

Weekly Beat

February 20th, 2026

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IN THIS ISSUE

News from the City

February City
Council Meeting

Department
Services and
Progress

City of Seymour Upcoming Events

By Jeffrey L. Brasher, Ed.D.

- March 13th, 2026 Spring Break City Holiday
- March 19th, 2026 City Council Meeting at City Hall. 7:00 PM
- April 17th, 2026 City Council Meeting at City Hall at 7:00 PM
- First Thursdays Bingo at Portwood Pavillion 6:00 PM

City Council Focuses on Growth, Efficiency, and Community Well-Being

The Seymour City Council met in regular session on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Seymour City Hall, following an Executive Session that began at 6:00 p.m. The Executive Session was closed to the public and held in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Council convened under §551.072 to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property, and under §551.071 to consult with the City's attorneys regarding litigation involving Baylor Water and related real estate matters. In open session, the Council authorized the City Administrator to move forward with the purchase of real property for economic development purposes in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Mayor Mark McCord called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. At the outset of the meeting, City Administrator Dr. Jeff Brasher, on behalf of the Mayor and City Council, recognized department supervisors for their exceptional service during the recent winter storm. Supervisors Chase Hoyt, John Joyce, John Davis, Ronnie Kolacek, and Chief Bryce Sawyer and their departments were commended for their leadership, responsiveness, and dedication to maintaining essential city services during severe weather conditions. Their coordinated efforts ensured that utilities, public safety, and critical infrastructure remained operational for the citizens of Seymour.

The Council also recognized City Secretary Lauren Bush for her extraordinary work in completing the bank reconciliations necessary for the City's 2025 audit. Her initiative and diligence enabled the City to meet the state's audit preparation timeline, an important milestone given the stricter statutory deadlines now imposed on municipalities. This accomplishment represents a significant step forward in strengthening the City's financial accountability and long-term fiscal stability.

Following the recognitions, Dr. Brasher provided an administrative update regarding personnel matters and operations at the Salt Fork Golf Course. The City remains in the process of hiring additional staff to support ongoing municipal operations as Mrs. Hons nears retirement and ensure continuity of services. Recruitment efforts are focused on maintaining high-quality service delivery while positioning departments for long-term efficiency and growth. The update on the Salt Fork Golf Course focused on the City's ongoing efforts to rehabilitate the automated sprinkler system by Sean Weiser and Shawn Sanchez, and restructured clubhouse operations to maximize efficiency and improve the overall quality of service provided to golf members. These targeted improvements are designed to enhance course conditions, streamline daily operations, and ensure a more reliable and enjoyable experience for patrons. City leadership emphasized that these initiatives reflect a broader commitment to strengthening recreational infrastructure, improving amenities, and elevating the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. The City Administrator's report also noted that the City of Seymour fiscal operations are yielding a net gain through the month of January, reflecting stable financial performance and disciplined budget management. Additionally, the City is making steady progress in addressing dilapidated properties, with ongoing abatements aimed at improving neighborhood safety, appearance, and overall community quality of life.

Following the City Administrator's report, the Council moved to consider items listed on the Consent Agenda. Consent Agenda items are routine matters that are considered collectively and approved with a single motion unless a councilmember requests that an item be discussed separately. This process allows the Council to efficiently manage standard administrative business while maintaining transparency and oversight. The Council first approved the minutes from the January 15, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting, ensuring an accurate official record of the City's prior proceedings and actions. Maintaining detailed and approved minutes is an essential component of open government and provides the public with a clear historical account of Council deliberations and decisions. Next, the Council approved the City's Accounts Payable bills for the month of January. This action authorizes payment of the City's routine operational expenses, including utilities, contractual services, and departmental expenditures necessary to maintain municipal operations. Regular approval of accounts payable demonstrates the City's continued commitment to fiscal responsibility and timely payment of obligations. The Council also approved the OCSC Model Resolution. Adoption of this resolution supports standardized procedures and cooperative initiatives that assist the City in maintaining compliance with applicable state and organizational best practices. Such resolutions help ensure the City remains aligned with current governance standards and program requirements. Finally, the Council approved a resolution assigning Mayor Mark McCord to serve on the local appraisal district board. This appointment is important in ensuring the City of Seymour maintains representation in property appraisal matters that directly affect local tax valuations and revenue projections. Having a designated representative allows the City to stay informed on appraisal policies and advocate for fair and accurate property valuations within the district.

