

# City of Marco Island Florida

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



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

**Monday, April 6, 2026**

**5:30 PM**

**Community Meeting Room**

### **City Council**

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

*City Council: Erik Brechnitz, Tamara Goehler,  
Stephen Gray, Deb Henry,  
Bonita Schwan*

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

## 1. Call to Order

*Chair Palumbo called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.*

## 2. Roll Call

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

**Absent:** 1 - Councilor Brechnitz

## Also Present

*Casey Lucius, Interim City Manager  
Joan Taylor, City Clerk  
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney  
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief  
Diana Snover, HR Director  
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief  
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director  
Justin Martin, Public Works Director  
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager  
Joe Parrilli, Fleet & Facilities Director  
Sonia Iszler, Water & Sewer Engineering & Operations Manager  
Heather Smith, Water & Sewer Project Manager  
Ray Leshinger, Reserve Police Officer  
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician  
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist  
Citizens and Visitors*

## 3. Invocation

*Offered by the Reverend Jon Fogarty of First Baptist - The Family Church.*

## 4. Pledge of Allegiance

[ID 25-4916](#) Pledge of Allegiance - Led by JR Roquett of the Marco Island Charter Middle School

*Master J.R. Roquett led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

## 5. Approval of the Agenda

*Interim City Manager Casey Lucius requested that Agenda Item 15c (Reject Bid Received for the Intersection Traffic Control and Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project) be removed from the evening's Agenda for review by the Council at a future Meeting.*

*Chair Palumbo requested that Agenda Item 15f (Discussion with Council Related to Advanced Wastewater Treatment Referendum Petition) be advanced on the Agenda to follow Agenda Item 8e (Black & Veatch Findings: Advanced Wastewater Treatment Technology Evaluation and Cost Analysis).*

**MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Vice-Chair Champagne, that the Agenda be Approved as Amended. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

## 6. Approval of the Minutes

[ID 25-4917](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026

**Attachments:** [City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026](#)

**MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Councilor Henry, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 16, 2026 be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

## 7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

**MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that the Consent Agenda be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

### [Approval of the Consent Agenda Passed the Routine Items Listed Below]

- a. [ID 26-5257](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Titan Concrete & Utilities, Inc., for the Stormwater Pipe Replacement at 921 Swallow Ave in the Amount of \$112,000.00. - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works

**Attachments:** [Titan Concrete Contract Fully Executed](#)  
[Titan Estimate 26006 -112000.00](#)

- b. [ID 26-5302](#) Resolution - Approving Appointment of Mr. Rodd Schreiber to the Hideaway Beach Tax District Board - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

**Attachments:** [Hideaway Tax District Nomination](#)  
[RESOLUTION 26-15](#)

## 8. Proclamations and Presentations

*City of Marco Island Community Affairs Direction Daniel Smith took a moment prior to the Council's engagement on the Agenda Items under Proclamations and Presentations to introduce the City of Marco Island's new Chief Building Official, Mr. Don Davis.*

*Mr. Davis shared a brief overview of his background with the members of the Council.*

- a. [ID 25-4918](#) Employee Service Awards:

*City of Marco Island Human Resources Director Diana Snover recognized and called forward Mr. John Lafakis (10 years) and Mr. Nigel Noone (15 years) individually to receive their appreciation of service recognition certificate and pin as presented by City Council Chair Darrin Palumbo with the support of the entire Council.*

b. [ID 25-4982](#) Employee of the First Quarter

*The Council's recognition of the Employee of the Quarter for Q1, 2026 was deferred to a future date.*

c. [ID 25-5025](#) Proclamation -Community Donors Appreciation - Christmas 2025

**Attachments:** [Proclamation](#)

*In appreciation of the collaborative community and business effort to continue the tradition of December Holiday garland and lighting of the street light poles along Collier Boulevard from the Judge SS Jolley Bridge onto the Island, City Council Chair Darin Palumbo recognized the individuals and business owners who donated so generously to this effort during 2025.*

