

City of Marco Island Florida

*51 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, Florida
cityofmarcoisland.com*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, July 20, 2026

1:00 PM

Operating Budget Workshop

Community Meeting Room

City Council

*Chair: Darrin Palumbo
Vice-Chair: Rene Champagne*

*City Council: Kevin Dohm,
Tamara Goehler, Stephen Gray,
Deb Henry, Bonita Schwan*

*City Manager: Casey Lucius
City Attorney: Alan L. Gabriel
City Clerk: Joan Taylor*

1. Call to Order

Chair Palumbo called the Workshop to order at 1:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

Not Present: 1 - Councilor Gray

(Councilor Gray arrived at 1:08 P.M. He was present for the remainder of the Workshop)

Also Present

*Casey Lucius, City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney
Joe Belardo, Interim Police Chief
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Marcia Saulo, Finance Director
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Justin Martin, Public Works Director
Jose Duran, Information Technology Director
Diana Snover, Human Resources Director
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager
Joe Parrilli, Fleet & Facilities Manager
Melissa Hinton, Budget Manager
Chase Callaway, Finance Manager
Samantha Malloy, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors*

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Councilor Henry.

4. Business

[ID 26-5552](#) Operating Budget Workshop - Melissa Hinton, Budget Manager and Casey Lucius, City Manager

Attachments: [FY27 Budget Summary](#)
[FY27 Spending Cap - Preliminary](#)
[FY27 Millage Presentation](#)
[FY27 Capital Improvement Plan & Capital Equipment Replacement Plan](#)
[FY27 General Fund Revenue & Expenses](#)
[FY27 Building Services Revenue & Expenses](#)
[FY27 Water Sewer Revenue & Expenses](#)

City Manager Casey Lucius initiated the business of the Workshop by outlining the City's projected General Fund revenue for Fiscal Year 2027, and she detailed the three steps that she undertook with the City Staff to generate a proposed FY27 budget that:

- 1) does not exceed the City's projected General Fund revenue;
- 2) remains below the City's Fiscal Year 2027 Spending Cap;
- 3) comprehends contractual and non-contract wage increases and increases to other major expense categories, and;
- 4) remains neutral to the City's 2026 Fiscal Year millage rate of 1.2670 mils.

Ms. Lucius noted that a \$508,000 contribution to the Police pension program is included in the proposed FY2027 budget.

Ms. Lucius advised the Council of the enactment of a July 1, 2026 Florida statute that mandates that a two-thirds majority vote of the Council is now required to approve a Fiscal Year 2027 millage rate that exceeds the calculated rollback rate.

City of Marco Island Budget Manager Melissa Hinton followed Ms. Lucius with a review of the revised Spending Cap Calculation for Fiscal Year 2027 and, in response to questions from members of the Council, the maximum millage that could be levied under State statute.

City Manager Lucius noted that, should the Council wish to entertain adopting the maximum allowable millage rate for Fiscal Year 2027, it would require a unanimous vote of the Council. Additionally, though the Council could raise additional revenue in this way, it could not, under the terms of the City Charter, spend beyond the allowed Spending Cap for the given Fiscal Year. Any excess revenue raised above this level would be added to the City's emergency reserves.

Following Ms. Hinton's review, City Manager Lucius led the Council through the "FY 2027 Millage Calculation" document that was included with the Agenda for the Workshop, and she noted the reason for providing the "FY2027 Proposed Five Year Capital Improvement Plan" document among the preparatory materials for this Operating Budget Workshop.

The Council next considered, and raised questions as desired, on each General Fund account's proposed budget for FY2027 in the following sequence:

- 1) Legislative
- 2) Executive
- 3) Finance
- 4) Legal
- 5) Growth Management
- 6) Information Technology
- 7) General Government
- 8) Fleet and Facilities
- 9) Police
- 10) Fire Rescue
- 11) Code Compliance

In the course of the Council's review of the proposed FY2027 Legal budget, the Council requested that City Attorney Gabriel draft a revised fee structure for its legal services to the City for review by the Council at a future City Council meeting. City Manager Lucius was also asked to review the City's contract with its Legislative Lobbyist, Rob Book, to assist the Council in determining whether a continuation of the City's engagement with Mr. Book should continue to be budgeted for in the FY2027 budget.

Chair Palumbo called for a brief recess at 3:19 P.M. All Councilors were present when the Workshop

resumed at 3:25 P.M.

Following the recess, the Council continued its review of the following General Fund accounts:

- 12) Streets & Drainage (aka Public Works)*
- 13) Parks & Recreation*
- 14) Racquet Club*

Next, the Council reviewed the FY2027 budget proposals for: 1) the Building Services Enterprise Fund, and; 2) Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund. Questions were addressed to the leaders representing both entities.

City Manager Lucius summarized the direction of the Council at this Workshop in three key "takeaways" as follows:

- 1) the Council concurred with the City Staff's temporary capital reallocation strategy to help balance the FY2027 budget;*
- 2) the Council endorsed a 1.2670 mils "millage neutral" assumption for FY2027, and;*
- 3) the Council concurred with the proposed General Fund, Building Services, and Water & Sewer account budgets as presented, with the exception of a request of the City Staff to modify elements of the Legal account budget for forthcoming review and approval at a future City Council Meeting.*

5. Public Comment

Mr. James Burke (N. Collier Blvd.) expressed his support for maintaining City of Marco Island Police protection and service to the City.

Mr. Dennis Bartolucci (Caxambas Ct.) provided his perspective on: 1) the role of the City's Spending Cap in obtaining voter support to charter the City of Marco Island; 2) the flexibility allowed under the Spending Cap to address goods and services inflation experienced by the City, and; 3) the outsized role of residents in bearing the property tax burden of funding City services.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Palumbo adjourned the Workshop at 4:10 P.M.

Darrin Palumbo, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist