

Weekly Beat

January 16th, 2026

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1st City Council
Meeting 2026

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Progress

City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- February 19th, 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

From Budget Surplus to Water Line Project, Seymour Council Opens 2026 With Momentum

Seymour, Texas— The City of Seymour held its first City Council meeting of 2026 on January 15 at Seymour City Hall. Mayor Mark McCord called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Following roll call, council members and attendees participated in the Pledge of Allegiance. City Council Alderman Nancy Townley then led the assembly in prayer. Mayor McCord delivered announcements to open the meeting, celebrating the city's success on its continue efforts of removing dilipiated properties from the city and the initiation of a new waterline project that will be kicked off in February of 2026 donw McLain. The City Administrator's report was presented by Dr. Jeff Brasher, who shared several positive updates regarding city operations, public safety, and finances. Dr. Brasher reported that the city is currently operating with a full staff. He noted that the Seymour Police Department remains active in ensuring the safety of the community. During recent patrols, officers issued 27 citations and 70 warnings while monitoring city streets. Financially, the city closed the month of December on a strong note. According to Dr. Brasher, Seymour has moved "into the black," generating approximately \$60,004.00 more in revenue than expenditures through the month of December. City leaders expressed optimism that this positive financial trend will continue throughout the fiscal year. Following the administrative report, the council acted on four consent agenda items. Items addressed included approval of the December 18, 2025, regular City Council meeting minutes; approval of the City of Seymour accounts payable bills for the month of December 2025; approval of the quarterly investment report; and approval of Resolution 1599, establishing a Tree Planting Committee.

The council then moved into the action items portion of the meeting. Council members discussed and approved a variance request for the property located at 1200 N. Cedar, submitted by Cody Holub adding six additional RV's to his previous permit of 4 RVs bringing his permitted total to ten. The council also received a presentation of TDA Form A1024 regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Section 3 goals and concepts related to Grant Contract CDV23-0141. This presentation is a standard requirement for CDBG-funded projects, and the council approved the item. Consideration was then given to awarding the construction contract for the CDBG TDA 2023 Grant Project #CDV23-0141. The council approved awarding the contract to CACO Technologies Inc. in the amount of \$516,710 for a water line replacement project along McLain Street. The project will be primarily funded through the CDBG grant with the City of Seymour contributing \$25,000.00 to the project. Council members also discussed and took action on the Electric Service Compliance with NEC Standards. The policy establishes electrical service compliance requirements for customer-side meter loops and meter cans, outlines enforcement procedures, inspection requirements, disconnection and reconnection policies, appeals and hardship options, and provides penalties, severability, and an effective date. The council reviewed and took action on the annual Racial Profiling Report presented by Chief Bryce Sawyer, a state-mandated report that must be submitted each year by the Seymour Police Department. Additionally, the council approved Resolution 1598 ordering an election for the Seymour City Council. The final action item involved discussion of a request for funds related to a Water Well Road easement. After consideration, the council voted not to submit payment for the requested funds, noting that the payment was not established within the easement agreement and that responsibility to maintain the road falls to the City of Seymour.

During the closed session, the council entered an executive session pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Local Government Code earlier at 6:00 PM. Item discussed included consultation with legal counsel under Section 551.071 regarding the Special Utility District Baylor Water. No action was taken following the closed session.

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

Seymour **Animal Control Officer** Rick Shumate had an active and productive week responding to animal-related calls and ensuring the safety of residents and animals throughout the city. During the week, Officer Shumate picked up a total of six dogs found roaming within the city. All six dogs were successfully returned to their owners, helping reunite pets with families and reduce time spent in the shelter system. In addition to dog-related calls, Officer Shumate responded to a variety of other animal control situations. His work included the removal of one deceased cat, the removal of four cats, three raccoons, one opossum, and two skunks from residential and public areas. These efforts helped address potential health and safety concerns while maintaining sanitary conditions for the community.

Officer Shumate also handled ten animal-related service calls from residents, assisting with reports ranging from stray animals to nuisance wildlife. One serious incident involved a pit bull that bit a subject. The dog was safely secured and placed under quarantine in accordance with state and local regulations to ensure public safety. City officials noted that animal control plays a critical role in protecting both residents and animals, and Officer Shumate's responsiveness and professionalism continue to support Seymour's quality of life.

The **Seymour Street Department**, under the supervision of Ronnie Kolacek, had a productive and successful week focused on property cleanup, service responsiveness, and interdepartmental support. This week, the department began cleanup efforts on another dilapidated property located on West McLain Street. Work included cutting down and removing multiple trees, as well as collecting and disposing of metal pins and debris from the backyard. These efforts contribute to improved safety, aesthetics, and overall neighborhood conditions. In addition, the department completed a cleanup project on North Tackitt Street, further addressing property maintenance and community appearance concerns. Street Department crews also responded to multiple service requests from residents across town, demonstrating continued commitment to timely and effective customer service. To support citywide operations, the department hauled in sand for use by multiple City departments. During the week, Mr. Kolacek assumed oversight of an additional City department, expanding his supervisory responsibilities to include management of the Seymour Golf Course. This transition reflects operational flexibility and leadership support across departments. The department also coordinated the transfer of the City bulldozer to a City-owned property east of town. The equipment was used to push and level mulch that had been removed from City operations, helping maintain the property and manage materials efficiently. Overall, the Seymour Street Department made significant progress on cleanup initiatives, provided essential services to residents, supported other departments, and demonstrated strong leadership and adaptability throughout the week.