*Beautification Advisory Committee Chair Marv Needles received the Proclamation on behalf of the representatives present, and he shared a few words of appreciation and encouragement for the 2026 Holiday Season.*

d. [ID 26-5237](#) Presentation - 2026 Marco in Bloom Awards - Victoria Myers, Member, Beautification Advisory Committee

**Attachments:** [Marco In Bloom 2026](#)

*Beautification Advisory Committee (BAC) Member Victoria Myers, assisted by BAC Vice-Chair Linda Scherzinger, recognized and presented the yard sign awards to the winning property owners and property representatives of the 2026 Marco In Bloom Contest.*

e. [ID 26-5271](#) Presentation - Black & Veatch Findings: Advanced Wastewater Treatment Technology Evaluation and Cost Analysis - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer

**Attachments:** [Marco Island RWPF AWT Evaluation Final Report](#)  
[AWT Treatment Evaluation Presentation Slides](#)

*City of Marco Island Water & Sewer General Manager Jeff Poteet introduced representatives from Black & Veatch Corporation, and he thanked participating members of his Water & Sewer Department team, for their work in evaluating the City's existing wastewater treatment assets for potential future implementation of Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWT) technologies.*

*Black & Veatch (B&V) Senior Project Manager Mark Martin introduced Mr. Lucas Botero, P.E. BCEE, ENV SP and Process Specialist for B&V, to share the results of the team's evaluation of three potential AWT applications at the City of Marco Island's existing wastewater treatment plant.*

*Together, Messrs. Botero, Martin, and Poteet addressed a number of questions from members of the Council.*

*[Editorial Note: as noted under Agenda Item 5 (Approval of the Agenda), City Council Chair Palumbo requested that the discussion of this Item, 8e and Agenda Item 15f (Discussion with Council Action Related to Advanced Wastewater Treatment Referendum Petition) closely follow one another to maintain topic continuity for the Council. As a result, all Citizen Comments related to Item 8e and Agenda Item 15f were combined into a single public comment session and captured in these Minutes under Agenda Item 15f]*

## 9. Citizens' Comments on Items Not Scheduled for Public Hearing and Items Other Than Those Appearing on the Agenda

The following individuals came forward to address the Council on the topic of onshore shark fishing along the beaches of Marco Island:

1. Mr. Spencer Wonder (Arlingwood Dr., Milton, FL), w/ time ceded from Mr. Jeremy Berghdoff (Mills St.)
2. Mr. Joe Renne (S. Collier Blvd.), with time ceded from Mr. Dave Miller (Elk Cir.)
3. Mr. David Boggs (Delbrook Way), with time ceded from Mr. Logan LaBreck (Delbrook Way)
4. Mr. Paul Miller (Seaview Ct.)
5. Ms. Stephanie Keller (Homewood Rd., Ft. Myers, FL)
6. Mr. Jay Kohnhagen (Naples, FL)
7. Capt. Melody King (Ft. Myers Beach, FL)
8. Mr. David Rasmussen (Caxambas Ct.)
9. Mr. Elliott Mascoop (6th Ave.)
10. Mr. Mark Devine (Cape Marco Dr.)
11. Mr. Mario Curiale (Eubanks Ct.)

The following individuals came forward to address the Council on the topic of the Marco Island Civic Association (M.I.C.A.)'s 2026 Year of Clean Water:

1. Mr. David Rasmussen (Caxambas Ct.)
2. Mr. Rick Woodworth (N. Barfield Dr.)

The following individuals came forward to address the Council on the topic of the potential expansion of pickleball playing activities at the Marco Island Racquet Center:

1. Mr. David Cadwell (Marco Villas Dr.)
2. Ms. Carla Cadwell (Marco Villas Dr.)

The following individuals came forward to advise the Council of the activities noted:

1. Ms. Rene Ford (Bald Eagle Dr.), on the upcoming 5th Annual Earth Day Island Wide Litter Cleanup
2. Mr. Rick Popoff (Century Dr.), President of the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce, on the long-standing benefits to the community of the Chamber's activities on the Island

## 10. City Manager's Report

[ID 25-4976](#) City Manager's Report

**Attachments:** [City Manager's Report](#)

The City Manager's Report was not specifically discussed at this meeting. Chair Palumbo did, however, take a moment to recognize Interim City Manager Casey Lucius' effort with Collier County Manager Amy Patterson to schedule a joint County Commissioner - Marco Island City Council Meeting later in the summer of 2026.

