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

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 28, 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 6:03 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
Nikki Smith, City Secretary
Scott Rectenwald, City Attorney
David Rainwater, Fire Chief
Christol Hall, HR/Civil Service Director
Randy Pritchard, Support Services Director
Deck Shaver, Interim Public Works Director
Reggie Cooper, Planning & Development Director
Alex Agnor, Asst. City Manager/Econ. Dev. & Strat. Init. Director

2. Invocation and Pledges

Mayor Ware

3. Presentations & Proclamations

A. Recognition of the August Yard of the Month winners.
Alex Agnor, Assistant City Manager/EDSI Director, recognized the August 2025 Yard of the Month recipients; residential property Bonnie Hall, who resides on Holmes Road, and the commercial property US Title, located on Travis Street.

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.

Lee Flowers, Harrison Central Appraisal District, provided an update on the new direction and revamping of the appraisal district, and the software conversion, stating the collection software should be live in a few weeks.

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager, stated Lee FLowers has been very helpful with legislative changes and expressed her appreciation of his assistance and asked if the Appraisal District would be open to a discussion regarding a joint effort for mapping.

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

A. Consider approval of the minutes from the August 14, 2025, Regular Council meeting. (City Secretary)

B. Consider approval of amendment(s) to the Personnel Handbook. (Human Resources)

7. Consideration of Items Withdrawn From the Consent Agenda

There were no items withdrawn from the Consent Agenda.

8. Public Hearing & Ordinance

A. **O-25-17** Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 1801 University Ave from R-2 (Single Family Detached) to R-6 (Duplex Triplex Quadraplex) **(P&Z Item ZBA-25-04)**. (Development Services)

Alex Agnor, Assistant City Manager/Economic Development and Strategic Initiatives Director, introduced Mark Priestner, Halff & Associates, who provided information regarding the rezoning of 1801 University from R-2 to R-6 which allows for single-family detached and duplex, triplex & quadraplex. Mark Priestner stated the applicant is planning on one structure and explained how it fits into the comprehensive plan. Mark Priestner stated 42 notices were sent out with two (2) received in support and one (1) in opposition. The Planning and Zoning Commission met on July 14, 2025, which had speakers opposed to the rezoning because of property values. The City can't regulate rental property versus homeownership. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the rezone with a vote of 4:1.

Councilmember Abraham asked about a petition being received. Mark Preistner stated the only protest received was from one property listed in the map.

Mayor Ware opened the Public Hearing.

Sonnie Garbutt, 1800 University Avenue, spoke in opposition to the request, stating it is against the comprehensive plan and asked the Council to deny the request.

Earnest Spencer, 1000 Hugh Street, spoke in opposition to the request, stating he, as a developer, would never try to have a quad placed in the same block as homes.

Mayor Ware closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Godfrey asked if the rezone complies with the Comprehensive Plan 2043, which it was stated it does based on the density of the lot. Questions were asked regarding how a quad is different from what is there now. It was stated it would still allow for detached single-family units but would also include multifamily units, which allow for low to mid-density. Councilmember Godfrey stated the Comprehensive Plan says maintain integrity and this rezone would not do that. Councilmember Godfrey asked about parking, which would be off the street and on their property.

Councilmember Abraham stated a petition was received and has not been verified. Given the Comprehensive Plan stated the new development should respond to existing patterns and the petition has not been verified, she feels the item should be tabled and ask the owner to consider submitting a Plan Development.

Councilmember Campbell asked how many triplex or quadruplex units would be allowed, which is one structure per lot. It could be any one of the types of structures (quadraplex, triplex, duplex or single-family) but not a combination of any two or more.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson stated the integrity of the area no longer exists, the community has gone down over the years, and it's important to rebuild the community.

Mayor Ware asked about the land and the use of lots in the surrounding area, which was stated that some lots were trees and some were unoccupied with an unimproved alley way.

