

THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, THE 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2025, AT LEVELLAND CITY HALL, R. O. DENNIS COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1709 AVENUE H, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Breann Buxkemper	Honorable Mayor	Present
Michael Stueart	Mayor Pro Tem	Present
Bill Powell	Council Member	Present
Max Ledesma	Council Member	Present
Jaime McCabe	Council Member	Present
Slater Elza	City Attorney	Present
James Fisher	City Manager	Present
José Cavazos	Assistant City Manager	Present
Andréa Corley	City Secretary	Present

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:21pm\* by Mayor Buxkemper.  
(\*The meeting started late because the special meeting beforehand ran long)

The Pledge was led by Mayor Breann Buxkemper.  
The Invocation was led by Mayor Pro Tem Michael Stueart

*Statements by Citizens:*

There were no statements by a citizens.

**FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*Consider and take necessary action to approve the minutes of January 6, 2025, regular meeting.*

Motion by Jaime McCabe  
Seconded by Bill Powell  
To approve the minutes of the January 6, 2025, regular meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

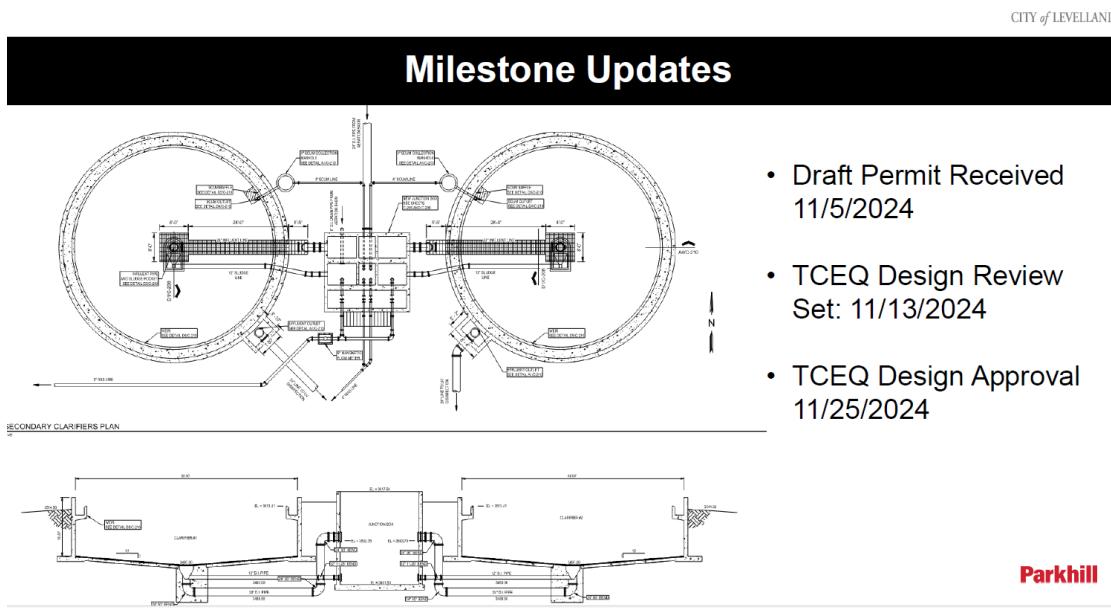
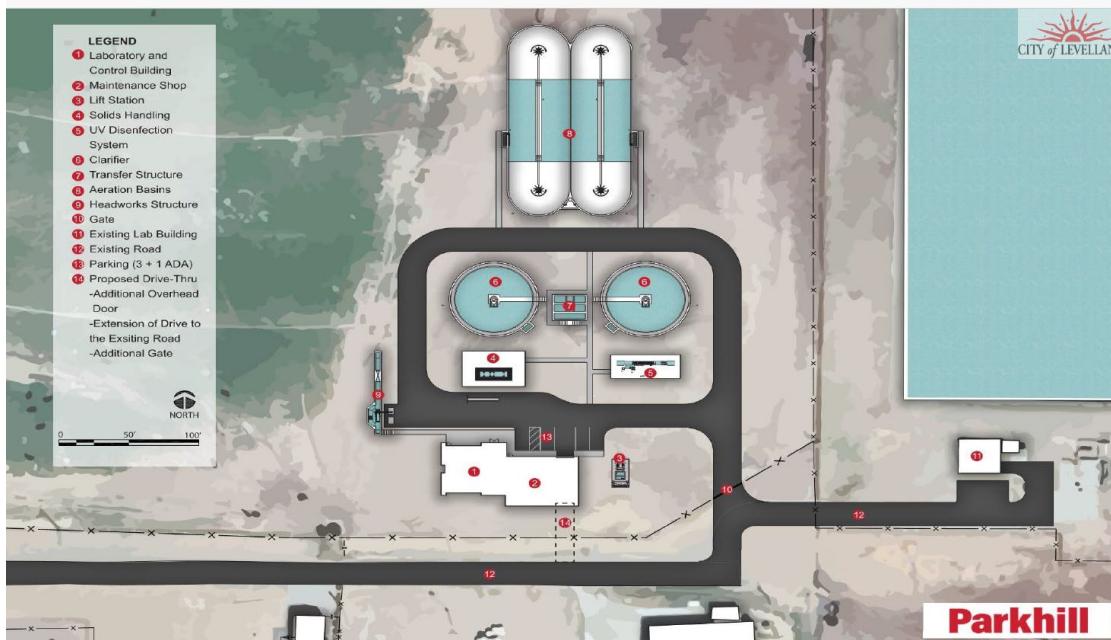
*Consider and take necessary action on the quarterly financial report for the quarter ending on Dec 31, 2024.*

