

**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
May 14, 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 6:05 PM.

PRESENT:

Mayor and Council Members:

Mayor Amy Ware
Councilmember Leo Morris
Councilmember Reba Godfrey
Councilmember Amanda Abraham (remote)
Councilmember Micah Fenton
Councilmember Dathaniel Campbell
Councilmember Risa Jordan-Anderson

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager
Scott Rectenwald, City Attorney
Lisa Pepi, Finance Director
Doug Box, Interim Public Works Director
Randy Pritchard, Support Services Director
Cheryl Carpenter, Community Engagement
Reggie Cooper, Neighborhood Code Enforcement Director
Alex Agnor, Asst. City Manager/Econ. Dev. & Strat. Init. Director
Cliff Carruth, Police Chief
Nikki Smith, City Secretary

2. Invocation and Pledges

Mayor Ware

3. Oath of Office

- A. Issue Oath of Office for Council members representing Districts 5, 6, and 7. (City Attorney)
Scott Rectenwald, City Attorney, administered the Oath of Office for Councilmembers representing Districts 5, 6, and 7.

4. Executive Session

Councilmember Fenton made a motion to convene into Executive Session. Councilmember Morris seconded the motion, which by a vote of 7:0.

- A. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Section 551.074 (Personnel) – Discussion of Mayor, and Mayor Pro-Tem, for the City Council.
Council reconvened from the Executive Session. The time was 6:21 PM.

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson logged off of the remote session.

5. Election of Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem

- A. Consider election of the Mayor for the City Council. (City Attorney)
Councilmember Campbell nominated Councilmember Ware for the position of Mayor of the City Council. Councilmember Fenton seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.
- B. Consider election of the Mayor Pro-Tem for the City Council. (City Attorney)
Councilmember Fenton nominated Councilmember Abraham for the position of Mayor Pro-Tem of the City Council. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 6:0.

6. Presentations & Proclamations

- A. Proclamation Declaring May 17–23, 2026 Annual Public Works Week for 2026. (Public Works)
Mayor Ware read the proclamation and the Council presented it to the Public Works Department.

Doug Box, Interim Public Works Director, stated the employees are a great group of men and women who always answer the call and the community is fortunate to have them.

- B. Presentation of the Employee of the Month - May. (Employee Engagement Committee)
Demond Williams, Employee Engagement Committee, presented the Employee of the Month for May 2026, William "Art" Jones, Public Works Department. The sponsor of the month is Rayford's Truck and Tractor. Randy Pritchard stated that Art Jones is retiring after 28 years of service to the city.
- C. Proclamation declaring May 16, 2026, as "Status of Women Day" in Marshall, Texas.
Mayor Ware read the proclamation and the Council presented it to the Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD).

Shirley Davis, President of TLOD, invited the council to the event on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 12:00 PM at the Convention Center to honor women in the community and recognize the members.

7. 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.

8. Items to be Withdrawn From Consent Agenda

There were no items withdrawn from the Consent Agenda.

9. 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 Fenton 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 April 16, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- B. Consider approval of the minutes from the April 23, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- C. Consider approval of the minutes from the April 23, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- D. Consider approval of the minutes from the April 27, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- E. Consider approval of the minutes from the April 28, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- F. Consider approval of the minutes from the April 30, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- G. Consider approval of the minutes from the May 1, 2026, Special-Called City Council Meeting. (City Secretary)
- H. Consider approval of a resolution updating the authorized representatives for Texpool. (Finance)
- I. Consider approval of a resolution updating authorized representatives at the City's depository bank. (Finance)

- J. Consider Approval to enter into a 36 Month Lease Agreement with Deep South JCB for the Leasing of 3 JCB 35Z-1 Mini Excavators and 1 JCB 35Z-1 Mini Excavator with a 48" Ditching Bucket & 12" Tooth Bucket. (Public Works)

10. Consideration of Items Withdrawn From the Consent Agenda

There were no items withdrawn from the Consent Agenda.

11. Action Items for City Council Consideration

- A. Consider approval of the proposal to repair a 16-inch water main on Highway 80 East. (Public Works)
Doug Box stated RBIS was used for the emergency repair of the 16-inch water main on Highway 80 East by securing the service clamp. Doug Box noted this pipe was the same as the Spring Street repair, that a section of pipe was removed and replaced, and a valve was installed. The cost of this repair is \$131,298.00

Councilmember Jordan-Anderson arrived in the Council Chambers at this point.

Doug Box stated the laws and regulations that allow for this repair to be made under an emergency repair.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the proposal to repair a 16-inch water main on Highway 80 East. Councilmember Jordan-Anderson seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

- B. Consider approval of the proposal to perform repairs to an existing 24-inch concrete cylinder water main located on Spring Street. (Public Works)
Doug Box asked for approval of the proposal for repairs on Spring Street. Doug Box stated RBIS did temporary repairs and now the pipe can be replaced with line stops, valves and adapters, at a cost of \$316,700.00.