Councilmember Morris asked where the building would be placed on the lot. It was stated the development would have to meet the setbacks, so it could be placed anywhere on the lot as long as it met the required setbacks.

Nikki Smith, City Secretary, stated the petition was received at about 11:00 AM on August 28, 2025. The plan is to verify the petition and bring it back at the next Regular meeting.

Councilmember Godfrey asked Ms. Sonnie Garbutt, what she has done to revitalize, preserve and maintain the integrity. Ms. Sonnie Garbutt stated she renovated her home in 2019, other homes have been renovated, and the neighborhood is working on bringing integrity back up and that homeownership is a focus.

Councilmember Godfrey stated if a structure is demolished, a similar one should be rebuilt.

Councilmember Campbell asked Ms. Sonnie Garbutt if she was aware that only one structure could be placed on the lot, which she was. If the lot was redone, based on average lot size, it would fit about five houses. Councilmember Campbell asked if one structure was built would it change the look of the neighborhood? In order to place multiple structures, a replat would have to be done. Councilmember Campbell asked what the main concern with the rezone was. It is the desire to have houses that have a similar appearance or not have multifamily units.

Councilmember Abraham requested the item be tabled, and the owner be asked to provide a Plan Development.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to table O-25-17, an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 1801 University Ave from R-2 (Single Family Detached) to R-6 (Duplex Triplex Quadraplex). Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

B. **O-25-18** Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 316 Murphey from R-1 (Residential, Single Family Detached) to MF (Multi-Family Residential). **(P&Z Item ZBA-25-05)** (Development Services)
Mark Priestner stated a request was received to rezone 316 Murphey from R-1 to MF, stating 17 notices were sent out with one (1) in opposition. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the request by a vote of 5:0.

Mayor Ware opened the Public Hearing.

No one came forward to speak.

Mayor Ware closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Abraham asked about the developments and uses in the area.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve O-25-18, an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 316 Murphey from R-1 (Residential, Single Family Detached) to MF (Multi-Family Residential). Councilmember Fenton seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

C. **O-25-19** Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 722 TX-390 Loop from A-E (Agriculture and Estate) to C-3 (General Business) for Commercial Truck Parking. **(ZBA-25-06)**. (Development Services)
Mark Priestner stated a request was received to rezone 722 TX-390 Loop from A-E to C-3 for a commercial truck lot. Access to the residential side will not be allowed, and the applicant will be responsible for coordinating a driveway with TxDOT. Twenty-four

(24) notices were sent out with one (1) in opposition. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the request by a vote of 5:0.

Mayor Ware opened the Public Hearing.

No one came forward to speak.

Mayor Ware closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Fenton made a motion to approve O-25-19, an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 722 TX-390 Loop from A-E (Agriculture and Estate) to C-3 (General Business) for Commercial Truck Parking. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

D. **O-25-20** Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 1403 & 1405 Kingfish, 0 & 2311 Ward St (R000007622, R000007623, R000007625 & R000026614) from R-3 (Single Family Detached) to MH (Mobile Home) **(P&Z Item ZBA-25-07)**. (Development Services)

Mark Priestner stated a request was received to rezone 1403 and 1405 Kingfish, and 0 and 2311 Ward Street from R-3 to MH. Twenty-nine (29) notices were sent out with one (1) in support. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the request by a vote of 5:0.

Mayore Ware opened the Public Hearing.

Scott Sanders, 2200 Harleton Road, stated he purchased and cleared the lots and would like to get a mobile home placed on at least one of the lots.

