Jean Birmingham Council Chambers, City Hall
401 South Alamo
Marshall, TX 75670
903-935-4421

City of MARSHALL TEXAS

Members
Amy Ware, District 4 - Mayor
Risa Jordan-Anderson, District 1
Leo Morris, District 2
Dathaniel Campbell, District 3
Reba Godfrey, District 5
Amanda Abraham, District 6
Micah Fenton, District 7

MINUTES
PLEASE SILENCE ALL DEVICES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 14, 2025
6:00 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Amy Ware called the Regular meeting to order in the Council Chambers, City Hall at 06:00 PM.

PRESENT:

Mayor and Council Members:
Mayor Amy Ware
Councilmember Leo Morris
Councilmember Reba Godfrey
Councilmember Amanda Abraham
Councilmember Micah Fenton
Councilmember Dathaniel Campbell
Councilmember Risa Jordan-Anderson

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:
Melissa Vossmer, City Manager
Scott Rectenwald, City Attorney
Christol Hall, HR/Civil Service Director
Kristina Hamilton, Interim Finance Director
Randy Pritchard, Support Services Director
Deck Shaver, Interim Public Works Director
Reggie Cooper, Planning & Development Director
Cliff Carruth, Police Chief
Nikki Smith, City Secretary
David Rainwater, Fire Chief

2. Invocation and Pledges

Mayor Ware

3. Presentations & Proclamations

A. Presentation of the Employee of the Month - July. (Employee Engagement Committee)
Lacy Burson, Employee Engagement Committee, presented the Employee of the Month for July 2025, Tami Henderson, Community Development Department. The sponsor of the month is Lewis Engineering.

B. Presentation of the Employee of the Month - August. (Employee Engagement Committee)

Christol Hall, Employee Engagement Committee, presented the Employee of the Month for August 2025, Justin Serna, Animal Control, Police Department. The sponsor of the month is Trinity Episcopal Church. Justin Serna spoke of stepping into the role and the changes he has seen made possible because of the staff. Justin Serna praised the staff's work ethic and accomplishments and provided information on the improvements made at the Marshall Adoption Center.

4. Citizen Comments

Texas Government Code, Sec. 551.007 requires that a governmental body must allow each member of the public who desires to address the body regarding an item on the agenda the opportunity to do so before or during the body's consideration of the item. The “Citizens Comments” portion of the meeting meets the requirements of this law and is the public’s opportunity to speak on any item on the agenda. Those who wish to speak are requested to fill out a public comment form and will have three (3) minutes to speak unless additional time has been requested.

Vernia Calhoun, 508 University, President of the Newtown Neighborhood Association, thanked the Council for placing this item on the agenda and staff for working to address the issue. Vernia Calhoun asked neighbors to respect each other and for everyone to work together for a cleaner city.

5. Items to be Withdrawn From Consent Agenda

There were no items withdrawn from the Consent Agenda.

6. Consent Agenda

The items on the Consent Agenda require little or no deliberation by the Council. Approval of the Consent Agenda authorizes the City Manager or his designee to proceed with conclusion of each in accordance with staff recommendations, a copy of which is filed with the minutes of the meeting. A Councilmember may remove items from the Consent Agenda by making such request prior to a motion and vote on the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Fenton made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Abraham seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

A. Consider approval of the minutes from the July 24, 2025, Regular Council meeting. (City Secretary)

7. Consideration of Items Withdrawn From the Consent Agenda

There were no items withdrawn from the Consent Agenda.

8. Ordinance

A. **O-25-16** Consider approval of an ordinance amending ordinance O-25-03 updating/modifying the position of City Secretary. (City Secretary)

Nikki Smith, City Secretary, stated this item is on the agenda to correct the original ordinance by removing repetitious wording in Section 4.

Councilmember Fenton made a motion to approve O-25-16, an ordinance

amending ordinance O-25-03 updating/modifying the position of City Secretary. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

9. Resolution

A. **R-25-12** Consider and act on a resolution directing publication of notice of intention to issue combination tax and revenue certificates of obligation. (Finance)

Kristina Hamilton, Interim Finance Director, stated this item will allow the City to move forward with the CIP planning and is the first step in the process of issuing debt. The projects will be reviewed at the Special-Called meeting at 4:15 PM on August 18, 2025.