## 11. City Attorney's Report

No report was provided by the City Attorney at this Meeting.

(THE MEETING WENT INTO RECESS AT 7:29 P.M. IT IS NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT ALL SIX COUNCILORS WERE PRESENT WHEN THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:37 P.M.)

## 12. Departmental Reports

[ID 25-4919](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

**Attachments:** [City Clerk's Office](#)  
[Internal Services](#)  
[Public Works](#)  
[Water & Sewer](#)  
[Police](#)

*Councilor Gray called attention to the reference in the City Clerk's Monthly Report regarding the City's efforts to advance the City's website and digital documentation toward full conformance with ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) standards, and he communicated one example of how that will be evident on the City's website.*

*Councilor Gray also shared his interpretation of the numerical differences noted in the Police Department's Monthly Report regarding recent north and southbound traffic counts near the Judge SS Jolley Bridge.*

*Councilor Schwan requested insight from Marco Island Police Chief Tracy Frazzano on the recent modification to the reporting of bicycle and ebike written warnings and written citations in the Weekly Police Blotter published in the weekly edition of the Coastal Breeze Newspaper.*

## 13. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

## 14. Ordinances

None.

## 15. Resolutions & City Council Items

- a. [ID 26-5256](#) Authorize the Transfer of \$600,000 from the City's Emergency Reserves to the FY26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Citywide Drainage Improvements Account to Fund Urgent Stormwater Infrastructure Repairs. - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works

*City of Marco Island Public Works Director Justin Martin explained the need for the requested transfer of emergency reserves, and he responded to several questions from members of the Council.*

*No members of the public came forward to offer comment.*

**MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Henry that authorization of the Interim City Manager to transfer \$600,000.00 from the City's Emergency Reserves to the FY26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Citywide Drainage Improvements Account to fund urgent stormwater infrastructure repairs, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

- b. [ID 26-5270](#) Award of Contract of the 2026 Annual Street Resurfacing Project to the

Lowest Responsible Bidder, OHLA USA Inc, in the Amount of \$553,816.43  
- Justin Martin, P.E., Public Works Director

**Attachments:** [ITB 2026-005 Bid Tabulation](#)  
[2026 Annual Resurfacing Map](#)  
[Bid Schedule Summary](#)

*City of Marco Island Public Works Director Justin Martin outlined the process to identify the lowest responsible bidder, and he shared the number of linear road miles that are expected to be resurfaced under this project.*

*No members of the public came forward to offer comment.*

**MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Gray, that authorization of the Interim City Manager to award a contract to the lowest responsible bidder, OHLA USA, Inc., in the amount of \$553,816.43 for the 2026 Annual Street Resurfacing Project, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

- c. [ID 26-5275](#) Reject Bid Received for the Intersection Traffic Control and Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project and Authorize Rebidding - Justin Martin, PE, Director, Public Works

**Attachments:** [ITB 2026-006 Bid Opening Sign In Sheet](#)  
[ITB 2026-006 Bid Tabulation](#)  
[ITB 2026-006](#)

*As noted under Agenda Item 5 (Approval of the Agenda), this item was removed from the Council's Agenda for this meeting.*

