

**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
September 25, 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 06:18 PM.

PRESENT:

Mayor and Council Members:

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Dathaniel Campbell
Councilmember Micah Fenton

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager
Scott Rectenwald, City Attorney
Christol Hall, HR/Civil Service Director
Julie Richards, Interim Budget Manager
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
Cliff Carruth, Police Chief
Nikki Smith, City Secretary
David Rainwater, Fire Chief

2. Invocation and Pledges

Mayor Ware

3. Presentations & Proclamations

A. Presentation of a proclamation declaring the month of October 2025 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in the City of Marshall. (Mayor Ware)

Mayor Ware read the proclamation declaring the month of October 2025 as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month" in the City of Marshall, Texas and presented it to Heather Miller, Rural Outreach Advocate for the Women's Center of East Texas.

Heather Miller expressed her sympathy for the recent loss of a victim and invited the public to attend a one-day conference to educate the public and other professionals about domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking at the Maude Cobb Convention Center on October 14, 2025, from 8 to 5.

B. Presentation of the Employee of the 3rd Quarter 2025. (Employee Engagement Committee)

Lacy Burson, Employee Engagement Committee, presented Tami Henderson, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Coordinator, with the Employee of the 3rd Quarter 2025 award. Tami Henderson thanked God for the opportunity to help those in need and spoke regarding CDBG efforts and the citizens it reaches. Amy Ware thanked Pete McCarty Oil for being the sponsor for the Employee of the 3rd Quarter 2025.

C. Presentation of a proclamation designating September as Boogie Woogie Marshall Month and proclaiming September 26 and 27, 2025 as "Huddie 'Lead Belly' Ledbetter Day."

Mayor Ware read the proclamation designating September as Boogie Woogie Marshall Month and proclaimed September 26th and 27th, 2025 as "Huddie 'Lead Belly' Ledbetter Day."

Alan Loudermilk thanked the council for the proclamation, and spoke of the rich musical heritage in Marshall.

D. Recognition of the September Yard of the Month winners.

Alex Agnor, Assistant City Manager/Economic Development & Strategic Initiatives Director, recognized the September 2025 Yard of the Month recipients; residential property 401 W. Emory owned by Charles & Sandra Joe Bledsoe & the commercial property 902 E. Pinecrest, Lorena's Hair Studio.

Mayor Ware announced that Item 8C was pulled from the agenda by the councilmembers who requested the item.

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.

There were no citizen comments.

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 Godfrey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

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

- A. Consider approval of the minutes from the August 18, 2025 Special-Called Work Session meeting. (City Secretary)
- B. Consider approval of the minutes from the August 28, 2025, Special-Called Work Session meeting. (City Secretary)

7. Consideration of Items Withdrawn From the Consent Agenda

There were no items withdrawn from the Consent Agenda.

8. Public Hearing & Ordinance

- A. Conduct 2nd Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 and Consider approval of an ordinance to adopt the annual budget of the City of Marshall, Texas for the 2026 fiscal year.

Julie Richards, Interim Budget Manager, stated this is the second public hearing on the budget. Julie Richards stated the General Fund total budget is \$26,381,951 and the total effective budget is \$50,864,330.

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager, stated the presentation that was previously given to the council is available and can be discussed if the council has any questions.

Mayor Ware opened the Public Hearing.

No one came forward to speak.

Mayor Ware closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to approve an ordinance making appropriations for the support of the city of Marshall, Texas, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026; appropriating money to a sinking fund to pay interest and principal due on the city's indebtedness; and adopting the annual budget of the city of Marshall, Texas, for the 2026 fiscal year. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.

- B. Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance affixing and levying 2025 ad valorem taxes for the use and support of the municipal government of the City of Marshall for the 2026 fiscal year at a rate of \$0.5815183 per \$100 of property value, *which is effectively a 9.32 percent increase in the tax rate. The tax rate of \$0.5815183*

will raise more taxes for maintenance and operations than last year's tax rate.

(Asst. City Manager)

Alex Agnor stated this is the second public hearing regarding the tax rate and at the conclusion of this hearing staff will be asking for adoption of the tax rate and approval of the ordinance. Alex Agnor provided an abbreviated version of her presentation from the previous meeting regarding FY26 tax rates, and the comparison of 2025 to 2026 tax rate impact.

Mayor Ware opened the Public Hearing.

No one came forward to speak.

Mayor Ware closed the Public Hearing.

Alex Agnor asked council to consider approval of the ordinance establishing and adopting the tax rate of \$0.5815183 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked for an update on the tax rate freeze for citizens 65 and older. Alex Agnor explained that Lee Flowers, HCAD, asked for the City to wait until after the adoption of the budget to begin looking into the requirements of this exemption.

Mayor Ware made a motion that the property tax rate be increased by the adoption of a tax rate of \$0.5815183, which is effectively a 9.32 percent increase in the tax rate. Councilmember Jordan-Anderson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.

Melissa Vossmer thanked the council for their guidance and stated the budget represents thousands of hours of work.