Kristina Hamilton introduced Michael Martin, Municipal Advisor with Hilltop Securities. Michael Martin stated this notice of intent does not mean that anything has been sold at this point, and is being set at an amount not to exceed $10.175 million. The debt issuance will not increase the tax rate on the I&S side; it would be set for a 20-year term and the interest would be approximately $5.3 million for a total of approximately $15.5 million. Michael Martin stated the sale date of October 9th has been chosen to sell certificates on a competitive basis.

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager, asked Michael Martin to provide a calendar of the steps for the debt issuance, which Michael Martin provided as:
8/14/25 - Notice of Intent
9/11/25 - Notice of Sale
10/9/25 - Sale
10/30/25 - Closing and delivery

Councilmember Abraham asked what the interest amount was, which is estimated to be 4.5%.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked if the pay-off would be in 2050, which was stated it would be 2045. Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked how staff came up with the amount being presented and asked for clarification of what was being funded.

Kristina Hamilton explained the amount was backed into based on the City's capacity to issue debt, which was calculated using the debt that was paid off early and the anticipated tax rate. Kristina Hamilton stated a full project list will be discussed at the Special-Called meeting on August 18, 2025. The language in the resolution being presented is a legal requirement in the process if debt issuance.

Councilmember Abraham stated this issuance is in conjunction with the CIP plan and is done at this time to stay in the timeline of events needed for the debt issuance.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked for an explanation of the items listed in the resolution for possible projects.

Councilmember Abraham explained the items are a broad listing to cover any projects the Council might consider at the August 18th meeting.

Melissa Vossmer stated there is no expectation of decisions to be made at the August

18th meeting, and the list is presented in a way to cover all bases for possible projects.

Councilmember Fenton made a motion to approve R-25-12, a resolution directing publication of notice of intention to issue combination tax and revenue certificates of obligation. Councilmember Abraham seconded the motion, which passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 6, Mayor Ware, Councilmembers Fenton, Abraham, Morris, Campbell and Godfrey
Nays: 1, Councilmember Jordan-Anderson

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked to change her vote.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion for a revote. Councilmember Fenton seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve R-25-12, a resolution directing publication of notice of intention to issue combination tax and revenue certificates of obligation. Councilmember Abraham seconded the motion, which passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 6, Mayor Ware, Councilmember Godfrey, Abraham, Fenton, Morris, and Campbell
Nays: 0
Abstain: 1, Councilmember Jordan-Anderson

Councilmember Godfrey stated the events are not sequential and asked if, in the future, an effort could be made for the items to be presented in a more sequential order.

Melissa Vossmer stated efforts would be made to identify projects and prioritize a list sooner and try to have that information available before the tax rate is prepared.

10. Action Items for City Council Consideration

A. Consider approval of an expenditure not to exceed $270,000 of Marshall Economic Development (MED) funding for a High Demand Job Training Grant. (MED)
Rush Harris, Executive Director of Marshall Economic Development Corporation (MED), stated that MED has been pursuing grants from the Texas Workforce and was successful in obtaining a matching grant of up to $150,000 for funding for a High Demand Job Training program that is aimed at encouraging 9th and 10th grade students to enroll in the program and pursue an education and career in this field. The WEAlign advisory group advised MED to apply for this grant and MED is asking for approval of an expenditure not to exceed $270,000 for this program. Rush Harris stated MED, Marshall ISD and TSTC have all been working together to bring this opportunity to the students at Marshall High School. Awareness needs to be created regarding the need for jobs in this field and this is an effort to set students up for a better future for them and the community.

Mayor Ware stated she is excited about this opportunity and that the construction is complete at the high school.

Rush Harris stated this is an accessible means of getting information out to students and will help break generational poverty for some.

Councilmember Godfrey thanked Rush Harris, MED, Marshall ISD and TSTC for their work on this grant and project.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve an expenditure not to exceed $270,000 of Marshall Economic Development (MED) funding for a High Demand Job Training Grant. Councilmember Abraham seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

B. Reconsideration of the Texas Water Development Board Loan for Lead Service Line Removal. (Public Works)
This item was withdrawn.

