

**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
AMENDED
PLEASE SILENCE ALL DEVICES
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

April 9, 2026

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 6:09 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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager	Cliff Carruth, Police Chief
Scott Rectenwald, City Attorney	Nikki Smith, City Secretary
Julie Richards, Interim Budget Manager	
Doug Box, Interim Public Works Director	
Becky Roseberry, Interim Finance Director	
Randy Pritchard, Support Services Director	
Reggie Cooper, Planning & Development Director	
Alex Agnor, Asst. City Manager/Econ. Dev. & Strat. Init. Director	
Tom Forrest, Interim Planning and Development Services Director	

2. Invocation and Pledges

Mayor Ware

3. Presentations & Proclamations

A. Presentation of the Employee of the Month - April. (Employee Engagement Committee)

Lacy Burson, Employee Engagement Committee, presented the Employee of the Month for April 2026, Aleena Sepulvado, Code Enforcement. The sponsor for the Employee of the Month for April is Armstrongs' Wrecker Service. Aleena Sepulvado stated she was honored to be nominated and that the team was thankful for the recognition of improvements in their area.

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 Items to be Withdrawn From Consent Agenda

Item D was withdrawn from the Consent Agenda.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 Abraham made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Morris seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

- A. Consider approval of the minutes from the February 27, 2026, Special-Called City Council Work Session. (City Secretary)
- B. Consider approval of the minutes from the March 23, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- C. Consider approval of the minutes from the March 26, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- E. Consider approval of the final payment, release of retainage and accepting project – Police Department Corrective Measures. (Support Services)

7. Consideration of Items Withdrawn From the Consent Agenda

- D. Consider approval of the Hwy. 80 Cave-In Project Acceptance and Release of Contractor's Retainage \$45,061.30. (Public Works)
Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked if any funds had been received from TxDOT at this time. Doug Box, Interim Public Works Director stated that no funds have been received yet, but they are aware of the \$121,230.50 due for reimbursement to the City.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to approve the Hwy. 80 Cave-In Project Acceptance and Release of Contractor's Retainage of \$45,061.30. Councilmember Morris seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

8. Ordinance

- A. Consider approval of an ordinance amending the FY25 annual budget. (Finance)
Becky Roseberry, Interim Finance Director, stated this ordinance was to cover unexpected expenditures in fiscal year 2025.

Councilmember Godfrey asked what the expenditures were for, which Becky Roseberry explained they were for different expenses. Melissa Vossmer, City Manager, explained that there are various items that came up after the adoption of the budget. Becky Roseberry stated a detailed list could be provided, but the ordinance needed to be passed for the audit to be completed.

Councilmember Campbell made a motion to approve an ordinance amending the FY25 annual budget. Mayor Ware seconded the motion, which passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 Mayor Ware, Councilmembers Campbell, Jordan-Anderson, Abraham and Morris

Noes: 0

Abstain: 1 Councilmember Godfrey

- B. Consider approval of an ordinance amending the FY26 annual budget. (Finance)
Becky Roseberry stated this ordinance is for uncompleted projects that need to be carried over from 2025 to 2026. A list of those projects was provided.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked about the negative \$30,000 in the category of donations — general. It was explained to be money carried over from Texas Eastern. Cliff Carruth, Police Chief, explained these funds were being used to upgrade the communications center and radio system. Councilmember Abraham stated the funds have to be designated for dispatch.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to approve an ordinance amending the FY26 annual budget. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

- C. Consider and approve the Update to the current City of Marshall "No Parking Ordinance". (Public Works)

Doug Box provided information regarding updates to the No Parking Ordinance, adding Meredith St between Meadow St and Pecan St; St. Francis St between Brook St and Meadow St; Wesson St between Grove St and Wilson St; both sides of Wilson St from University Ave to Medill St; both sides of Grafton St from Milton St to S Callum St; and S Garrett St from Cherrywood Cir to Bergstrom Pl. Doug Box stated the Texas Transportation Code establishes regulations for no parking whether a sign is present or not, but noted that signs will be posted after approval.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked what the ordinance says about approving signs in neighborhoods, what is the policy and procedure for having the signs in place. The location is inspected to see if it meets the requirements of the Texas Transportation Code, that public safety vehicles can pass, and if the roads are no longer used to ensure vehicles are not parked on the roadway. After council approval of updating the ordinance, signage can be placed.

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to approve the Update to the current City of Marshall "No Parking Ordinance." Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

9. Action Items for City Council Consideration

- A. Discussion with Possible Action regarding the Replacement of all Non-functioning Street Lights on U.S. Hwy. 59 (Karnack Hwy. to I-20) at a cost not to exceed \$131,305. (Public Works)

Doug Box stated that there are 180+ lights along Hwy. 59. Several were previously addressed, but the funding ran out. We are now starting at Travis and going to I-20, which will cost \$47,975 to get the lights functioning.

It was stated that this is not just replacing light bulbs, it is rewiring and replacing components, and the contractors might have to replace the foundation of some of the lights. It was mentioned that two decades ago the City agreed to take on the light project, in which Doug Box stated the City assumed responsibility, but there is no paperwork indicating we have a contract. Councilmember Abraham stated a conversation needs to be held with TxDOT to see what the agreement is.