C. **O-25-XX** 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)
This item was withdrawn.

D. O-25-XX Conduct a public hearing and consider approval of an ordinance regarding a rezoning request for 3001 N East End Blvd from A-E (Agriculture & Estate) to C-3 (General Business) for Commercial Uses. (**P&Z Item ZBA-25-09**). (Development Services)

Mark Priestner, Halff, stated an application was received to change the zoning from A-E to C-3 for 3001 N. East End Blvd. Ten (10) notices were sent with two (2) responses received in support of the rezone. The Planning & Zoning Commission approved this rezone by a 5:0 vote.

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 an ordinance regarding a

rezoning request for 3001 N East End Blvd from A-E (Agriculture & Estate) to C-3 (General Business). Councilmember Morris seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.

9. Action Items for City Council Consideration

- A. Consider approval for the purchase and installation of a new drive unit from RBIS, LLC. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant's Primary Clarifier #1. \$54,695.00. (Public Works) Cory Owen, Public Works Assistant Director, asked council to approve the purchase and installation of a drive unit from RBIS, LLC. for the wastewater treatment plant's primary clarifier #1 at a cost of \$54,695.00. Cory Owen stated this was originally installed in the 1950s and repaired a few times. Cory Owen also explained what the drive unit was used for and its importance for the clarifier.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the purchase and installation of a new drive unit from RBIS, LLC. for the Wastewater Treatment Plant's Primary Clarifier #1. Councilmember Abraham seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.

- B. Consider approval to award a bid for electrical and plumbing work at the City Arena to LFA4 Enterprises, LLC (TIPS Contract 24010402), not to exceed \$61,136. (Facilities) Reggie Cooper, Planning & Development Director, stated this item is regarding repairs and replacement of pedestals at the arena. The pedestals have been received and council is being asked to approve the contract with LFA4 Enterprises, LLC for the electrical and plumbing work to be done, in an amount not to exceed \$61,136.00.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked if the contract was reviewed, which it was stated it has been reviewed and approved by the City Attorney.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve a bid for electrical and plumbing work at the City Arena to LFA4 Enterprises, LLC, not to exceed \$61,136. Councilmember Jordan-Anderson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 5:0.

10. Discussion and Reports for City Council Consideration and Direction

- A. Discussion regarding the need to establish a Charter Review Committee. (Councilmembers Godfrey, Jordan – Anderson & Morris)
Mayor Ware stated she asked the City Attorney to reach out to the law firm that was used previously for the charter revision.

Scott Rectenwald, City Attorney, stated he emailed the law firm and Dottie Palumbo responded stating she would be able to assist the city. A timeline for the May election date is feasible and Dottie Palumbo is looking at the old contract for revisions to be made.

Mayor Ware stated that while reviewing the charter for updates that it would be beneficial to ensure the document is in compliance with state and federal laws. Mayor Ware asked the City Secretary about the timeframe for submitting items to be included

on the ballot, which was stated the election would need to be ordered by February.

Councilmember Abraham asked what was included in the budget for this item and suggested being very targeted on what to provide to the attorney for the review.

Melissa Vossmer stated that Section 12.08 of the Charter states the manager will bring forth a report after the council establishes a committee, which she will provide after a quick review of the document. Melissa Vossmer also stated there is some capacity in the legal line items for unexpected things that may come up.

Councilmember Godfrey stated the last time the charter was revised was in 2020 for the November election. This review will be rushed due to the holidays. Councilmember Godfrey stated it is important to implement a change to the fiscal year to align with Texas and federal audits, which would have the fiscal year start October 1st. It would also be good to align with CDBG as their fiscal year is June–May, and it would assist with reconciling Wonderland of Lights. Updating the charter will also assist with eliminating outdated ordinances, and to make sure verbiage is tightened.

Councilmember Abraham clarified that the Charter does not expire.

Mayor Ware stated it is suggested that it should be reviewed every five (5) years.

Councilmember Abraham asked if the timeframe was feasible, which Melissa Vossmer stated yes, because of having done the complete overhaul in 2020 and if the committee is willing to commit to meeting.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson mentioned the oversight in the Charter when the terms were changed from two (2) to four (4) years. The language was not changed to specify that the Mayor is elected after an election.

Mayor Ware asked if the city has the bandwidth to change the fiscal year.

Melissa Vossmer stated that with what we have, the budget approved, and looking at staff capacity, we will have to research if there is a way to phase in or push out to a particular date.

Mayor Ware suggested a work session for the next meeting, and Councilmember Godfrey agreed. Mayor Ware asked the City Attorney to provide a scope of work, price, and timeline from the law firm to assist with the charter revisions. The law firm would have more of a consulting role for the charter revisions.

Councilmember Morris stated he worked with the 2019 charter group and the language was updated, so this effort shouldn't be as much work.

Melissa Vossmer asked for the expectations for the agenda item.

Mayor Ware asked councilmembers to send updates by October 6th to the City Secretary for discussion.

11. Adjournment

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Abraham 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