent property. In return, PC's provided the use of their excavator to knock down the large house located on Tackitt Street. This cooperative effort allowed both parties to accomplish needed work efficiently while conserving city resources. The department will continue cleanup and restoration efforts in the coming week as part of its ongoing commitment to improving neighborhood safety and appearance.

Under the supervision of John Davis, **the Reverse Osmosis Plant** continued steady and efficient operations throughout the past week. The plant produced 4.3 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and the Baylor Water Supply Corporation, ensuring a reliable supply of clean drinking water for the community. Throughout the week, plant operators carried out routine but essential monitoring and testing activities. Staff checked chlorine residuals across town to confirm that disinfectant levels remained within safe and effective ranges. Operators also tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant to maintain compliance with regulatory requirements. Daily readings were taken on the primary RO units to monitor system performance and identify any operational adjustments needed. In addition, operators collected the monthly laboratory samples required to monitor the water supply for microbial contaminants. Samples were also taken from the raw water source and the RO permeate to evaluate treatment effectiveness and ensure the system continues to meet state and federal water quality standards.

The **Electric Department**, under the supervision of John Joyce, completed a full slate of maintenance, service, and infrastructure tasks throughout the past week to ensure reliable electrical service across the city. Crews performed their weekly vehicle maintenance checks and completed the weekly readings of reclosures, both essential for monitoring system performance and preventing outages. The department also responded to multiple locate requests, helping protect underground utilities during construction and excavation activities. Several service and infrastructure improvements were completed during the week. The department installed a new pole at Roots Retreat and installed a new service on the 500 block of West Reiman Street. On the 200 block of South Foley, crews installed a new pole, redirected service, and completed necessary tree trimming to maintain safe clearance around power lines. The department also handled several service interruptions and reconnections. Power was disconnected and reconnected on Hill Drive, reconnected and disconnected at the old Dollar General, disconnected and reconnected on the 600 block of North Stratton Street, and reconnected on the 100 block of West Clay Street. Crews also trimmed a service line near the park apartments and repaired a service line on the 200 block of North East Street. The Electric Department continues to provide timely responses to service needs while maintaining the city's electrical infrastructure with professionalism and efficiency.

The **Water Department**, under the supervision of Chase Hoyt, completed a demanding and productive week addressing several critical maintenance and infrastructure needs throughout the city. A major task this week involved repairing a large 6-inch water leak on Idaho Street. The leak occurred after water lines were incorrectly marked prior to SPS boring the street. Despite the error, SPS assisted the department with the repair, and their cooperation was greatly appreciated by the City and the Water Department. During the repair process, Baylor Water Supply Corporation provided a trash pump to support operations after the city's pump went down. Crews also completed multiple locate requests to ensure safe excavation and protect underground utilities. In preparation for upcoming improvements, staff dug a hole at the wastewater plant and completed new plumbing work for the chlorine injector system, helping improve treatment reliability. Back at the shop, the department troubleshooted issues with the trash pump, working to restore it to service. In addition, crews performed preventive maintenance on sewer mains and lift stations ahead of the holiday week to reduce the risk of backups or service interruptions. The Water Department continues to respond quickly to infrastructure needs while maintaining essential services for the community.

The **Seymour Police Department**, under the leadership of Chief Bryce Sawyer, remained active throughout the week responding to a wide range of calls and community needs. Officers responded to multiple disturbances across the city, ensuring public safety and restoring order where needed. The department also issued a criminal trespass warning in response to a property-related complaint. SPD provided significant support to partner agencies during the week. Officers assisted the Baylor County Sheriff's Office with a felony arrest and later assisted BCSO with a DWI arrest, contributing to countywide law enforcement efforts. The department also assisted the Texas Department of Public Safety with a crash, helping secure the scene and manage traffic. Routine enforcement efforts continued as officers conducted traffic enforcement throughout the city to promote roadway safety. In addition, officers mediated numerous civil matters, helping residents resolve disputes and maintain community peace. The Seymour Police Department remains committed to proactive policing, interagency cooperation, and serving the community with professionalism.



Pictured left to right: Councilman Billy Henricks; Nancy Townley; Ella and Bethany Burgess representing First Baptist Church; Knoxx Brasher representing the Spider-Man Float; Shay Teal and Administrator Chris Sabater with the Seymour Rehabilitation Facility; Channing Moore, winner of Best Bicycle in the Parade; Councilwoman Debbie Gillespie; Mayor Mark McCord; Councilman Lan Winn; and City Administrator Dr. Jeff Brasher.

The Mayor and City Council proudly recognized the winners of the City of Seymour Lighted Parade during Thursday night's council meeting. This year's parade was a glowing success, drawing a large crowd of spectators and showcasing an impressive lineup of creative, beautifully lit floats that brought holiday cheer to the entire community.

