

THE LEVELLAND CITY COUNCIL MET IN A REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, THE 19th DAY OF JANUARY 2026, 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 |
| Matthew Murray | City Attorney | Absent |
| 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 Mayor Pro Tem Michael Stueart

Special Recognition:

The Levelland Fire Department conducted a badge-pinning ceremony for Firefighter Tyler Duffey, Lt. Jacob Madewell and Lt. Jeff Pharis.

The Levelland Police Department conducted a badge-pinning ceremony for Detective Katelyn Miranda

Statements by Citizens:

There were no statements by citizens.

FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Hold a Public Hearing regarding a possible election to combine the current Type 4-A (Levelland Economic Development Corporation) and Type 4-B (Levelland Community Development Corporation) corporations.

Mayor Buxkemper opened the Public Hearing at 6:33pm.

Two citizens spoke against the election.

Mayor Buxkemper closed the Public Hearing at 6:45pm.

SECOND ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action to approve the minutes of January 5, 2026, regular meeting and the January 13, 2026 Special Joint Meeting.

Motion by Michael Stueart
Seconded by Jaime McCabe
To approve the minutes of January 5, 2026, regular meeting and the January 13, 2026 Special Joint Meeting.
Motion carried unanimously.

THIRD ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on Resolution 2026-01 to order and establish procedure for the May 2, 2026, City of Levelland General Election.

The City of Levelland general election date will be Saturday, May 2, 2026.

Resolution No. 2026-01 calls for a General Election for the election for council members from District A and District C.

The resolution addresses the filing dates for the candidates, early voting, designated polling place, dates and times.

NOTE: Calling for this general municipal election is separate from calling for a special election. In the event you wish to call for a special election, that will be a similar, but separate, resolution at a different time between now and February 13, 2026.

Motion by Michael Stueart
Seconded by Bill Powell
To approve Resolution 2026-01 to order and establish procedure for the May 2, 2026, City of Levelland General Election.
Motion carried unanimously.

FOURTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary on an ordinance repealing the Construction Advisory & Appeals Board.

During the board appointment process at the beginning of 2025, Council asked staff to prepare the proper ordinance to abolish the Construction Advisory & Appeals Board. The last time that board met was more than five years ago.

Motion by Jaime McCabe
Seconded by Bill Powell
To approve Ordinance 1111 repealing the Construction Advisory & Appeals Board.
Motion carried unanimously.

FIFTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary on a donation of fire equipment to the Texas Forest Service Helping Hands Program.

The City of Levelland Fire Department is requesting to donate air packs and bottles to the Texas Forest Service Helping Hands Program. This will allow the air packs and bottles to the Whiteface, Ropes and Sundown Volunteer Fire Departments. Paid departments are regulated by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection and are held to NFPA standards that regulate when things such as bunkers and SCBA's are to be retired. Volunteers are regulated by State Firemen and Fire Marshal's Association which does not hold things to those standards. Levelland makes sure that there is no differentiation between paid and volunteers and hold all members at this department to the higher standards.

Motion by Bill Powell

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To approve a donation of fire equipment to the Texas Forest Service Helping Hands Program.

Motion carried unanimously.

SIXTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on the Quarterly Financial Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2025.

Cash/Bank Account

- Total interest earned totaled to \$7,848.54.
- Ameresco payments (water meter project)
 - o \$359,792.74
 - o \$279,024.55
- MH Civil payments (waste water treatment plant)
 - o \$502,444.93
 - o \$982,904.31
 - o \$1,582,039.75
- TML Risk Pool payment \$508,358.34
- Received property tax payments that totaled to \$2,168,142.25
- Received investment withdrawals that totaled to \$5,265,247.96

Investments

- Total interest earned was \$453,869.49. Detailed breakdown included.
- Withdrawals
 - o \$600,000 from Water Meter Project Bond account
 - o \$1,190,320.53 from ARPA account
 - o \$1,474,927.43 from Water Meter Project Bond account

- o \$2,000,000 from Wastewater Treatment Plant Bond account

Revenues

- General Fund: YTD revenue was \$3,532,857.65. This is 32.00% of the \$11,039,423.00 projected budget amount.
- Cemetery Fund: YTD revenue was \$152,287.71. This is 40.48% of the \$376,171.00 projected budget amount.
- Enterprise Fund: YTD revenue was \$1,881,968.11. This is 25.97% of the \$7,246,411.00 projected amount.