C. Consider approval to authorize the Mayor to approve a Sole Source Procurement of Asphalt from Longview Asphalt, Inc. (Public Works)
Deck Shaver, Interim Public Works Director, stated this item is on the agenda to ask for approval to continue using Longview Asphalt in alignment with the City's policy, stating if it is anticipated to spend over $50,000 with a vendor, then Council approval is required.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to approve the authorization of the Mayor to approve a Sole Source Procurement of Asphalt from Longview Asphalt, Inc. Councilmember Fenton seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

D. Consider approval to direct the City Manager to identify and allocate funds needed to cover anticipated costs of $2,060 each for members of the City Council to attend the Texas Municipal League Conference October 27th – 31st. (Council members Jordan-Anderson and Morris)
Melissa Vossmer stated this item was requested by councilmembers. Melissa Vossmer stated the TML conference is very important to attend as we are operating under the same laws, rules and regulations. The 2025 budget was set in 2024, at a low number because it was unknown how many members would want or be able to attend training. The line item only has about $1,700 remaining, and it costs approximately $2,000 for each member to attend. Melissa Vossmer stated she is happy to identify and allocate funds with the Council's approval,

Mayor Ware stated that prices have increased for travel in the past few years, but the Council's training budget had not.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to approve the City Manager to identify and allocate funds needed to cover anticipated costs of $2,060 each for members of the City Council to attend the Texas Municipal League Conference from October 27th – 31st. Councilmember Fenton seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

Melissa Vossmer asked any members wanting to attend the TML Conference to please let staff know, so arrangements can be made.

11. Discussion and Reports for City Council Consideration and Direction

A. Discussion concerning noise violations, block parties, and code compliance. (Councilmembers Jordan-Anderson and Morris)

Cliff Carruth, Police Chief, stated this item was a difficult one to address as there is a need to balance the right to assemble with not infringing on someone else's rights. Cliff Carruth provided call data for the previous 12-month period, including how many arrests were made and tickets written from gatherings with 200 or more people. Cliff Carruth stated a citywide strategy is being worked on to ensure emergency access by creating no parking areas. Cliff Carruth informed the council of key actions to be taken, proposed ordinance changes, and increased enforcement of ordinances that are in place. Each situation is approached in a measured response based on the situation. Cliff Carruth stated the City purchased 11 meters to measure sound to help with enforcement. Increased consequences for violations may need to be implemented. Potential enhancements such as looking at what other cities, including college towns, are doing to address the issue and working with Code Enforcement on litter issues.

Councilmember Abraham asked staff to look at creating or updating ordinances to address noise violation issues, maybe create a permit that must be obtained to have a large gathering that will have noise after 10:00 PM, and not allow individuals to block streets.

Cliff Carruth stated the current ordinances can be fine-tuned. Councilmember Abraham suggested having the homeowner be held responsible for any gatherings at their residence.

Councilmember Campbell stated it would be difficult to restrict loud noise after 10:00 PM.

Councilmember Abraham stated a marketing message could be created to let the public know when enforcement efforts will begin.

Mayor Ware stated efforts to alleviate the problem are needed to reduce those types of calls in order to allow other, high-priority calls to be received and responded to and reminded citizens that businesses and the City have facilities that can be rented for gatherings.

Melissa Vossmer stated this is an ongoing issue and staff would bring back ordinances after review. Melissa Vossmer asked Cliff Carruth to work with other departments. Cliff Carruth stated the parking would be worked on first and then work with the facilities and bring the information back in a month or two.

Councilmember Godfrey asked staff to remain within state law since the curfew ordinance had to be updated not too long ago.

Mayor Ware mentioned the legislative changes currently taking place. Cliff Carruth stated that the staff are following those changes closely.

12. Executive Session

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to convene in Executive Session. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0. The time was 7:13 PM.

A. An Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code under Section 551.074 Personnel – Annual evaluation of City Manager.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to reconvene from the Executive Session. Councilmember Fenton seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0. The time was 8:02 PM.

13. Adjournment

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Abraham seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

APPROVED:

____
Mayor of the City Council
of the City of Marshall, Texas

ATTEST:

N. Smith
____
City Secretary