Motion by Bill Powell  
Seconded by Michael Stueart  
To table this item until the next meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.

### THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS:

*Update from Parkhill on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.*

Daniel Albus from Parkhill updated Council on the progress of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project.



## Bidding Schedule

- Advertise for Bids: 1/30/2025
- Open Bids: 3/6/2025
- Present Results to Council: 3/24/2025
- Award and begin Construction: May 2025

**Parkhill**

No Action Taken.

### **FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS: (tabled from last meeting)**

*Consider and take necessary action and issue any necessary order to abate, repair, secure or demolish regarding substandard structure located at:*

- *Subject Property: 116 Walnut, Levelland, TX 79336-Legal Description:  
SHANNON (LEV), BLOCK 19, LOT 2 E/80*

Motion by Michael Stueart

Seconded by Jaime McCabe

To move this item from the table

Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Jaime McCabe

Seconded by Michael Stueart

To accept the timeline for abatement and repair order with staff monitoring

Motion carried unanimously

### **FIFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*Consider and take necessary action on the Professional Services Agreement with Freese and Nichols for a Zoning Ordinance Revision.*

The city's Zoning Regulations are outdated and need to be updated to meet the current and future needs of our community. The city has had home builders ask for flexibility in setback standards and several new businesses have asked about our zoning regulations, especially landscape requirements and traffic impact analysis requirements.

This item was discussed last year, and it was shelved due to timing and funding. Freese Nichols is a solid firm with an exceptional planning department that I believe will help us craft regulations that fit our community, the preferred community of the South Plains.

Motion by Bill Powell

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To approve a Professional Services Agreement with Freese and Nichols for a Zoning Ordinance Revision and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.

Motion carried unanimously

## **SIXTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*Consider and take necessary action to approve a Sourcewell bid for a backhoe for the water department.*

The 2024-2025 Budget adopted by Council includes a new backhoe loader for the Water Department. As you know, the Water Department maintains and operates a variety of heavy equipment within the City. This proposed backhoe loader is one of the key pieces of equipment that helps both Water and Wastewater departments in installing infrastructure, repairing leaks and maintaining roads and alleys. The current backhoe loader is a 2015 Cat with around 2600 hours and has been heavily utilized in the Water and Wastewater Departments for the past 10 years. Staff is recommending the current backhoe be used as a trade-in for this proposed new backhoe loader.