The Council then moved to consider several Action Items addressing community development, infrastructure planning, governance, and financial stewardship. First, the Council approved a resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Texas Department of Agriculture for the 2026 TxCDBG Downtown Revitalization Program. This action allows the City to formally pursue grant funding aimed at improving downtown infrastructure and revitalization efforts. Approval of the resolution does not obligate the City financially but positions Seymour to compete for state resources that could significantly enhance downtown improvements if awarded. Next, the Council approved allowing staff to go out for bids for a new vacuum trailer to support both the Electric and Water Departments. The vac trailer would be used primarily by the Electric Department for pole replacement operations, while also serving as a backup for the Water Department in the event of mechanical issues with their aging equipment. By authorizing the bid process, the Council retains final approval authority at a future meeting after reviewing submitted proposals and costs. (Continue on page 4)

From Streets to Services: Seymour's Weekly Department Highlights

Animal Control Officer Rick Shumate remained actively engaged this week responding to a total of fourteen animal-related calls throughout the community. His work focused on both public safety and animal management, ensuring timely response to concerns raised by residents. During the week, Officer Shumate successfully facilitated the adoption of two dogs, helping place them into permanent homes and reducing shelter capacity needs. He also picked up and removed three skunks and two possums from residential areas, addressing nuisance wildlife concerns and minimizing potential health risks. In addition, two deceased possums were collected and properly disposed of to maintain sanitation and neighborhood safety. Animal control efforts also included picking up eight dogs found at large across the city. Through coordinated efforts and responsible handling, all dogs were either reclaimed or otherwise resolved, and there are currently no dogs housed in the city pound. These outcomes reflect continued diligence in managing stray animals, promoting responsible pet ownership, and maintaining a safe and orderly environment for residents across Seymour, Texas.

The **Street Department**, under the direct leadership of Ronnie Kolacek, continued to demonstrate outstanding dedication to maintaining and improving the community's infrastructure and appearance this week. Crews made significant progress in ongoing cleanup efforts at a dilapidated property on North East Street, further advancing the City's broader initiative to enhance neighborhood aesthetics and safety. In addition to property cleanup, the department proactively treated public spaces by spraying the city park, Sound Garden, and the downtown esplanades to eliminate winter weeds that emerged following recent rainfall. This preventative maintenance helps preserve the appearance of these high-visibility areas while reducing future maintenance needs. The department also focused on equipment reliability by completing important mechanical repairs, including the installation of a new radiator in a city vehicle. Ensuring that equipment remains in safe and dependable operating condition allows crews to respond efficiently to daily work demands and service needs. Street crews further supported transportation infrastructure by repairing a roadway on Whiteside, improving drivability and safety for residents and visitors. Collectively, these efforts reflect the department's strong commitment to public service, operational readiness, and the continued upkeep of community assets.

The **Reverse Osmosis Plant**, under the dedicated oversight of John Davis, delivered outstanding operational performance this week in ensuring a reliable and high-quality water supply for the community. Over the past week, the plant produced approximately 4.0 million gallons of treated water, which was successfully distributed to the City of Seymour, Texas as well as to the Baylor Water Supply Corporation. This level of production reflects both efficient plant management and a strong commitment to maintaining consistent water availability for residents and regional partners. Throughout the week, plant operators carried out rigorous monitoring and quality control measures to ensure optimal treatment performance. These activities included monitoring chlorine residuals across the distribution system, tracking wastewater discharge volumes, and taking daily operational readings on the primary RO units. Staff also titrated chemical feeds to maintain proper treatment balance, conducted quality control checks on both feed water and finished product instrument panels, and calibrated all handheld meters to maintain accuracy in testing and reporting. These proactive measures are critical to sustaining regulatory compliance and safeguarding public health. In addition to routine operations, Murray Energy representatives were on site to install a new distribution meter and make adjustments to the raw water meter that had been installed the previous month. These upgrades will enhance the precision of flow measurement and system monitoring, further strengthening the plant's ability to manage production efficiently and respond to system demands. Collectively, this work demonstrates the high level of professionalism and technical expertise consistently applied at the Reverse Osmosis Plant under Mr. Davis's leadership.