- d. [ID 26-5276](#) Resolution - Authorizing the Interim City Manager to Execute an Amended Grant Agreement with the Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazard Mitigation Grant Project 4486-073-R (Annex Building Wind Retrofit, Flood Barriers, and Generator) in the Amount of \$434,470.50; Authorizing Local Matching Funds of \$48,274.50; and Authorizing a Budget Transfer from the General Fund's Reserve in the Amount of \$482,745.00 - Chris Byrne, Fire Chief, Fire Rescue Department

**Attachments:** [RESOLUTION 26-14](#)  
[Amended Grant Agreement](#)

*Marco Island City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 26-14 into the record by title only.*

*City of Marco Island Fire Chief Chris Byrne briefly explained the circumstances surrounding this proposed Amended Grant Agreement, and he addressed one question from a member of the Council on this item.*

*No members of the public came forward to offer comment.*

**MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that authorization of the Interim City Manager to execute an Amended Grant Agreement with the**

Florida Division of Emergency Management for Hazard Mitigation Grant Project 4486-073-R (Annex Building Wind Retrofit, Flood Barriers, and Generator) in the amount of \$434,470.50; authorizing local matching funds of \$48,274.50, and; authorizing a budget transfer from the General Fund's Reserve in the amount of \$482,745.00, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

- e. [ID 26-5291](#) Resolution - Approve a Bond Referendum Not to Exceed \$55 million General Obligation Bonds in One or More Series to Finance the Construction of Transportation and Mobility Improvements, Calling a Bond Referendum for the Electors of Marco Island on August 18, 2026 - Casey Lucius, Interim City Manager

**Attachments:** [RESOLUTION 26-16](#)  
[Redline Referendum Resolution](#)

*Marco Island City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 26-16 into the record by title only.*

*Interim City Manager Casey Lucius noted the inclusion of the proposed Public Notice and Official Ballot language within the body of Resolution, and she, along with Mr. Chris Roe of Bryant Miller Olive, and Mr. Jay Glover of PFM Financial Advisors LLC both of whom participated via Zoom teleconference connection, were available to provide insight and address questions from members of the Council.*

*The following members of the public came forward to offer perspective for the Council's consideration:*

- 1) Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.)
- 2) Mr. Mario Curiale (Eubanks Ct.)

**MOTION by Vice-Chair Champagne, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that Resolution 26-16 - a Bond Referendum with Official Public Notice and Ballot Language to Approve General Obligation Bonds in one or more series in an amount not to exceed \$55.0 million to finance the construction of City-wide transportation and mobility improvements for consideration by the Electors of Marco Island on August 18, 2026, be Approved. MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:**

**Yes:** 3 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Henry and Councilor Schwan

**No:** 3 - Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray and Chair Palumbo

- f. [ID 26-5296](#) Discussion with Council Action related to Advanced Wastewater Treatment Referendum Petition - Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney

**Attachments:** [Ordinance](#)  
[Memo AWT Next steps](#)  
[Petition Certification](#)  
[City Sufficiency Certification](#)

*City Attorney Alan Gabriel outlined the elements of his March 13, 2026 Memorandum to the Marco Island City Council regarding the City Charter's requirements of the Council, along with the Council's available options and next steps, given the Collier County Supervisor of Elections' certification of the public petition*

advanced by The Committee to Improve the Quality of Marco Island Reuse Water, Inc.

The following members of the public came forward to offer comment on the potential AWT implementation at the City's wastewater treatment plant, as well as the City Attorney's review of Council options and next steps. This was combined into a single Public Comment opportunity following the presentation and discussion of both items (Agenda Item 8e and 15f):

- 1) Mr. David Rasmussen (Caxambas Ct.), with time ceded from Mr. Bob Roth (Barbarosa Ct.)
- 2) Mr. Richard Blonna (San Marco Rd.)
- 3) Mr. George Wittman (Copperfield Ct.)
- 4) Mr. Elliott Mascoop (6th Ave.)
- 5) Mr. Mario Curiale (Eubanks Ct.)
- 6) Mr. Rick Woodworth (N. Barfield Dr.)
- 7) Mr. David Crain (Gayer Way)
- 8) Mr. Ralph Rohena (Begonia Ct.)

