

**Jean Birmingham Council
Chambers, City Hall**
401 South Alamo
Marshall, TX 75671
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
SPECIAL-CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 25, 2025
4:45 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Amy Ware called the Regular meeting to order in the Council Chambers, City Hall at 04:47 PM.

PRESENT:

Mayor and Council Members:

Mayor Amy Ware
Councilmember Leo Morris
Councilmember Reba Godfrey
Councilmember Amanda Abraham
Councilmember Risa Jordan-Anderson

ABSENT: Councilmember Micah Fenton
Councilmember Dathaniel Campbell

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager	Cliff Carruth, Police Chief
Christol Hall, HR/Civil Service Director	Nikki Smith, City Secretary
Julie Richards, Interim Budget Manager	David Rainwater, Fire Chief
Randy Pritchard, Support Services Director	
Deck Shaver, Interim Public Works Director	
Cheryl Carpenter, Community Engagement	
Reggie Cooper, Planning & Development Director	
Marina Garcia-Heredia, Parks & Recreation Director	
Alex Agnor, Asst. City Manager/Econ. Dev. & Strat. Init. Director	

2. 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.

There were no citizen comments.

3. Discussion and Report for City Council Consideration and Direction

- A. Report on the status of Smith Park. (Councilmembers Godfrey & Morris)
Marina Garcia-Heredia, Parks and Recreation Director, provided information regarding the background and current status of Smith Park. Marina Garcia-Heredia stated \$285,000 was approved, improvements have been delayed with CDBG, and an agreement with Wiley is in the works for Smith Park.

Councilmember Abraham asked about the Smith Park project which was approved on June 27, 2024. The allocated funding had to be addressed as carry-over funding. Some improvements were marked complete, but there were some issues with both the contract and the contractor. The bathroom was not completed, the contractors have not been paid. The invoice was updated to reflect work that was complete.

Melissa Vossmer stated a letter of demand was sent stating the city is not paying until a response is received.

Councilmember Abraham stated council should have already been made aware of any issues.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson stated that she learned about the CDBG requirements and how they could be applied to the project and asked how the \$285,000 was used. City funds were used for playground equipment at a cost of \$104,000, with \$270,000 remaining, separate from CDBG funds.

Councilmember Abraham stated we can't pay the contractor with CDBG funds, and we are just now finding out about the project not being bid correctly.

Melissa Vossmer stated the process must be done correctly to use funds from CDBG or fund with alternative funding sources and move the funds to the streets.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked why it is just now being realized and why the park work has not been completed.

Melissa Vossmer stated that staff did not do the process correctly. Staff has begun to look into the project and are working to fix problems to try to move forward. Staff didn't do what was needed to be done and didn't communicate.

Councilmember Abraham stated she would like to utilize CDBG funds for this project because the CDBG representatives are looking at the use of funds and timelines.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson stated the Wiley project is pending and would like to find out what is going on with them.

Melissa Vossmer stated putting the project on hold allows staff to review and put the bid documents together and to get an update from Wiley.

Councilmember Godfrey stated it's a city park, and spoke regarding the breakdown of money for parks. Councilmember Godfrey asked if we could go ahead and get things

done, since the council gave directions to have a basketball court. It was also stated that an environmental survey needed to be done, and the project rebid using CDBG funds, but an environmental survey was already done, so the bid could be readvertized and, this time, include a contract with itemization.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked what the process for transferring property is and if we could transfer the park property.

Councilmember Abraham stated that it is a city park. Therefore, we can lease the property, but we can't transfer ownership. Councilmember Abraham asked to reevaluate if the \$285,0000 would get all work and improvements planned.

Councilmember Godfrey asked to ensure the basketball court would use whichever is best, asphalt or concrete.

Alex Agnor stated there are enough funds to complete the work planned.

Mayor Ware stated she would like to know about the Wiley project as well but would like to proceed with improvements and whatever City Manager Melissa Vossmer thinks is the best way to fund the project.

Melissa Vossmer stated staff is working on a process for a project management plan to get everything in place.

Councilmember Morris stated he would prefer to keep the park under the city's umbrella and go through the process to rebid.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson agreed, but with respect to Wiley, seeing what they wanted to do.