Melissa Vossmer stated a traffic signal study was done and will be presented in May, and mentioned that some of the streetlights have been out for years. Council engaged in discussion about the safety issue this causes and what the state is responsible for and what they will do if they have enough personnel. Questions were asked about the Municipal Maintenance agreement. Stan Hayes, City Engineer, stated that when a City takes on a right-of-way, it becomes the City's responsibility to maintain it.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the replacement of all non-functioning streetlights on U.S. Hwy. 59 (Karnack Hwy. to I-20) at a cost not to exceed \$131,305. Councilmember Morris seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

- B. Consideration and Award of Contract for ERP Software. (Council IT Committee / Support Services / Mike Searight, Consultant)

Mayor Ware thanked Councilmembers Abraham and Morris for their work with staff on this item.

Randy Pritchard, Support Services Director, also thanked the Councilmembers and staff who worked on this item. Randy Pritchard provided background information regarding this item, including the timeline, the six (6) proposals that were reviewed and narrowed to three (3); being OpenGov, Edmunds, and Tyler Technologies and the larger review group of the three (3) finalists. The selection process then narrowed the decision to two (2) companies; OpenGov and Tyler Technologies. The decision was

made to go with OpenGov, but the proposal is still being negotiated. The 10-year total ownership proposal cost would be \$1,091,036.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson asked if the \$234,000 for implementation would be each year. It was explained it would not be, that it was only an expense for the first year. Randy Pritchard provided a five-year cost breakdown.

Councilmember Abraham stated that both companies have good software, but the top priorities are implementation and support. Randy Pritchard stated that our current system is owned by OpenGov, allowing for a much better implementation. Councilmember Abraham mentioned that the current contract expires December 31, 2026, and we would not have support after that time. The other company could not guarantee meeting the deadline we needed. It was also mentioned that OpenGov provided a rate reduction.

Councilmember Morris stated that he liked both companies, but after receiving information regarding Tyler Technologies, he felt that OpenGov was the better choice.

Council engaged in discussion regarding the length of the term, for which a 10-year number was provided, but the recommendation would be to propose a three (3) year agreement with an automatic renewal. The agreement can be canceled at any time with proper notice. It was stated that OpenGov does interact with AI. Council discussed options for approving the item but, with the negotiations not complete, decided the approval needed to wait until the next meeting.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to table the awarding of a contract for ERP Software until the next meeting. Mayor Ware seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

- C. Consider approval of the WWTP Water Line Project Engineering Services (\$40,000). (Public Works)

Doug Box stated that City staff have been coordinating with TxDOT regarding the I-369 corridor project. As part of this project, TxDOT has acquired right-of-way that includes the City's existing non-potable water well serving the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Therefore, the well has to be abandoned. This well is the sole water source for the WWTP and the loss of this well infringes on the plant's functionality and regulatory compliance. Constructing a new onsite well is not feasible. Several options were looked at, and the most cost-effective solution is to extend services through the right-of-way to the WWTP.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the WWTP Water Line Project Engineering Services (\$40,000). Councilmember Morris seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

- D. Consider approval of the proposal to relocate a 16 inch cast at highway 59 at a cost not to exceed \$345,520. (Public Works)

Doug Box stated on February 22, 2026, the City of Marshall was notified of a 16-inch water main break located beneath Highway 59 that created an immediate risk to water service reliability and public health. Doug Box provided photos of the waterline leak underneath Hwy. 59. RBIS, LLC was contacted to perform an emergency, temporary repair and proposed a long-term corrective measure of relocating the 16-inch cast. The

new line will be installed on the west side of Hwy. 59 with a valve installed to allow the city to control the water. RBIS, LLC is ready to move on with this project.

A discussion of the bid process was held, but this item is being viewed as an emergency repair and there is a provision for emergencies to be complete without the bid process being used. If the repair is not made, the water tower on Spring Street will not be filled. Council discussed the Municipal Maintenance Agreement (MMA), the ability to work on utilities in the State's right-of-way, requirements of the MMA and what is covered by the state or city in the MMA.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the proposal to relocate a 16-inch cast at highway 59 at a cost not to exceed \$345,520. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

10. Discussion and Reports for City Council Consideration and Direction

A. Review of the FY27 Budget Calendar.

Melissa Vossmer introduced Julie Richards, Interim Budget Manager, who presented information regarding the budget kickoff process that started in December and expanded to more than just directors. This is year two of a 2–3 year process called "rightsizing." Julie Richards stated there is a new set of challenges with the ERP system consideration, so staff is building the budget using spreadsheets. Regarding the calendar, budget discussions have already started, analysis is being conducted, departments are working on projections for the upcoming year, and meetings are scheduled to begin with departments. The budget will then be built with time left for a preliminary budget to be assessed and for a new City Manager to build out the rest of the calendar. Julie Richards stated she would like to start the budget year by gaining information about what is important to the council.

Melissa Vossmer stated Ron Cox will be at the next regular meeting on April 23rd to provide his report to council regarding the work sessions with council and staff. The goal is to have a cursory, base budget in place for the new City Manager.

Mayor Ware asked about the training depth being a little deeper this year, and it was explained that more of the staff has been involved in the training, and more advanced training is being provided.

11. Executive Session

Councilmember Abraham made a motion to convene into Executive Session.

Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0. The time was 7:24 PM.

- A. An executive session pursuant to Texas Government Code 551.072, permitting a governmental body to conduct a closed meeting to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person; to wit, exchange of properties located within the 200-300 blocks of N. Wellington and N. Washington.

B. An Executive Session pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code under Section 551.074 Personnel Matters: City Manager Recruitment.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:46 PM.

12. Adjournment

Councilmembers Jordan-Anderson and Godfrey were not present for the adjournment.


Councilmember Abraham made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 4:0.

APPROVED:



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

ATTEST:



City Secretary