Following considerable dialogue among the members of the Council, Chair Palumbo received support from five of the six Councilors present (Councilor Henry dissenting), to direct the City Attorney to craft an ordinance for a future First Reading before the Council which mandates an upgrade to the City's wastewater treatment plant to the Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus standards contained in the certified public petition.

- g.** [ID 26-5305](#) City Manager Recruitment - Candidate Rankings and Next Steps. - Diana Snover, Director, Human Resources

**Attachments:** [City Manager Applications](#)  
[City Council Member Ranking](#)  
[Candidate Rankings & Evaluation](#)

City of Marco Island Human Resources Director Diana Snover reviewed the summary of the individually-provided candidate rankings of the twenty-one (21) prospective candidates under consideration for the position of Marco Island City Manager, and she recommended a process and a timeline to advance the highest-ranking, background-verified candidates toward personal one-on-one interviews with the members of the Council. All members of the Council engaged in dialogue and a sharing of perspectives on the proposed process and candidates.

The following members of the public came forward to offer their thoughts for the Council's consideration:

- 1) Ms. Victoria Myers (Bluebonnet Ct.)
- 2) Mr. David Boggs (Delbrook Way)

Chair Palumbo shared his analysis of the collective candidate rankings in the context of the Council's requirement to reach a five-Councilor "super majority" affirmative vote in the selection of a permanent City Manager, and he offered a proposal and a Motion for the Council's consideration.

**MOTION by Chair Palumbo, seconded by Vice-Chair Champagne, that Interim City Manager Casey Lucius' immediate appointment as City Manager for the City of Marco Island, be Approved. MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:**

**(MOTE: A SUPER-MAJORITY OF FIVE VOTES IS REQUIRED TO CARRY THE MOTION)**

**Yes:** 4 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

**No:** 2 - Councilor Goehler and Councilor Gray

*Councilor Gray recommended (and advanced a Motion) to Continue the discussion of the selection process and next steps to identify a permanent City Manager for the City of Marco Island.*

**MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Vice-Chair Champagne, that the Council's review and discussion of candidates for the position of City Manager for the City of Marco Island be Continued to the Council's May 4, 2026 meeting.**

**MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

### ***Motions To Extend the Meeting***

**Two (2) MOTIONS were advanced and seconded during the Council's discussion of topics 15e and 15g under Resolutions & City Council Items extending the City Council Meeting to initially conclude no later than 9:55 P.M., and subsequently, 10:30 P.M. BOTH MOTIONS WERE APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL.**

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

### ***16. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda***

*No items were removed from the Consent Agenda at this meeting.*

### ***17. Council Communications & Future Agenda***

*Councilor Henry reminded the Council of Councilor Schwan's request at the January 5, 2026 City Council Meeting to place a review of the City's agreement with Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, P.L. on the City's Future Agenda, and she requested that this be addressed and scheduled soon.*

*Councilor Henry complimented the Marco Island Parks & Recreation Department on its successful Spring Jubilee in the Park event. She encouraged her fellow Councilors to attend and be visible for community engagement and dialogue at future community events.*

*Councilor Henry also reminded all present of the following:*

- 1) the upcoming Noontime Rotary Spirit Awards and 60th Anniversary Gala on April 11, 2025;*
- 2) the Marco Island Water & Sewer Department's Open House on April 15, 2026, and;*
- 3) the on-going need for non-perishable food items at the Our Daily Bread Food Pantry*

*Councilor Gray requested that a discussion of potentially bringing the City Attorney function "in house" under the City of Marco Island be included in the Weiss Serota Helfman Cole + Bierman, P.L. discussion raised by Councilor Henry.*

*Councilor Gray advised the community that the citizen-based Owl Watch Volunteer organization will be recognized with a Proclamation recognizing its 10 years of existence at the Council's April 20, 2026 meeting.*