The City of Seymour **Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant**, under the supervision of John Davis, had a successful and productive week ensuring the continued delivery of safe and reliable drinking water to the community. Over the past week, the RO Plant produced 4.0 million gallons of treated water, which was distributed to both the City of Seymour and Baylor Water Supply Corporation. This level of production reflects consistent system performance and supports the water needs of the region. Plant operators conducted routine monitoring of chlorine residuals throughout the town to ensure compliance with water quality standards and to protect public health. Staff also tracked the volume of wastewater discharged from the plant, maintaining accurate operational records and regulatory compliance. Daily readings were taken on the primary RO units to monitor system performance and efficiency. In addition, operators performed quality control checks on the raw water and product water instrument panels to verify accuracy and reliability. To maintain precision in operations, all handheld testing devices were calibrated, and operators titrated the antiscalant chemical feed to ensure optimal membrane protection and system longevity. Overall, the Reverse Osmosis Plant continued to operate efficiently and in compliance with regulatory requirements, providing high-quality water service to Seymour and its customers.

The Seymour **Electric Department** completed a wide range of maintenance, safety, and service-related projects this week under the supervision of Electric Department Supervisor John Joyce. Department crews conducted weekly vehicle maintenance checks to ensure all electric department vehicles remain safe and reliable for daily operations. In addition, staff completed weekly readings of reclosers, an important task that helps monitor system performance and maintain reliable electric service across the city. Electric personnel also responded to locate requests throughout the week, assisting with underground utility identification to support safe excavation and protect critical electrical infrastructure. Routine vehicle maintenance continued with oil changes completed on vehicles numbered 20 and 80. Crews coordinated with Tri-County Electric by disconnecting power at a location on Highway 422 to support outside utility work. Additional disconnections were completed on North Odem Street as part of scheduled system work, ensuring safety for crews and residents. Operational improvements were also made at the department's facility. Staff cleaned and organized the shop and constructed a lean-to to better protect department vehicles from the elements, extending vehicle life and improving readiness. Infrastructure repairs included fixing a pole top on East Bennett Street, restoring proper function and safety to that portion of the electrical system. The department also replaced the winch on vehicle 20, improving equipment reliability for field operations. City officials noted that the Electric Department's consistent maintenance efforts and responsiveness help ensure safe, dependable electric service for the Seymour community.

The **Seymour Police Department**, under the supervision of Chief Bryce Sawyer, had a productive and successful week focused on public safety, enforcement, and community service. During the week, officers made one arrest for possession of a controlled substance and one arrest for unlawful carrying of a weapon, reflecting continued enforcement of state and local laws. Officers also made one arrest for unlawful use of a motor vehicle, removing a threat to public safety and protecting property within the community. Department personnel successfully located a juvenile runaway, reuniting the individual with appropriate guardians and ensuring the safety and well-being of the minor. In addition to enforcement activities, officers conducted traffic enforcement throughout the city, addressing speeding and other traffic violations to promote safer roadways for residents and visitors. Officers also mediated several civil matters, assisting residents in resolving disputes and maintaining peace within the community without the need for further legal action. Overall, the Seymour Police Department continued to demonstrate professionalism, responsiveness, and a commitment to serving and protecting the citizens of Seymour.

The City of Seymour **Water Department** completed several important projects this week under the direct supervision of Water Department Supervisor Chase Hoyt, focusing on system maintenance, reliability, and operational efficiency. Department staff performed utility locates for SPS, helping ensure safe work practices and protecting underground infrastructure during outside utility activity. Crews also repaired a sewer line on Nevada Street, restoring proper service and preventing further issues in the area. To better respond to major water leaks, the department purchased a new trash pump from Robertson Electric. The new equipment will improve the department's ability to handle large-volume leaks more efficiently, reducing downtime and potential water loss. Internal organization was also a priority this week, with staff organizing the water department shop to improve workflow, equipment access, and overall efficiency. Crews further addressed sewer system maintenance by rodding the sewer main on Holman Street, helping prevent blockages and future service disruptions. In addition, department personnel troubleshooted and verified the raw water meter communication wire at the reverse osmosis (RO) plant. Ensuring accurate meter communication is critical for monitoring water usage, system performance, and regulatory compliance. City officials noted that the week's accomplishments reflect the department's continued commitment to maintaining critical infrastructure and providing reliable water and sewer services to the community.



Pictured above, Seymour Police Chief Bryce Sawyer presents the department's annual Racial Profiling Report to the City Council. The report is a state-mandated requirement that documents traffic stops, searches, and related law enforcement activity to ensure compliance with Texas law. Its purpose is to promote transparency, accountability, and public trust by confirming that policing practices are conducted fairly and without bias.