

**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
October 9, 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 04:52 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	Cliff Carruth, Police Chief
Nikki Smith, City Secretary	David Rainwater, Fire Chief
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	
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.

Donald Hocutt, 302 Sunset Dr., expressed his joyful appreciation of the CIP Funds for Airport Park and spoke of memories made at the facility as a child and new memories to make with his grandchildren at the updated facility.

Steven Hammond, 4404 Bridle Path, spoke of how the year went for the Marshall Youth Softball Association, of his appreciation for improvements to the park and stated there were a few complaints that were mitigated with the explanation of the work still being in progress.

3. Discussion and Report for City Council Consideration and Direction

A. Discussion of the FY25 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). (Interim Budget Manager & City Manager)

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager, introduced the item stating it was the third discussion and staff is hoping for approval during the regular meeting. Melissa Vossmer ran through the projects quickly and stated any changes must fall within the guidelines and, once approved, cannot be changed.

Julie Richards, Interim Budget Manager, stated the CIP is an investment in the future.

Councilmember Campbell arrived at this point in the meeting. The time was 5:04 PM.

Julie Richards provided an overview of the CIP process, methodology and went through the projects based on the Council's Focus Areas, including current CIP projects, possible future CIP projects and the benefits of a CIP program.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked about the wastewater \$500,000 bio-tower funding sources and asked for an explanation of the study.

Melissa Vossmer explained the study of needs and project approved, with priority order considered, and stated there are two (2) funding sources; revenue bonds and GF bonds.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked if the amount was \$500,000 per year or total, which was stated to be the total.

Councilmember Abraham asked if the \$500,000 was for the study, which it was stated it was not, it is for the project.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked if changes could be made at this point. Melissa Vossmer stated any changes would have to fall within the intent and the money had to be available. Melissa Vossmer asked if there was a project in mind, which Councilmember Jordan-Anderson stated the project she had in mind is a splash pad and that she believes it would fit in with parks.

Melissa Vossmer stated the CIP from 2023 included a splash pad within a waterpark and the amount might exceed what is available.

Councilmember Abraham stated she liked the idea of a splash pad but not the City

owning it because of the cost of liability and maintenance. Councilmember Abraham stated the splash pad in Longview is privately owned.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson stated she didn't think about the maintenance and suggested creating an agreement like the one at Airport Park.

Melissa Vossmer stated staff could look into conducting a study.

Mayor Ware stated drawings and plans have been looked at to some extent for a splash pad at City Park.

Councilmember Abraham asked if a splash pad could be added to the plan year with the pool.

Mayor Ware stated a study for an aquatic youth area could be conducted using the \$280,000 available.

Councilmember Campbell asked about looking at the arena as a location for a splash pad.

Melissa Vossmer asked to clarify that the direction council is giving is to reallocate the money for Smith Park to use it for a study to look at the feasibility of creating a splash pad.

Councilmember Morris stated liability is an issue, but something has to be done for the young people to have something to do during the summer.

Melissa Vossmer asked if council would be willing to make a motion to change the funding from Smith Park to a study for a splash pad during the regular session.

Councilmember Godfrey asked about changing the funding for Smith Park from CDBG to General Fund because she would like to see Smith Park done and asked if the study could be done with CDBG funds, which will have to be researched regarding the requirements for CDBG funding. A discussion regarding CDBG funds and how they can be reallocated was held.

Councilmember Godfrey stated Smith Park is an outstanding item and a splash pad is a new item. Therefore, Smith Park needs to be addressed.

Melissa Vossmer stated the project development of Smith Park was not done in accordance with CDBG guidelines, so the funding would be moved to General Fund either way because the project had to start over. If we continue with CDBG funding, additional steps would be required.

Alex Agnor, Assistant City Manager, provided a sample bid packet, and stated HUD has already approved funding for Smith Park, but we would have to start over with the HUD approval and rebid the project.

Councilmember Abraham asked if we are using funds for a basketball court and not a lot of additional stuff.

Alex Agnor stated we have to ensure fairness and that contractors are allowed to do the work.

Councilmember Godfrey asked if the environmental study was already complete, which it is, but we are waiting to hear about the approval status.

Councilmember Abraham recommended having a continued discussion during the regular session regarding adding the splash pad.

Councilmember Fenton arrived at this point in the meeting. The time was 5:47 PM.

- B. Report on Status and Use of Airport Park. (Parks & Recreation)
Marina Garcia-Heredia, Parks Director, provided background information regarding the approved 2023 CIP program and explained the usage, status, community engagement and tournament activity at Airport Park. Marina Garcia-Heredia discussed the current and future maintenance efforts for the park.

Councilmember Abraham stated she was glad to hear from the community and that they have embraced the changes in only six months and stated she has received calls from hotels saying they have had an increased flow of traffic.

Melissa Vossmer stated staff will give a heads-up to hotels and restaurants for incoming flow and will provide a report for economic impact.

Councilmember Morris stated \$5 million dollars was allocated with \$400,000 remaining. What are the plans for the remainder?

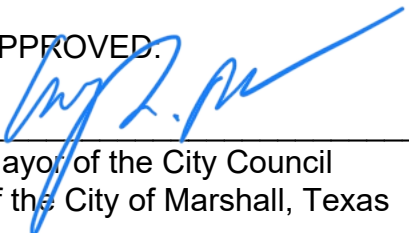
Marina Garcia-Heredia stated improvements are still needed, and the staff is looking at where to best use the funds.

Mayor Ware stated people in the community are happy with the work and understand that it is a work in progress.

4. Adjournment

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

APPROVED.



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

ATTEST:



City Secretary