Staff requested Purchasing Cooperative quotes from all the known vendors that sell backhoe loaders similar in specs to the equipment currently in operation. Each Purchasing Cooperative quote obtained was competitively bid prior to receiving the contract. While we are not required to obtain more than one Purchasing Cooperative quote, we consider it a best practice, and obtained a total of three Purchasing Cooperative quotes on similar items.

Accordingly, we have received 3 official Purchasing Cooperative quotes from companies that manufacture the type of backhoe loader we use. Those proposals are attached. When the trade-in of the old backhoe is subtracted from the bid price, all proposals are within the budgeted amount of \$120,000. That said, staff recommends going with the higher bid from Caterpillar in the amount of \$110,985 because of the familiarity and the reliability that Caterpillar has proven throughout the years. Also, the equipment and current attachments are all Caterpillar. Below is an analysis of the bids received.

The Purchase Cooperative bids are summarized below.

Wheel Loader Bid	Price	Trade in	Net Bid
Caterpillar 420XE AE4T	\$160,985.00	\$50,000.00	\$110,985.00
John Deere 310P-Tier	\$145,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$105,000.00
Case 580SN	\$144,860.00	\$45,000.00	\$99,860.00

Motion by Bill Powell

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To authorize the purchase of a Caterpillar Backhoe for the water department.

Motion carried unanimously

#### **SEVENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*Consider and take necessary action to approve a Buyboard bid for a mower for the parks department.*

During the 2024-2025 budget workshop sessions, one 72" deck commercial mower for the Parks Department and two 60" mowers for the Cemetery Department were added to the budget to help keep Park and Cemetery properties in excellent shape and keep the mower fleet from aging out.

#### **TERRY COUNTY TRACTOR BUYBOARD**

ONE 72" KUBOTA Z TURN MOWER- PARKS	\$17,041.72
TWO 60" KUBOTA Z TURN MOWERS- CEMETERY	\$32,523.44

Motion by Michael Stueart

Seconded by Jaime McCabe

To approve the Buyboard quote from Terry County Tractor for one 72" Kubota mower in the amount of \$17,041.72 and two 60" Kubota mowers in the amount of \$32,523.44.

Motion carried unanimously

#### **EIGHTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*Consider and take necessary action on a request from Levelland Fire Department on various public safety expenditures, as per Resolution 2024-40, ARPA Expenditures.*

The following is a list of items requested for the fire department. All of the items will contribute to the safety of the members.

- (10) Motorola APX6000XE Radios at a cost of \$5,079 each for a total of \$57,790  
2 of our radios were lost during the storm in May. We are trying to get those replaced with Motorola APX6000XE through the emergency grant with Texas Forest Service. We would like to upgrade 8 of our current Kenwood radios to match those for the paid staff. The upgrade should last us at least 10 years. The Kenwood we currently have were bought instead of the Motorola because of cost, with the assumption they would be inline with Motorola. They are not. The Kenwood's have issues with reception and transmittal. We have had problems even with line of site of the tower. The Kenwood radios are not reliable, and with our response area of 900 square miles, I worry about the crew being out in a dangerous situation without a way to contact someone. The radios the volunteers have are Motorolas and this will also allow us to be with the same vendor if we have issues
- (20) Motorola Batteries at a cost of \$200 each for a total of \$4,000

Many of the batteries we currently have will no longer hold a charge. This will allow OEM parts keeping the integrity of the radios.