Councilmembers asked about the procedures for bidding not being followed which was explained that the exemptions of Chapter 252 allowed for the emergency repair. Councilmembers asked about the integrity of the pipe, the permanency of the repair and if the city would lose water during the repair. The integrity will be addressed as the repairs will look to stabilize the pipe and remain in place until the new infrastructure is replaced. A citywide shortage is not anticipated.

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to approve the proposal to perform repairs to an existing 24-inch concrete cylinder water main located on Spring Street. Councilmember Campbell seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

12. Discussion and Reports for City Council Consideration and Direction

- A. Discussion and Direction for Wrecker Ordinance Modernization and Fee Schedule Update. (Police)

Cliff Carruth, Police Chief, provided background information regarding on-call wreckers and stated complaints have been received from citizens and council members regarding excessive tow fees. TxDOT has also filed a complaint, notifying the City of roadways being blocked too long by wrecker services. It was noted that the Sheriff's Office has the same issue. Cliff Carruth stated the purpose of the discussion is to provide clarity and fairness; information for public safety; update the language in the ordinance; and to look at best practices.

Councilmembers asked about pre-printed fee schedules being made available for the individual having their vehicle towed and if a company can be removed from the rotation list for not abiding by the ordinance, which both can be applied to this item.

B. Presentation of the 2025 City of Marshall Year End Report. (Communications and Community Engagement)

Melissa Vossmer, City Manager, presented the 2025 City of Marshall Year End Report and recognized Cheryel Carpenter, Community Engagement, for her work on the report, and the directors for providing the information. This report was created to share the accomplishments and the big picture of the work being done in the City. Melissa Vossmer stated she could not be more proud of the work accomplished, and this report celebrates, educates, and informs.

C. Discussion to review and discuss the findings of the Downtown Traffic Signal Report. (Public Works)

Doug Box, introduced Mr. McCarty, Jet Right Engineering, who provided a report on the five (5) traffic signals that were reviewed to determine if the signal should be maintained or replaced with a stop sign. The Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD) provides for nine (9) standard traffic signal warrants and an intersection must meet at least one (1) for a signal to be installed. The intersections report results indicated the following:

Houston Street and Grove Street should be changed to a stop sign.

Alamo Boulevard and Houston Street should be changed to a stop sign.

Alamo Boulevard and Travis Street should be changed to a stop sign.

Washington Avenue and Travis Street should maintain the signal.

Travis Street and Bolivar Street should maintain the signal.

Councilmembers asked questions regarding upgrades to the intersections, including striping and cameras, and asked about the timeframe used for the report. A discussion was held regarding the type of stop sign to be used, if a signal could be installed again at a future date, if future forecast of traffic was considered, and if the signals could be changed to four-way blinking lights.

The report provided was done following the directions given by the City and included current traffic patterns. The cost per intersection is approximately \$98,500 as the mechanisms in place are outdated and hard to replace or repair.

D. Discussion regarding Convention Center lighting. (Facilities)

Reggie Cooper, Neighborhood Code Enforcement Director, stated the Convention Center lighting is a safety-driven issue and this report provides options for potential solutions. The immediate recommendation was to set up temporary portable lights at a cost of approximately \$450 per light for a week, which would be approximately \$10,800 per month for six (6) lights. Long-term options were provided to include a full electrical

rewiring, solar lighting, or a hybrid approach.

Randy Pritchard, Support Services Director, explained how the solar panels would work, stated the poles would be repainted instead of replaced, and the cost would be under \$100,000 for the upgrades.

Staff was directed to get costs put together for the solar option, to bid the project out and look at several companies. Staff was also tasked to look into grants, HOT funds and other potential funding methods.

13. Executive Session

Councilmember Godfrey made a motion to convene into Executive Session. Councilmember Fenton seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0. The time was 8:05 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.

Council reconvened from the Executive Session. The time was 8:40 PM.

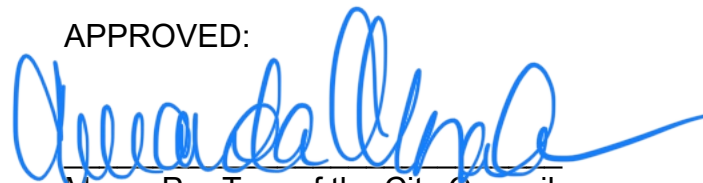
14. Action Item Following Executive Session

- A. Consider action regarding discussion from the executive session.
Mayor Ware made a motion to have the City Attorney enter into negotiations as discussed in the executive session. Councilmember Godfrey seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 7:0.

15. Adjournment

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

APPROVED:



Mayor Pro-Tem of the City Council
of the City of Marshall, Texas

ATTEST:



City Secretary