Sales Tax

Year-to-date sales tax collections numbers are below.

| Year | Oct | Nov | Dec | |
|------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 2025 | 414,419.05 | 504,529.35 | 431,853.29 | 7.74% Increase |
| 2024 | 411,641.60 | 421,443.22 | 420,700.49 | |

Motion by Bill Powell

Seconded by Michael Stueart

To the Quarterly Financial Report for the quarter ending December 31, 2025.

Motion carried unanimously.

SEVENTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on the construction bids received for the Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program CDM24-0068 for pedestrian and street improvements in the downtown district.

The City approved an interlocal agreement with the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) in February 2024 for the preparation of this grant. The grant was received in the amount of \$500,000 for Pedestrian and street improvements in the downtown areas. The city's grant match is 10% or \$50,000.

SPAG opened bids on Wednesday, January 8th and two bids were submitted for the project with the low bid at \$530,000.00 from AAJ Concrete and the high bid at \$990,153.00 from West Construction. The current TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture) budget allotment

for construction activities (including the city's match injection) is \$430,000.00, meaning the lowest bid is \$100,000.000 over budget.

The city has three options to consider: 1) accept the low bid and find an additional \$100,000; 2) re-bid the project with additive and deductive alternates, this will mean that the city will be out of compliance with the grant timeline and will miss the award deadline for the construction contract; or 3) reject all bids, cancel our contract with SPAG and do not proceed with the project. Option 1 creates a financial hardship for the city. Option 2 and 3 have the potential of creating a "black eye" for the city and therefore, we may become ineligible for TDA or CDBG grants for a couple of years.

The city has many projects that it will need to consider regarding implementation and funding. These improvements downtown are necessary, but I do not believe that they are a priority item at this time.

Motion by Bill Powell

Seconded by Max Ledesma

To reject on the construction bids received for the Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program CDM24-0068 for pedestrian and street improvements in the downtown district and cancel the related interlocal agreement with SPAG.

Motion carried unanimously.

EIGHTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Consider and take necessary action on a request for payment of \$198,600 for the Levelland Municipal/Hockley County airport lighting project, TxDOT Project # 2505LVND and authorize the Mayor and/or City Manager to execute the necessary documents.

The City of Levelland and Hockley County jointly own and operate a public use airport known as the Levelland Municipal/Hockley County Airport that is classified as a General Business Airport by the Federal Aviation Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation. The City intends to make certain improvements to the Levelland Municipal/Hockley County Airport described as: 1) Install Medium Intensity Runway Lights (MIRL) at Runways 17/35, 2) Install electrical vault, 3) Install Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI-2) on Runway 35, 4) Replace Airfield Signs at Runways 17/35, and 5) Replace Mandatory Airfield Signs on Runways 8/26 at the Levelland Municipal/Hockley County Airport (the "Levelland Airport Lighting Project").

The total construction project cost is estimated to be \$1,986,600 and the City of Levelland/Hockley County will be responsible for ten percent (10%) of the total project costs currently estimated to be \$198,600. The city and county approved Resolutions in December 2023 authorizing this project and the 10% funding cost to come the airport oil royalty's account.

Motion by Jaime McCabe
Seconded by Max Ledesma

To reject on the construction bids received for the Texas Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program CDM24-0068 for pedestrian and street improvements in the downtown district and cancel the related interlocal agreement with SPAG.

Motion carried unanimously.

NINTH ITEM OF BUSINESS:

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

TENTH 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 7:31pm.
Mayor Buxkemper returned Council to Open Session at 8:16pm.

TWENTY-SECOND 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 8:16pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Andréa Corley, TRMC
City Secretary

Breann Buxkemper, Mayor