Mayor Ware closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Campbell stated there are four (4) lots and if they are rezoned and the property is transferred to someone else, how many mobile homes can be placed there? Which was determined to be four, one on each lot.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson made a motion to approve O-25-20, an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 1403 & 1405 Kingfish, 0 & 2311 Ward St (R000007622, R000007623, R000007625 & R000026614) from R-3 (Single Family Detached) to MH (Mobile Home). Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

E. **O-25-21** Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 3007 N East End Blvd from A-E (Agriculture & Estate) to C-3 (General Business) for Bark Avenue (Kennel & Grooming). **(ZBA-25-08)** (Development Services)

Mark Priestner stated a request was received to rezone 3007 N East End Blvd from A-E to C-3. The Planning and Zoning Commission approved the request by a vote of 5:0 having sent eleven (11) notices and receiving two (2) in opposition.

Mayor Ware opened the Public Hearing.

No one came forward to speak.

Mayor Ware closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve O-25-21, an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 3007 N East End Blvd from A-E (Agriculture & Estate) to C-3 (General Business) for Bark Avenue (Kennel & Grooming). Councilmember Jordan-Anderson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

Councilmember Fenton stepped away from the dias and was not in the chambers for the vote.

9. Ordinance

A. **O-25-22** Consider approval of an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Marshall, Texas, abandoning, vacating, and closing Maverick Drive from the intersection of Maverick Drive and Johnson Street to the intersection of Maverick Drive and a drainage easement which is particularly depicted in Exhibit A and described in Exhibit B, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes; providing for a severability clause; providing a repeater clause; and providing an effective date. (Administration)
Melissa Vossmer, City Manager, stated she received requests from the Council to close the street and was informed the Marshall Independent School District wants the road. Staff is on board with the closure and approval is being requested from the Council.

Councilmember Abraham stated she thinks this is a great decision since the road stays locked and is not used for through traffic, and it's in the school's best interest to be able to control the street for safety reasons.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson made a motion to approve O-25-22, an ordinance of the City Council of the City of Marshall, Texas, abandoning, vacating, and closing Maverick Drive from the intersection of Maverick Drive and Johnson Street to the intersection of Maverick Drive and a drainage easement. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

10. Resolution

A. **R-25-13** Consider approval of a resolution setting two public hearings to be held on September 11, 2025 and September 25, 2025 on the proposed FY26 Budget. (Finance)
Melsisa Vossmer stated this item is on the agenda as it is past practice of the community to have this item announcing the public hearings ahead of time, and is one more way of supporting the transparency of the process and getting the word out about the public hearings.

Councilmember Fenton made a motion to approve R-25-13, a resolution setting two public hearings to be held on September 11, 2025, and September 25, 2025, on the proposed FY26 Budget. Councilmember Jordan-Anderson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

B. **R-25-14** Tax Rate Discussion and consideration of approval of a resolution announcing the proposed tax rate of $0.581518 per $100 of valuation and scheduling two public hearings on the proposed tax rate and tax increase. (Asst. City Manager)

Alex Agnor provided an overview of the tax rate information regarding the different rates. Alex Agnor stated the FY25 Tax Rate is 0.5790790, the FY26 No New Revenue Rate is .5318953, the FY26 Voter Approval Rate is 0.5815183, and the FY26 Proposed Tax Rate is 0.5815183 in support of the budget. The property tax rate impact is a 0.4% increase, the average homestead tax increased by $51.81, and information regarding the various property tax exemptions was provided. Alex Agnor asked Council to approve the resolution announcing the proposed tax rate of $0.5815183 per $100 valuation and scheduling the two (2) public hearings on the tax rate.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked about the over 65 exemption and tax ceilings, which is not an exemption authorized in Marshall.

Lee Flowers spoke about the exemptions for over 65 and disabled persons. The tax ceiling for over 65 exemption can "freeze" the tax amount on a property, but this option has not been implemented at this time.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked if the property owner would not have to pay taxes, and it was explained that they would have to pay taxes, but the amount paid would be the same every year from the time of the freeze.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked staff to look into how to make the freeze go into effect.

Melissa Vossmer stated she thinks an ordinance would need to be drafted, but staff would research this.