- (2) Radio battery bank chargers at a cost of \$1,000 each for a total of \$2,000  
A bank charger for quick swap of dead to charge batteries. Full charge takes about 3 hours.
- (2) Knoxbox locks for apparatus at a cost of \$1,447.50 each for a total of \$2,895  
Some of our businesses have knoxboxes. This is a lockbox at the building that allows us to make entry after business hours if there is a fire or other emergency. All the lockboxes in the city are keyed to one key that the fire department has access to. We have no way to secure that key. This purchase will allow us to mount 2 of our apparatus with a secure box to house that key, and track who opens that lockbox in case there is an issue with a business. Each member will have their own code to access the key, and no key should ever be accessed without reason. There will be a recurring \$548.00 charge for the KnoxConnect Cloud License.
- (10) Thermal imaging SCBA masks at a cost of \$2,000 each for a total of \$20,000  
We are looking at thermal imagers. They make them installed for the SCBAs that we use. The benefit of having a mask is it is not bulky, it keeps our hands free to do other things, and when we are using it, everywhere we look, we can see heat, elevated heat, fire extension and seat of the fire. It also helps when searching for victims in blacked out conditions. This is a proactive safety solution for us.
- (2) Handheld thermal imagers at a cost of \$4,000 each for a total of \$8,000  
The thermal imagers on our apparatus are end of life due to unavailability of batteries. These do not go into a fire themselves, these are ones that we will do size-up, check for extension after the fire, and can see heat signatures on car crashes if we are unsure if all people are accounted for. These have also been used to help the police if they are looking for someone.
- (30) Safety vests at a cost of \$60 each for a total of \$1,800  
We are required to have safety vests on when working vehicle accidents. I would like to put vests on the apparatus, so they are available no matter what apparatus we take.

- Rope Rescue equipment \$6,500

We are the regional rescue team and our gear is outdated. There is a life span on all life safety equipment and ours has reached end of life.

- (11) 5" supply hose at a cost of \$770 each for a total of \$8,470

We lost 6 sections of hose in 2023 and 5 sections of hose in 2024 during hose testing. We need to replace those and get them back on Engines.

- (500) color rings for hydrants at a cost of \$7.25 each for a total of \$3,625

Our hydrants are supposed to be color coded according to the GPM flow of the hydrant. This allows us, along with mutual aid, to know how much water they can get from each hydrant. Our hydrants are painted red and black (GO LOBOS!) and the rings will allow us to keep the color scheme but still mark the hydrants. They are also light reflective, allowing faster identification at night. With the rings, we will not have to repaint bonnets when they get dull either saving money on paint.

Total cost for all items \$115,080

Motion by Jaime McCabe

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To approve a request from Levelland Fire Department on various public safety expenditures, as per Resolution 2024-40, ARPA Expenditures.

Motion carried unanimously

#### **NINTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1088, an Ordinance Ordering a Special Election on May 3, 2025, to vote on proposed amendments to the Levelland City Charter.*

City Attorney Slater Elza presented the recommendations of the City Charter Review Committee. There are 27 recommended amendments.

Motion by Jaime McCabe

Seconded by Michael Stuest

To approve Ordinance No. 1088, an Ordinance Ordering a Special Election on May 3, 2025, to vote on proposed amendments to the Levelland City Charter on a first reading.

Motion carried unanimously

#### **TENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*City Manager Report: Staff Updates, Project Updates, Staff/Citizen recognition, Items of Community Interest. No action will be taken.*

City Manager James Fisher gave a brief legislative update, made mention of a few staff trainings coming up, runway lights project, water meter project, fire chief interviews and ran down a list of local calendar items.

No Action Taken

**ELEVENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*Convene into executive session in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.074 to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee: (City Manager)*

**TWELFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*Convene into executive session in accordance with Texas Gov't Code §551.072 to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property.*

Mayor Buxkemper convened Council into Executive Session at 7:46pm.  
Mayor Buxkemper returned Council to Open Session at 8:05pm.

**THIRTEENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:**

*Consider and take necessary action relating to items discussed in executive session.*

No Action Taken.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted,

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Andréa Corley, TRMC  
City Secretary

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Breann Buxkemper, Mayor