Councilmember Abraham stated she was open to partnering with Wiley.

Councilmember Godfrey asked if the public got a vote, which was stated it would go to a vote only if the city sold the property. The property can be leased if still open to the public. Councilmember Godfrey asked if the city fixing the park depended on the Wiley project, which it was stated it does not; the park is being fixed regardless. Councilmember Godfrey stated all city parks need to be taken care of; three (3) parks, maybe four (4), have been abandoned.

- B. Discussion and Direction to Staff concerning the Proposed FY26 CIP.
Melissa Vossmer asked Julie Richards, Interim Budget Manager, to present, and stated a chart and presentation were included in the packet.

Julie Richards stated the plan for debt issuance has to be brought before council on October 9, 2025. Julie Richards provided a CIP overview including a priority order listing, and the notice of intent to issue debt, with the language of what can be done with the debt. The plan development process, the methodology under which the capital plan was derived, focus areas and projects that fall under them were discussed, as well as the CIP program benefits.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked what quality of life improvements would be made, which was stated to include water, IT, increased response time, and quality facilities.

It was asked what activities the city offers for young people. Melissa Vossmer stated this is the first year of park programming and not a lot of infrastructure targets young people. Staff is talking about a community center, and understands there is a need for activities and facilities. Councilmember Jordan-Anderson stated the city could ask the youth council to get ideas.

Marina Garcia-Heredia stated the youth council helps get ideas and advise on what the young people are looking for within the community.

Councilmember Abraham stated she has a vision for the civic center to become a sports center, but road and infrastructure issues have sidetracked other things.

Melissa Vossmer stated that we need space for everyone to be able to have their activities.

Councilmember Godfrey asked about the swimming pool replacement. Julie Richards stated the plan did not cut any programming, and we can use the funding to survey and make assessments.

Melissa Vossmer stated staff can launch a process to make plans and add to future years.

Julie Richards stated city pools have moved more towards splashpads and suggested a study into what the needs and/or wants are for the community in future years.

Councilmember Godfrey asked about the current location of the pool. Melissa Vossmer said they will create a list of considerations. Councilmember Godfrey asked about city facilities and parking lots, and what was being done regarding the arena parking lot.

Julie Richards reminded council the list gets approved every year and the parking lots can be reassessed.

Councilmember Abraham stated the arena needs to be one of the first on the list for parking lots. Marina Garcia-Heredia stated funding for safety issues has to be addressed before parking lots. Councilmember Abraham suggested the arena drainage issues be fixed at the same time as the parking lot.

Marina Garcia-Heredia stated there is \$285,000 for the plans and issues already available.

Councilmember Abraham asked for an update on CIP projects previously approved and funded.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked if the consultant gave a proposal for the arena to fix the drainage and if money was set aside.

Marina Garcia-Heredia is working with Halff, and money has been allocated for a master plan for the arena.

Mark Priestner, Halff, stated there is a plan for the entire park. Staff is just waiting for approval and working in phases.

Councilmember Abraham asked where we are on drainage issues, which we have received a quote to fix and Mark Priestner will provide the numbers.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson stated the design work is done, the roof has to be fixed first, it was stated the roof has been patched in order to get things going.

Councilmember Godfrey asked to add the city arena to the upgrades on the list.

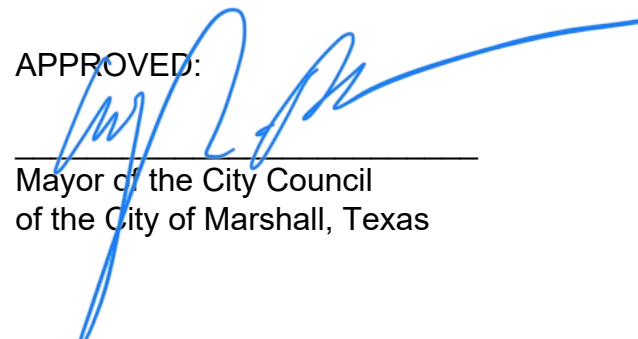
Melissa Vossmer stated a more fine-tuned CIP list would be provided and staff is working to proactively address the needs in the city.

4. Executive Session

5. Adjournment

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.

APPROVED:



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

ATTEST:



City Secretary