The City of Seymour's **Electric Department**, supervised by John Joyce, continued its routine and infrastructure-focused operations this week to maintain reliability and safety across the community. Crews completed weekly vehicle maintenance checks to ensure all service units remain in proper working condition and conducted regular readings of reclosers to monitor system performance and quickly identify any irregularities in the electrical distribution network. Staff also responded to multiple locate requests to protect underground utilities during ongoing construction and maintenance activities. System upgrades and repairs included converting an open secondary line to tri-plex on North Powers, improving both durability and service reliability for that area. Electric personnel inspected three-phase meters to verify accurate readings and operational integrity, and replaced aging or outdated meters at several locations, including East Ingram Street, the RO Plant, Knox Lane, West Miller Street, West Cora Street, and North Arkansas Street. In addition, crews replaced a utility pole and crossarm on the 200 block of West Custer Street, enhancing structural stability and long-term service dependability. Service was also temporarily disconnected and then safely reconnected on the 500 block of South Washington to facilitate maintenance and ensure compliance with safety standards. Overall, the Electric Department's work reflects the City's continued commitment to proactive maintenance, system modernization, and dependable electric service for residents and businesses throughout Seymour, Texas.

The **Seymour Police Department**, under the leadership of Bryce Sawyer, delivered a strong and proactive week of public safety service to the community. Officers maintained a visible presence through ongoing traffic enforcement efforts aimed at improving roadway safety and reducing violations, while also responding promptly and professionally to a variety of calls for service throughout the city. During the week, officers served a criminal trespass notice and conducted multiple welfare checks to ensure the well-being of residents who required assistance. Routine property checks were performed across the community to deter criminal activity and provide reassurance to property owners. Investigators also continued follow-up work on active cases, demonstrating the department's commitment to thorough and persistent case management. Community engagement remained a priority as officers conducted school visits, fostering positive relationships with students and staff while promoting safety awareness. Additionally, the department provided agency assistance on a felony arrest, reflecting effective coordination with partner law enforcement agencies and a continued commitment to regional public safety.

The **Water Department**, under the supervision of Chase Hoyt, completed several significant operational and infrastructure tasks this week that directly support system reliability and interdepartmental coordination. Water Department crew assisted the Electric Department with pulling utility poles using the vac trailer, demonstrating effective collaboration between departments to safely and efficiently complete field operations. Infrastructure improvements included the replacement of sewer lines on both Morris Street and McLain Street, addressing aging components and helping prevent future service disruptions. At the wastewater treatment plant, staff installed new call-out alarms to enhance monitoring capabilities and ensure quicker response to operational issues, strengthening overall system resiliency. The department also continued construction of a new fenced yard at the water facility. This addition will improve the aesthetics of the surrounding neighborhood, increase security for equipment and materials, and provide expanded storage capacity to better support daily operations and emergency response needs. In addition to field work, Supervisor Hoyt participated in a city leadership meeting and attended a City Council meeting where he was formally recognized for excellence in servant leadership. During the meeting, he also presented information to the council regarding the operational need to consider purchasing an additional vac trailer to ensure uninterrupted service capability during high-demand or emergency situations for the City of Seymour, Texas.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING CONTINUED:

The Council also discussed and approved MyEDO's proposal to conduct a workshop prior to entering into a formal Strategic Plan agreement. The workshop will provide the Council with additional data, analysis, and strategic options related to economic development initiatives, including the potential use of a professional site selector to assist in recruiting new businesses. This step ensures that elected officials are fully informed as they evaluate long-term economic development strategies that could expand the local tax base and create new opportunities for growth. In recognition of housing rights and community inclusivity, the Council approved a proclamation designating April as Fair Housing Month. This proclamation underscores the City's commitment to equal housing opportunities and compliance with fair housing laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or familial status. Observing Fair Housing Month serves as a reminder of the importance of accessible, equitable housing policies that strengthen neighborhoods and promote community stability. The Council also approved Ordinance 2025-03 to cancel the May 2025 General Election due to all candidates being unopposed. Under Texas law, when no opposing candidates file for a municipal election, the governing body may cancel the election and declare the candidates elected to office. This action saves taxpayer resources while maintaining compliance with state election requirements. Finally, the Council considered and approved a bonus recognizing the extraordinary efforts of City Secretary Lauren Bush related to completion of the City's 2025 audit preparation. The Council acknowledged that the work performed went beyond normal job responsibilities and directly contributed to meeting critical state deadlines and strengthening the City's financial standing. This recognition reflects the Council's appreciation for employees who go above and beyond in service to the community and the organization as a whole. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM. `



City Council Members, from left to right—Nancy Townley, Billy Henricks, Mark McCord, and Lan Winn—review and deliberate on municipal matters during the Thursday evening City Council meeting.