Lee Flowers stated that about one-fourth (1/4) of the population receives the over 65 exemption, so a freeze would lock down about 1/4 of the money. Lee Flowers stated the over 65 exemption qualifiers are also able to get the general homestead exemption.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson requested more information about the freeze option.

Councilmember Abraham asked staff to find out what other cities do regarding the freeze option.

Councilmember Fenton made a motion to approve R-25-14, a resolution announcing the proposed tax rate of $0.581518 per $100 of valuation and scheduling two public hearings on the proposed tax rate and tax increase. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

11. Action Items for City Council Consideration

A. Consider approval of an increase in the Purchase Order amount for the Emergency Procurement of Repairs of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Final Clarifier #1 from the original $713,000 to a final total of $853,638.49 due to unforeseen necessary work. (Public Works)

Deck Shaver, Interim Public Works Director, stated the waste water clarifier had to be reconstructed, and the original quote was $713,000. Additional work was encountered which required additional funds. Deck Shaver asked for the approval of an increase in the purchase order amount to reflect the final amount.

Councilmember Fenton made a motion to approve an increase in the Purchase Order amount for the Emergency Procurement of Repairs of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Final Clarifier #1 from the original $713,000 to a final total of $853,638.49 due to unforeseen necessary work. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

Councilmember Morris stepped away from the dias and was not in the chambers for the vote.

B. Consider approval of the Sanford St. Sanitary Sewer Construction Project Acceptance and Release of Contractor's Retainage. (Public Works)

Deck Shaver stated the Sanford Street Sewer Project is a project that includes sanitary sewer and drainage improvements totaling about 800 feet of sewer pipe, and 300 feet of storm drainage pipe replacement. Deck Shaver requested close the project, accept the project, and release the final payment of $14,300.00 to the contractor.

Mayor Ware verified the cost was $14,331.00, which Deck Shaver stated was correct.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson made a motion to approve the Sanford St. Sanitary Sewer Construction Project Acceptance and Release of Contractor's Retainage. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

C. Consider approval of the Hayes Engineering Inc. Work Order for Professional Services for the FY25 Street Improvement Program. (Public Works)

Deck Shaver asked for approval to authorize the engagement of Stan Hayes for pre-design, design, construction management and inspection for the FY25 Street Improvement Program at a cost of $61,000. The cost of the Street Improvement Program is estimated to be approximately $1.5 million.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the engagement of Hayes Engineering Inc. Work Order for Professional Services for the FY25 Street Improvement Program. Councilmember Abraham seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

D. Discussion and, if appropriate, approval of the City of Marshall FY25 Street Improvements Program. (Public Works)

Melissa Vossmer stated this item is on the agenda to allow for changes to the program, and to take information and requests into action and hope to get directions from Council or that the Council will be comfortable in making a decision.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the City of Marshall FY25 Street Improvements Program. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion.

Councilmember Abraham thanked Stan Hayes for his efforts, work, pictures, and the list.

Councilmember Morris agreed with Councilmember Abraham and stated that for the first time it feels someone has listened, and his constituents would be happy.

The item passed by a vote of 7:0.

Stan Hayes provided information about streets that have asphalt over concrete and showed examples of work done and explained how to improve the conditions of the streets.

Melissa Vossmer stated it is important to note there are different treatments for different streets to get the best fixes at the best price.

Stan Hayes stated Fisher Drive has drainage issues that cause water to not drain off properly, which causes street issues. A possible option for Fisher Drive is to add a valley gutter, and remove some of the curve.

Sanford Street is a mill and overlay type of street with a few issues, but is good for the most part.

Councilmember Godfrey asked why Henry Street was marked a different color and what the red line was for. There is a glitch that marked the Henry Street line a different color that could not be resolved and the red line is when funds have been depleted for the year.

Stan Hayes stated he might be able to fit in a few more streets near the end of the project depending on funds available.

Councilmember Abraham asked about the list for 2026, and if it starts where 2025 ended. Stan Hayes stated the same process will be done and would come back with a list in 2026.

