

**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
March 26, 2026
6:00 PM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Pro-Tem Amanda Abraham called the Regular meeting to order in the Council Chambers, City Hall at 6:01 PM.

PRESENT:

Mayor and Council Members:

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Micah Fenton **Motion to Excuse: Councilmember Godfrey**
Second: Councilmember Jordan-Anderson Vote: 6:0

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager
Scott Rectenwald, City Attorney
Christol Hall, HR/Civil Service Director
Doug Box, Interim Public Works Director
Randy Pritchard, Support Services Director
Cheryl Carpenter, Community Engagement
Reggie Cooper, Planning & Development Director
Alex Agnor, Asst. City Manager/Econ. Dev. & Strat. Init. Director
Tom Forrest, Interim Planning and Development Services Director
Cliff Carruth, Police Chief
Nikki Smith, City Secretary
David Rainwater, Fire Chief

2. Invocation and Pledges

Councilmember Campbell

3. Presentations & Proclamations

A. Presentation of a proclamation declaring the month of April 2026 as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month" in the City of Marshall.

Mayor Pro-Tem Abraham read a proclamation declaring the month of April 2026 as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” in the City of Marshall.

Kristi Buckrell, Director of Outreach for the Women's Center, thanked the City for their participation and involvement in bringing awareness to Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

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

Anthony Lee, Employee Engagement Committee, presented the Employee of the Month for February 2026, Alexander Winters, Parks & Recreation. The sponsor for the Employee of the Month for January is Fathom Realty. Alexander Winters thanked everyone for the recognition.

- C. Presentation of the Employee of the Month - March. (Employee Engagement Committee)

Aleena Sepulvado, Employee Engagement Committee, presented the Employee of the Month for March 2026, Jerry Davis, Facilities. The sponsor for the Employee of the Month for January is Nash Rentals. Jerry Davis thanked everyone for the recognition.

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

Item F was 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 Campbell seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

- A. Consider approval of the minutes from the January 29, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting held at 5:00 PM. (City Secretary)
- B. Consider approval of the minutes from the January 29, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting held at 6:00 PM. (City Secretary)
- C. Consider approval of the minutes from the February 12, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)

- D. Consider approval of the minutes from the February 26, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- E. Consider approval of the minutes from the February 26, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)

7. Consideration of Items Withdrawn From the Consent Agenda

- F. Consider approval of the West Side Lift Station Project Acceptance and Release of Contractor's Retainage \$160,796.45. (Public Works)
Doug Box, Interim Public Works Director, stated this item is requesting the acceptance and release of retainage of \$160,796.45 of the West Side Lift Station Project. This is part of a multi-year plan to update 24 lift stations and, upon completion of the project, the number will be reduced to 18. Per council's request, Doug Box explained that lift stations are used when gravity cannot move water. The station lifts the water up to allow gravity flow to take over. It was also noted that a generator was included in the West Side Lift Station so that even in a power outage there will be no loss of flow.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to approve the West Side Lift Station Project Acceptance and Release of Contractor's Retainage \$160,796.45. Councilmember Morris seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

8. Resolution

- A. Consider approval of a resolution by the City of Marshall, Texas, regarding the interim rate adjustment application of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas, Beaumont/East Texas Division, for the 12 month period ending December 31, 2025.
Scott Rectenwald, City Attorney, stated this resolution is the delaying action from our counsel for rate cases to allow them the chance to review the application. This action has been done several times over the course of the past 12 months.

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager, reminded the council that the city is a part of a coalition to review the application before approval.

Mayor Ware made a motion to approve a resolution by the City of Marshall, Texas, regarding the interim rate adjustment application of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas, Beaumont/East Texas Division, for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2025. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion, which Passed by a vote of 6:0.

9. Action Items for City Council Consideration

- A. Consider approval to award a contract for the Raw Water Pump Station Equipment Pre-Purchase Project (\$356,118). (Public Works)

Doug Box stated Smith Pump Company provided a bid for the Zoeller Pump. The Raw Water Station is equipped to have a set of four (4) pumps and this purchase will have the city in a position to have all four pumps in place. Smith Pump Company was the low bidder for this project and there will be a time lag for building the pump.

Councilmember Abraham mentioned that the city was operating with only two pumps, one of those failed, which took operations down to one pump. Council and staff have worked hard to bring the operations back up to four pumps.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve a contract for the Raw Water Pump Station Equipment Pre-Purchase Project (\$356,118). Councilmember Morris seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

- B. Consider Approval of the FY26 Street Program.

