

THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL MET IN A SPECIAL MEETING ON MONDAY, THE 21st DAY OF APRIL, 2025, AT LEVELLAND CITY HALL, R. O. DENNIS COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1709 AVENUE H, WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

City Council		
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	Absent
James Fisher	City Manager	Absent
Justin Balderas	Interim Asst. City Manager	Present
Andréa Corley	City Secretary	Present

The City Council meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Mayor Buxkemper.
The Pledge was led by Mayor Breann Buxkemper.
The Invocation was led by Council Member Bill Powell

Statements by Citizens:

There were no statements by citizens.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to approve recommendation from Levelland Economic Development Corporation to make a financial commitment to assist with the construction and/or operation of a truck driving school to be developed and operated by South Plains College.

The LEDC has collaborated with SPC throughout my three-year tenure in Levelland and throughout Mr. Rushing's tenure, making our joint efforts on this project span over six years. Initially, SPC requested \$121,000 as a financial match for an EDA grant and the donation of land for a truck driving school. The total project cost started at around \$500,000 (2018-2019) and rose to over \$900,000 (2020-2022).

During a joint meeting with the Council and LEDC reviewing the budget, questions arose about SPC's commitment to the project. After discussions with Dr. Satterwhite and his team, SPC confirmed their intent to maintain and operate the facility if LEDC funded the construction. SPC submitted a proposal on November 18, 2024, estimating construction costs at \$2,150,745 (excluding classroom facilities). The LEDC Board and Council approved \$950,000 within the FY 2024-2025 budget to address the financial gap, resolving SPC's funding challenge.

However, the project required a more comprehensive truck driving school design to include classrooms and certification for truck testing. The updated proposal, received on January 27, 2025, estimated the project at \$3,331,765.98. This created a funding shortfall, so I met again with SPC to explore cost-cutting measures, such as reducing classroom sizes and excluding non-essential items like furniture and laptops. The new budget target was set at or below \$3 million to align with EDA grant funding requirements.

We consulted with the EDA, who stressed that the truck driving school should take priority over the secondary law enforcement training facility. They recommended submitting the grant application by April 2025. On April 7, 2025, I was asked to provide a letter of support confirming \$1.5 million in unencumbered funds. I explained that this required approval from both the Council and the Board.

Meanwhile, SPC had created a revised proposal on March 24, 2025, with a reduced project cost of \$3,020,250.

Motion by Michael Stueart

Seconded by Bill Powell

To authorize the Mayor or City Manager to take necessary action to finalize a financial commitment of the Levelland Economic Development Corporation to assist with the construction and/or operation of a truck driving school to be developed and operated by South Plains College as recommended by the Levelland Economic Development Corporation.

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andréa Corley, TRMC
City Secretary

Breann Buxkemper, Mayor