12. Discussion and Reports for City Council Consideration and Direction

A. Schaumburg & Polk Inc. (SPI) Engineering Presentation of Recommended Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Improvements. (Public Works)

Deck Shaver introduced Travis Reed, SPI Engineer, who provided an overview of the collection system, maintaining compliance, and funding opportunities.

A system-wide lift station evaluation was conducted with the following results:

Priority 1 — East End Lift Station — replaced with a gravity sewer line
West End Lift Station — almost complete and online
Priority 2 & 3 — replacing five lift stations with one lift station
Converting two lift stations to one — project has been funded and working in the planning phase, then design and construction phases
CCTV inspections — looking at areas that need replacement
Priority 4 & 5 — Future CIP work on the CIP list

WWTP — condition and compliance issues — in disrepair, city is under administrative

order to repair
The TCEQ violations — compliance deadline of October 31, 2025, will have to get an extension.

Travis Reed stated some work has been completed, but additional work is still needed. Travis Reed provided the WWTP Capital Improvement Plan total of $13,000,000 which addressed the EPA and TCEQ violations.

Travis Reed also provided the overall CIP for the wastewater improvements, which totaled $24,565,000, stating funds are being pursued by researching grant financing and subsidizing.

Melissa Vossmer clarified that this information is regarding the water/waste water study, not the other CIP information.

B. Discussion Concerning the Proposed Rates Beginning in FY26 for Solid Waste\Recycling Collection Services and the Republic Contract. (Finance)

Gene Keenon, Republic Industries, stated this is the first extension of the contract and provided a history of the contract. Republic would like to extend it for five years, and try to do a reset to start a new contract. Asking for a 0.25 cent per week increase on the residential rate, which increases the total to $3.60 per week. Gene Keenon pointed out the partnership benefits the City receives from Republic and stated Housing Demo and Litter Control will be raised from $21,000 to $27,000. Gene Keenon mentioned the sponsored events throughout the year, four citywide clean-ups per year for citizens, term change, and modification of rates from a 3% cap to a 5% cap with a 2% floor.

Councilmember Godfrey asked if the $3.60 per week is what is charged for all services to residents, which was stated is correct. This amount includes the first trash can rental; extra carts have a charge.

Councilmember Abraham asked if recycling was back up, which would start up not this coming week but the next week,

Melissa Vossmer stated the item is on the agenda for Gene Keenin to talk about. We have a good working relationship with Republic and staff worked on getting the best rate for the city. Amending the contract is a positive thing; the rate structure appears to be as good as we can get, the services are superior to other communities, and the rates are in the bottom range for those services. Melissa Vossmer stated we could be doing more at the convenience center, and we are looking at rates for county users. The item is not on the agenda for action, but staff is asking for direction.

Councilmember Godfrey asked if the number of passes could be increased for residents, and it was stated that the city would decide that.

Councilmember Campbell asked what the average rollback was to demolish a house, which is typically 3–5. Councilmember Campbell asked if there was a set price for a rollback for the city and yes, it is in the contract.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson thanked Gene Keenon for all the company does and thanked him for helping with demolishing houses.

Melissa Vossmer stated this item will be brought back on September 11, 2025, for approval.

C. Continued Discussion of the Water / Waste Water Rate Study & Proposed FY26 Budget. (Finance)

Melissa Vossmer introduced Julie Richards, Interim Budget Manager, who reviewed the water and wastewater rate study, and recapped the key takeaways from the NewGen presentation, stating the current rate is not sustainable to maintain or reinvest in the infrastructure. The capital plan consists of over $71 million worth of projects, which exceeds the debt capacity that staff is comfortable evaluating at this point. The maximum scenario being evaluated is $56 million worth of projects. The Council was presented with three scenarios: $56M, $42M, or $28M. Project priorities have been identified, but no scope of work has been designed yet. Julie Richards noted some projects are multiyear projects and emphasized that adopting the rate study does not equate with project authorization. Julie Richards mentioned staff capacity, and the aging infrastructure. The projects were listed in priority order, and Julie Richards stated the scenarios for debt issuance will be phased in and provided information regarding the next steps of the process.

