

CITY OF MARSHALL
WORK SESSION
MINUTES
Tuesday, September 08, 2026

The regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Marshall was held September 8, 2026, at City Hall, 344 West Main Street. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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; E.J. Moberg, Director of Administrative Services; James Marshall, Director of Public Safety; Preston Stensrud, Park and Rec Supervisor; Karla Drowm, Finance Director; and Steven Anderson, City Clerk.

Preliminary 2027 Budget

Moberg began the work session by announcing that the proposed levy of 11.59% that was presented during the August 25 work session had been reduced to 9.59%. The 9.59% still considered an increase of \$50,000 for capital equipment that was suggested by the council during the previous work session. The general fund, EDA and debt service funds were re-looked at and some cuts and adjusted revenues were the main causes. Councilmember Lozinski asked if a 10% increase immediately to capital equipment was too high and if a 2.5% increase each year would be better to smooth out the levy. Moberg explained that the initial increase was to catch up a little bit to inflation and then transition to incremental increases. Moberg also reminded that council that the proposed budget did not include any reserves or using endowment funds. Councilmembers were hopeful that insurance quotes would come in lower as the preliminary levy could only go down, not up, once set.

Departments talked about various pieces of equipment and their uses. An airport mower and fire engine refurbishment on the capital equipment list were pushed back a year to 2028. Moberg mentioned that a few items for equipment were moved to operating instead of the equipment budget. The council discussed the land use at the old Legion Field pool site and the option of installing pickleball courts. Stensrud explained that the site would probably undergo three phases with pickleball courts being the easiest and cheapest of the phases. The Community Services Advisory Board during their September meeting would be looking at options for the old pool site and would be making recommendations to council. Councilmember Alcorn asked if the revenue estimate for The Splash! Was too low and if that would help offset some of the expenses. Moberg did confirm that the revenue estimate might be low but there was also a larger increase in operation costs for the new pool, so any additional revenue generation was probably already offset.

Hanson brought up a community survey that was completed on what the community wanted done with the old Legion Field pool location. The top options were to create a destination playground, have permanent outdoor lawn games (chess, bean bags, etc..), freestanding fitness equipment and stand-alone pickleball courts. Based on that feedback Stockwell Engineers can come up with several ideas and would be presenting them to the Community Services Advisory Board for additional feedback.

Mayor Byrnes asked additional questions on the use of reserves and how much was currently banked. Moberg indicated that the city had 8 months of reserves and recommended holding off on committing any reserve dollars until December just in case a last minute or emergency project popped up.

Adjournment

At 4:57 PM Mayor Byrnes adjourned the work session.

Attest:

City Clerk

Mayor