

CITY OF MARSHALL
WORK SESSION
MINUTES
Tuesday, August 25, 2026

The work session of the Common Council of the City of Marshall was held August 25, 2026, at City Hall, 344 West Main Street. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. by Mayor Robert Byrnes. In addition to Byrnes the following members were in attendance: Craig Schafer, James Lozinski, John Alcorn, See Moua-Leske and Amanda Schroeder. Absent: None. Staff present included: Sharon Hanson; City Administrator; Pamela Whitmore, City Attorney; E.J. Moberg, Director of Administrative Services; Jim Marshall, Director of Public Safety; Jason Anderson; Director of Public Works/City Engineer; Karla Drown, Finance Director; David Parsons, City Assessor; Scott Pryzbilla, Wastewater Superintendent; Preston Stensrud, Park and Rec Supervisor; Dean Coudron, Public Ways Supervisor; Quentin Brunsvold, Fire Chief; Eliza Holmgren, Administration Intern; Zac DesAustels, Asst. City Attorney; and Steven Anderson, City Clerk.

Preliminary 2027 Budget

Administrator Hanson reviewed the various budget goals for the upcoming 2027 fiscal year. Goals included continued infrastructure improvement and maintenance; meeting mandated requirements for wastewater and surface water; retaining competitive salaries and benefits; investments in parks, trails and facilities; public safety retention and equipment updates; vehicle fleet management and continued outside revenue paths such as grants and state bonding. Moberg continued the meeting by reviewing capital requests that would need to be bonded or specially assessed. Airport, Arena, Parks, and Street departments went over each of their respective projects. The Red Baron Arena was not originally on the capital project list, but the condenser was running into issues unexpectedly and probably needed to be replaced within the next year. Airport projects typically sat on the project list for a while unless a grant was available.

Moberg reviewed the \$500,000 of capital equipment requests with only \$300,000 allocated per year. Of note, the street motor grader was on the list for a few years and had been accumulating funds for its eventual replacement. Moberg also indicated that there were other capital improvement projects on the docket but as of right now were not included such as indoor recreation, MERIT Center updates, and the proposed dryland expansion at the arena proposed by the Marshall Area Hockey Association (MAHA). Parsons explained the preliminary tax base changes, tax capacity projections, and historical tax extension rates. Moberg went over operating budget impacts. The largest of which were from payroll expenses and the debt service fund. Initial budget request included an additional full-time employee for the parks department. Within the general fund the largest expenses, other than payroll, were the library appropriation request and replacement of data servers for municipal operation. Preliminary tax levy was expected to be an increase of 11.15% over the 2026 budget. Moberg asked for additional input on a potential levy amount or percentage increase.

Mayor Byrnes remarked that the public had a certain level of service expectations of city staff, facilities and programs so any cuts would need to be carefully reviewed. Byrnes also would like to take a second look at the proposal from MAHA regarding a dryland expansion since the association was willing to front a significant amount of funds towards the proposed project. Councilmember Lozinski mentioned he would like to review the annual \$300,000 capital equipment allocation. The cost of equipment had gone up significantly and the \$300,000 allotment had been in place for at least 15 years or more. Councilmember Schroeder was concerned with possible health insurance increases. Councilmember Moua-Leske questioned the options available if Lyon County were to back out of the shared library agreement that was in place. Lyon County did have the option to do a minimum maintenance of effort allocation, but that amount would be spread amongst all libraries within the county, not just the Marshall library.

Adjournment

At 4:46 PM Mayor Byrnes adjourned the work session.

Attest:

City Clerk

Mayor