*Councilor Gray also commended the editors and staff of the Coastal Breeze News for its identification of a wildlife-friendly beach lighting solution in a recent edition of its newspaper.*

*Councilor Gray concluded by advising the Council and the City Staff of his readiness to release his White*

*Paper on the history and impact of past decisions regarding the City's existing Noise Ordinance. Under the advice of City Attorney Alan Gabriel, the material gathered by Councilor Gray will be disseminated to the Council in conjunction with this discussion at the Council's April 20, 2026 meeting.*

*Councilor Schwan reminded all present of the Sea Turtle Open House on Wednesday, April 8, 2026.*

*Chair Palumbo advised the Council of his collaboration with Ms. Brittany Piersma of the Audubon of the Western Everglades in meeting with Collier County Manager Amy Patterson to encourage the County's elimination of the usage of rodenticide boxes at and around all County-owned facilities.*

#### [ID 25-4920](#) Future Agenda Items

**Attachments:** [Future Agenda](#)

*City Attorney Alan Gabriel was asked to bring the results of his investigation into potential Council actions to manage and/or regulate the use of drones and on-shore shark fishing during the May 1 - October 31, 2026 turtle nesting season to a future meeting of the City Council.*

### **Motion To Extend the Meeting**

**MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Vice-Chair Champagne, to extend the City Council Meeting to conclude no later than 10:40 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

### **18. Council Reports**

#### [ID 26-5304](#) Whitepaper- Shore-Based Shark Fishing on Marco Island - Councilor Bonita Schwan

**Attachments:** [Memo City Attorney](#)  
[Whitepaper Councilor Schwan](#)

*Councilor Schwan outlined her understandings regarding the ability of local governmental agencies to regulate on-shore shark fishing, and she recognized a number of Florida coastal communities that have had such regulations in place over the past 15 years.*

*Councilor Schwan also acknowledged the existence of citizen-led petitions that are currently circulating in the community regarding this issue, and she called attention to the upcoming sea turtle nesting season (beginning May 1) which could be adversely affected by continued nighttime on-shore shark fishing after that date.*

*Questions regarding permitted and non-permitted commercial activity on Marco Island's beaches were addressed by City Staff, and several Councilors expressed their opinions regarding this issue.*

*Chair Palumbo cited his questions and concerns should the City elect to pursue regulatory action beyond what is already in effect by the State of Florida, and Vice-Chair Champagne invited the on-shore shark fishing supporters present at the meeting to develop and communicate a proposal which may identify a middle-ground where both local supporters and detractors of this practice can come together.*

*City Attorney Alan Gabriel was asked to investigate, and bring forward to an upcoming Council meeting, what regulatory avenues might be available to the Council on a temporary or permanent basis to help support the upcoming turtle nesting season in light of ongoing nighttime public on-shore shark fishing*

along Marco Island's beaches.

City Attorney Gabriel was also asked to investigate what might be done to better regulate the use of drones along the Island's beachfront.

Chair Palumbo encouraged all members of the Council to, individually, reach out to Attorney Gabriel with questions that they may have regarding these issues.

### **Motion To Extend the Meeting**

**MOTION by Vice-Chair Champagne, seconded by Councilor Schwan, to extend the City Council Meeting to conclude no later than 10:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

### **19. Citizens' Comments**

The following individuals came forward to offer comment on the Council's discussion regarding on-shore shark fishing, permitting for commercial activity on the beach, and the upcoming turtle nesting season:

- 1) Mr. Michael Nguyen (Gulf Blvd., N. Redington Beach, FL)
- 2) Mr. David Boggs (Delbrook Way)
- 3) Ms. Maria Lamb (Ludlow Rd), and member of the Marco Island Beach & Coastal Advisory Committee

Additionally, Mr. Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager, encouraged residents and visitors to the Island to attend the City of Marco Island Water & Sewer Department Open House on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

### **20. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Palumbo adjourned the meeting at 10:48 P.M.

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Darrin Palumbo, Council Chair

ATTEST:

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Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

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Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist