

THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, THE 15th DAY OF DECEMBER 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	Absent
Matthew Murray	City Attorney	Present
James Fisher	City Manager	Present
Justin Balderas	Asst. City Manager	Present
Andréa Corley	City Secretary	Present

The City Council meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Buxkemper.

The Pledge and Invocation were led by Mayor Breann Buxkemper.

The Invocation was led by City Manager Jame Fisher.

Special Recognition: A check was presented by the Levelland Fire Department to the Inside Out Foundation. This organization assists cancer (specifically breast cancer) patients. The Fire Department sold Breast Cancer Awareness t-shirts and made the donation to this organization in honor of Mayor Breann Buxkemper.

Statements by Citizens:

There were no statements by citizens.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to approve the minutes of December 1, 2025, regular meeting.

Motion by Jaime McCabe

Seconded by Michael Stueart

To approve the minutes of December 1, 2025, regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Section 3 Presentation to the community, Texas Community Development Block Grant Program CDM24-0068.

The City approved an interlocal agreement with SPAG in February 2024 for the preparation of this grant. In August 2024 the city approved an amendment to the interlocal agreement for SPAG to perform the following functions for this grant: Establishment of Record Keeping System, Completion of Environmental Review, Completion of Bid/Contract Award Process, Labor Standards Compliance/Completion of Construction and Filing of all Required Closeout Information at a cost of \$50,000.

SPAG has asked for this presentation to comply with Section 3 of the US Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968. City staff has asked the engineer of record (Parkhill) to review the costs from the Executed Grant Agreement and says the information is still valid.

No Action Taken.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on a payment request from MH Civil Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,582,039.75 for the new 1.8 MGD Wastewater Treatment Plant pursuant to the contract approved between the City and MH Civil Constructors on May 5, 2025.

The city has received payment application #5 from MH Civil Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,582,039.75.

Motion by Michael Stueart

Seconded by Bill Powell

To approve a payment request from MH Civil Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,582,039.75 for the new 1.8 MGD Wastewater Treatment Plant pursuant to the contract approved between the City and MH Civil Constructors on May 5, 2025

Motion carried unanimously.

FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

4. *Consider and take necessary action on City of Levelland board appointments:*

- a. Cemetery Advisory Board
- b. Levelland Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)
- c. Levelland Community Development Corporation (LCDC)

Motion by Michael Stueart

Seconded by Jaime McCabe

To appoint Reese Taylor to the Cemetery Advisory Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jaime McCabe
Seconded by Michael Stueart
To appoint Jody Rose to the Levelland Economic Development Corporation Board
Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Michael Stueart
Seconded by Jaime McCabe
To appoint Jacob Tucker and Kelly Read to the Levelland Community Development Corporation Board
Motion carried unanimously.

FIFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1100, an ordinance repealing and replacing parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Building Code and providing particular local modifications thereto on a second reading.

On 4/25/16 Ordinance 1001 was approved and passed adopting various International Building Codes providing for the minimum standards governing all design, construction, alteration, rehabilitation, enlargement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal and demolition of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected or attached to such buildings or structures within the City of Levelland. Said standards establish minimum requirements providing a reasonable level of safety, health, and general welfare through structural strength, means of egress, stability, sanitation, light, ventilation, energy conservation, and protection from hazards such as fires, explosions, or dangerous conditions. Such standards also provide a reasonable level of safety to emergency responders during emergency operations. The following codes and local modifications are currently adopted by ordinance 1001.

- (1) International Building Code, 2015 edition, International Code Council.
- (2) International Residential Code, 2015 edition, International Code Council.
- (3) International Plumbing Code, 2015 edition, International Code Council.
- (4) International Fuel Gas Code, 2015 edition, International Code Council.
- (5) International Mechanical Code, 2015 edition, International Code Council.
- (6) International Energy Conservation Code, 2009 edition, International Code Council.
- (7) International Property Maintenance Code, 2015 edition, International Code Council.
- (8) Life Safety Code, 2015 edition, National Fire Protection Association, Inc.
- (9) International Fire Code, 2015 edition, International Code Council.
- (10) National Electrical Code, 2014 edition, National Fire Protection Association.
- (11) International Existing Building Code, 2015 edition, International Code Council.

Local Modifications.

- (a) The 2015 International Residential Code is amended in part as follows.[1]

[1]Editor's note-The 2015 IRC amendments are included as an attachment to this chapter.

(b) The 2014 National Electrical Code is amended as follows:

VI. Service Equipment, “Disconnection means,” amend (1) readily accessible location. The service disconnecting means shall be installed at a readily accessible location either outside the building or structure or inside the nearest point of entrance to a maximum of 30 inches horizontal of the service conductor.

The code is hereby further amended to provide: A number 14 conductor that is used as a switch leg shall be protected with a maximum circuit breaker size of 15 amps.

(c) The 2015 International Building Code is amended as follows:

Chapter 24 Fuel gas. Amend section G2414 (403), piping materials.

G2414.5.3 Corrugated stainless-steel tubing and fittings shall not be used to supply fuel gas. No high-pressure gas over 8 ounces will be allowed on any residential fuel gas installation. Gas regulators shall not be installed inside any building or structure.

(Exemptions)

1. An appliance with a factory installed regulator.

2. A gas fixture or appliance that calls for a regulator to be installed per manufacturer guidelines.

(d) The 2015 International Fuel Gas Code is amended as follows:

Section 403 (IFGS) piping materials. Amend 403.5.4 corrugated stainless steel tubing and fittings shall not be used to supply fuel gas.