Melissa Vossmer stated that staff capacity was mentioned and, depending on which scenarios we decide on, we have learned we need someone to oversee projects daily. Staff would like to have at least scenario 2, as this gives 2/3 of the program over a five (5) period. Inflation can't be predicted and staff would recommend including an inflationary factor.

Councilmember Campbell asked if the one million set aside for maintenance is enough.

Melissa Vossmer responded stating we are going from a maintenance budget that is far too low, so incorporating a maintenance budget of a million dollars will help the City. In essence, the staff is starting over with a new system in five (5) years as compared to what is in place now, so this will be a more proactive maintenance approach.

Deck Shaver envisions using PayGo for small capital projects, and stated maintenance projects will help to extend the life of operating systems. There are ways to better control systems and to operate safely.

Councilmember Campbell stated if the City had $1 million set aside each year, in 25 years that would only be $25 million. Councilmember Campbell expressed concerns about this amount being sufficient and the plans for growth and not just maintenance.

Mayor Ware stated the city has to start somewhere and, at this point, staff is bringing forth their best guesstimates.

Councilmember Abraham said that any upgrades to systems today would help to expand in the future.

Julie Richards stated the debt issuance is intended to help the city get caught up, and then plans to expand can be made. Julie Richards pointed out that the million doesn't carry over year to year, it is to be used to address any breaks or issues during the year without using funds from the operational budget.

Councilmember Campbell mentioned looking into a budget set back for depreciation and to set something aside to help for the future.

Councilmember Abraham stated we can't do it all at one. Improvements are needed now and once the projects are complete, look into what can be included in the budget to help with future projects.

Melissa Vossmer stated staff will need to identify plans for maintenance, capital and replacement.

Councilmember Campbell mentioned plans need to be highlighted regarding where we are, why we are there and how we plan to keep from getting back into this position.

Julie Richards stated that the staff is focusing on the planning cycle, working with departments to right-size the budget to be able to plan for the future.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson stated if a visionary plan is being created, the renovation of the building at the water plant should be included.

Melissa Vossmer stated staff can add this to the list for consideration and put together a cost estimate.

Councilmember Abraham stated she is leaning to scenario one (1) because she is worried about tariffs and costs going up. We don't need to kick the can down the road anymore.

Melissa Vossmer stated the rate to do everything created some sticker shock, so other options were brought before council.

Councilmember Fenton agreed with scenario one (1).

Councilmember Godfrey confirmed that scenario one (1) would cost an extra $13.82 per month and scenario three (3) would cost an extra $11.55 per month. Scenario one (1) is needed to be able to do something with the aged infrastructure.

Councilmember Fenton stated If there are concerns about the increase, to remember it is comparable to the cost of a combo meal.

Councilmember Campbell stated signs need to be in place to show work being done, so the community sees the effort to reinvest in the infrastructure.

Mayor Ware stated our water system is not unique, some grants have been received and standards have to be met.

Julie Richards stated these conversations are being had in various cities due to aging and neglected infrastructure. Plans are being put in place to lock in rates now and help avoid inflationary costs.

Mayor Ware stated there seems to be a consensus for scenario one (1).

Melissa Vossmer stated she would bring the item back for consideration at the next meeting, and mentioned the rates would be effective January 1, 2026.

Councilmember Godfrey stated we need to make sure the funds do not sit in an account and are used to improve the infrastructure for water.

Councilmember Campbell asked if we could include information on the utility bill to have monthly updates of the work being done, so citizens are informed.

Melissa Vossmer stated an insert can be included with the bill as space for messaging is limited on the bill.

13. Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

____

City Secretary