Stan Hayes, Hayes Engineering, prepared a list of streets from the work session with the council. A few changes were made to finish up the 2025 program. Stan Hayes stated that funds were included in the 2026 program for striping and requested approval of the list as presented.

Councilmember Morris asked why Higgins Street was pulled, which was explained was due to budget constraints, but it could be added as an alternate. Councilmember Morris indicated that he would appreciate the street being added.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the FY26 Street Program. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

- C. Consider and take possible action regarding the selection and procurement of a new Financial Management System (FMS) / Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform, including Utility Billing and related implementation services, for the City of Marshall following the completion of Request for Proposals (RFP No. 2025-IT1201).

Randy Pritchard, Support Services Director, provided an update regarding the selection process of a new Financial Management System (FMS)/Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform stating the choices have been narrowed to two vendors and their scope of work and timelines were being reviewed.

10. Discussion and Reports for City Council Consideration and Direction

- A. Report on the Spring St. Transmission Waterline Break and Declared Emergency
David Rainwater, Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Chief, provided a report on the Spring Street transmission waterline break and the declared emergency. The recap included information regarding the six (6) day event of the break in the over 70-year-old 24-inch main, which is one of two primary feeder mains. David Rainwater provided a timeline of events, stating there were five (5) water distribution events, the main repair was done within 24 hours, and an After Action Plan will be completed to identify lessons learned. The Stage 4 restriction was explained, stating this allows the city to temporarily shut down non-essential businesses. David Rainwater praised the efforts of Assistant Chief Randall Jeans for his coordination of water for the distribution events. The process of repairing the pipe was explained, stating that the clamps used are not kept in

inventory and are not readily available at a local hardware store and the concrete that is poured around the pipe is not for stopping the leak but for reinforcing the pipe. Other challenges faced during the event were an issue with chemicals at the treatment plant that resulted in a loss of three hours of progress for water levels, and a forklift breaking down, which Randy Pritchard was able to provide a replacement for.

David Rainwater recognized Jay Dean, Texas State Representative, for providing a Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) resource that allowed labs to be processed quicker to work with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to allow the boil water notice to be lifted sooner than anticipated. David Rainwater also recognized Melissa Vossmer and the City Council for their support and assistance during the event.

Councilmembers mentioned there has not been a disaster at this level before in the city, but the community showed how special it is and how supportive people are of each other. Councilmembers also spoke of the repair job not being a patch, but that an engineer came in and fabricated a repair on site. The repair was challenging due to the integrity and age of the pipe and crews worked around the clock to get services returned to residents and businesses as soon as possible. The council thanked the community for their patience and expressed their appreciation of the employees and their hard work and dedication during this event.

B. City of Marshall Water System Discussion.

Melissa Vossmer stated that Stan Hayes was on schedule to talk with council about the water system before the water issue to acknowledge the steps we have taken and what the plan is going forward.

Stan Hayes stated a Water Master Plan was created in 2018, and he wanted to ensure the council and public were made aware of the efforts that have been made, that the document was being followed and that it is a thorough document that includes an analysis of the system. Stan Hayes discussed the sections of the documents and what they address, including the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) matching the city limits; the Junior water rights the city has; the contract with the North East Texas Municipal Water District for use during droughts; and the clear well ground storage tanks that need to be repaired. Stan Hayes discussed completed, current and future projects as part of the plan.

Councilmembers expressed frustration at not having knowledge of the 2018 plan document, and discussed the cost and timeframe of repairs and replacements to the water system. Council requested an updated cost estimate and a list of top priorities of where to start. Council mentioned the line that failed was not addressed in the plan and asked about a procedure being in place if there is another line failure.

A discussion was held regarding the different parts of the water system, the flow of the water, the prior approval of \$10 million for FY25 CIP projects not in the water and sewer system and the \$56 million for water and wastewater improvements. It was stated the \$56 million has not been funded yet, the new rate structure went into effect in February 2026 and the financial advisors will be meeting with staff and council in April to discuss options. Council indicated they would like to have multiple options brought forward, including consulting the grant writer the city contracted.

Councilmember Godfrey presented a timeline of items and expenditures addressing the aging water system and drainage from July 25, 2025, to February 26, 2026, to highlight how council has attempted to address the system before this main break.

David Rainwater explained the protocol for handling emergencies; the process of the Emergency Operation Center and how it should work; and the process for the City Manager.

Council inquired about what could be done to move infrastructure improvements along better and quicker, and Stan Hayes stated that the council is attacking the issue, but they need to remember Marshall is one of the oldest towns and the maintenance was ignored, so it will take time to fix.

11. Adjournment

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Abraham seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

APPROVED:



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

ATTEST:



City Secretary