(e) The 2015 International Mechanical Code is amended as follows: Delete section 1101.10, locking access port caps.

To help address new risks and improve safety standards, construction practices, and due to technological advancements, environmental considerations, evolving risk and research, international building codes are updated to enhance public safety, incorporate new technologies, address environmental concerns, and respond to evolving societal needs. City staff are asking to adopt a more current code cycle, 2021 for the International Building Codes, and the 2020 National Electric Code, along with the city of Lubbock's amendments to said codes.

Council voted for all codes in one vote. The vote is detailed after agenda item #15.

SIXTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1101, an ordinance repealing and replacing parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2020 edition of the National Electrical Code and providing particular local modifications thereto on a second reading.

SEVENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1102, an ordinance repealing and replacing parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Fire Code and providing particular local modifications thereto on a second reading.

EIGHTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1103, an ordinance repealing and replacing parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Residential Code and providing particular local modifications thereto on a second reading.

NINTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1104, an ordinance repealing and replacing parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Energy Conservation Code and providing particular local modifications thereto on a second reading.

TENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1105, an ordinance repealing and replacing parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Plumbing Code and providing particular local modifications thereto on a second reading.

ELEVENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1106, an ordinance repealing and replacing parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Fuel Gas Code and providing particular local modifications thereto on a second reading.

TWELFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1107, an ordinance repealing and replacing parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Mechanical Code and providing particular local modifications thereto on a second reading.

THIRTEENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1108, an ordinance repealing and replacing parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Existing Building Code and providing particular local modifications thereto on a second reading.

FOURTEENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1109, an ordinance amending parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Property Maintenance Code and the 2021 edition of the Life Safety Code on a second reading.

FIFTEENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Ordinance No. 1110, an ordinance amending parts of Article 3.100, Section 3.101 and Section 3.102 of the City's Code of Ordinances amending certain sections by adopting the 2021 edition of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code and providing local modifications thereto on a second reading.

Motion by Michael Stueart

Seconded by Bill Powell

To Ordinances 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, and 1110 on a second reading.

Motion carried unanimously.

SIXTEENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Discussion of the Fire Department Salary Survey.

Levelland Fire and City Staff have been working together to develop a new compensation plan for paid and volunteer personnel. The plan also restructures the command staff and provides for future growth opportunities.

No Action Taken

SEVENTEENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Discussion regarding the Type A Levelland Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) and Type B Levelland Community Development Corporation (LCDC).

City Management will continue to keep this item on the agenda while Council discusses the potential for an election to combine the Type 4A and Type 4B Corporations.

No Action Taken

EIGHTEENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

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

- Fire Department roof repairs will begin January 7, 2026; depending on weather.
- The city received a refund of approximately \$20,000, for excess cost during closing of the \$3,030,000 Certificate of Obligation Series 2025A and 2025B.
- The city received a rebate of approximately \$3200 from BuyBoard, the local government purchasing cooperative.
- City offices will be closed next week December 24 – 26, 2025. Emergency personnel and on-call personnel will be available as needed.
- City offices will be closed January 1 and 2, 2026. Emergency personnel and on-call personnel will be available as needed.
- Next City Council Meeting is Monday, January 5, 2026.
- Centennial Committee is hard at work. The next meeting is January 12th.
- Special City Council Meeting with Planning and Zoning Commission is Tuesday, January 13th at 6 pm to go over Modules 2 and 3.
- Property Tax Proposals are emerging from the Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Both have unveiled their respective property tax plans for the 2027 legislative session. In a campaign announcement in November, Governor Abbott proposed a sweeping overhaul of the property tax system that includes eliminating school property taxes for homeowners. Other key city-related components of the governor's plan include:
 - 1. Capping local spending growth to the lesser of population plus inflation or 3.5%;
 - 2. Requiring two-thirds voter approval on all local property tax increases;
 - 3. Allowing a petition signed by 15% of registered voters to trigger a rollback election to lower tax rates;
 - 4. Requiring all properties to be appraised once every five years instead of annually; and
 - 5. Lowering the homestead appraisal cap from ten percent to three percent and extending the cap to all properties;
- Lt. Governor Patrick presented an alternative plan that builds on previous legislative efforts, including last session's increase to the homestead exemption. His proposal includes:
 - Lowering the senior homestead exemption eligibility age from 65 to 55, called "Operation Double Nickel";
 - 2. Increasing the homestead exemption on school district property taxes another \$40,000 (the current school property tax homestead exemption, approved by voters in November, is \$140,000); and
 - 3. Imposing limits on local government tax increases while still allowing for reasonable growth for cities, counties, and special districts.
 - These property tax revision plans will have a significant impact on our General Fund revenue and our ability to make the best decisions for our community.

- The Texas Attorney General has requested audit compliance information from the city in regard to the recently passed SB 1851.

NINETEENTH 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.

TWENTIETH 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

TWENTY-FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Convene into executive session in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code §551.071 to seek the advice about pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offers or on matters in which duty of the attorney under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas conflicts with Tex. Gov't Code Ch. 551.

Mayor Buxkemper convened Council into Executive Session at 6:57pm.

Mayor Buxkemper returned Council to Open Session at 7:41pm.

TWENTY-SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS:

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

Motion by Michael Stueart

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To give the Mayor the authority to sign all documents to accept donated real property at 702 Houston St.

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Andréa Corley, TRMC
City Secretary

Breann Buxkemper, Mayor