

# City of Marco Island Florida

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



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

**Monday, November 4, 2024**

**5:30 PM**

**Community Meeting Room**

### **City Council**

*Chair: Jared Grifoni*

*Vice-Chair: Erik Brechnitz*

*City Council: Rich Blonna,  
Greg Folley, Becky Irwin,  
Darrin Palumbo, Joe Rola*

*City Manager: Mike McNeas*

*Assistant City Manager: Casey Lucius*

*Assistant City Attorney: David Tolces*

*City Clerk: Joan Taylor*

## 1. Call to Order

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

## 2. Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo, Councilor Rola and Chair Grifoni

## Also Present

Michael McNeese, City Manager  
Casey Lucius, Assistant City Manager  
Joan Taylor, City Clerk  
David Tolces, Assistant City Attorney  
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief  
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief  
Guillermo Polanco, Finance Director  
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director  
Justin Martin, Public Works Director  
Jose Duran, Information Technology Director  
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager  
Angela Johanning, Purchasing & Risk Manager  
Samantha Malloy, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager  
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician  
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist  
Citizens and Visitors

## 3. Invocation

Offered by the Reverend Scott Kerens of the Marco Presbyterian Church.

## 4. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chair Grifoni.

## 5. Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION by Councilor Irwin, seconded by Councilor Folley, that the Agenda be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 7 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo, Councilor Rola and Chair Grifoni

## 6. Approval of the Minutes

- a. [ID 23-3167](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2024

**MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of October 16, 2024, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 7 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo, Councilor Rola and Chair Grifoni

- b. [ID 23-3171](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024

**MOTION by Councilor Folley, seconded by Councilor Blonna, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of October 21, 2024, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 7 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo, Councilor Rola and Chair Grifoni

## 7. Approval of Consent Agenda

**MOTION by Councilor Irwin, seconded by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, that the Consent Agenda be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

**Yes:** 7 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo, Councilor Rola and Chair Grifoni

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

- a. [ID 24-3920](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Earth Tech Enterprises, Inc. for the 2024-2025 Tigertail Lagoon/Sand Dollar Spit Sand Restoration to Recover from Impacts of Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricanes Helene and Milton in the Amount not to Exceed \$248,255, using Collier County Contract #21-7885 - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works
- b. [ID 24-3919](#) Approve a Contract with Axon Enterprise, Inc., and Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Provide Taser 10 Equipment, Training, Replacements, and Warranty in the Total Amount of \$213,821 Over a 60-Month Period, using Contract through Sourcewell 092722-AXN - Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
- c. [ID 24-3921](#) Authorize the City Manager to Approve Purchase Orders which are Anticipated to Exceed \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2025.- Angela Johenning, Purchasing & Risk Manager

## 8. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 23-3323](#) Employee Service Awards:  
Paul Ashby - 15 Years  
Michael Daniel - 20 Years  
Kevin Myers - 25 Years

*City Manager Mike McNees recognized and called forward the City employees noted above to receive their appreciation of service recognition certificate and pin as presented by City Council Chair Jared Grifoni.*

*Each recipient received a warm round of applause from all present.*

- b. [ID 24-3804](#) Employee of the Quarter

*Ms. Tara Kosieracki of the City's Public Works Department was honored as the City's "Employee of the Quarter" for July - September, 2024. Ms. Kosieracki received a warm round of applause from all present.*

- c. [ID 24-3854](#) Proclamation - In Recognition of Florida State Representative Bob Rommel

*Chair Jared Grifoni publicly recognized District 81 Florida State Representative Bob Rommel with a Proclamation honoring his many accomplishments in state government over the past eight years. Representative Rommel offered a few words of appreciation and encouragement to the citizens of Marco Island and the members of the City Council, and he expressed his thanks for the support that he received from the Marco Island community during his term in office.*

- d. [ID 24-3895](#) Presentation - Recognition of Departing City Council Members Jared Grifoni, Greg Folley, and Joe Rola

*Vice-Chair Erik Brechnitz, on behalf of the Council, the City Staff, and the community of Marco Island, and on the occasion of their last City Council meeting, presented wall plaques to Councilor Folley, Chairman Grifoni, and Councilor Rola in recognition of their contributions to the community of Marco Island during their time on the City Council.*

- e. [ID 24-3933](#) Farewell Remarks from Chairman Jared Grifoni

*Departing City Council Chair Jared Grifoni shared his thoughts and observations on the successes and accomplishments of the Council during his eight years in office. He thanked his family, fellow Councilors, the City Staff, and the Marco Island community for the support that he enjoyed over the years.*

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

*Ms. Deb Henry (Tulip Ct.) thanked all members of the community who already cast their votes prior to Election Day, and she reiterated her desire to serve on the Marco Island City Council.*

*Ms. Denise Templeton (Cape Marco Dr.) thanked departing Councilor Greg Folley for his contributions during his term on the Marco Island City Council.*

*Mr. Joe Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.) complimented all members of the City Council and remarked on their dedication to the Marco Island community.*

*Ms. Kassie-Annie Rigas (Amber Dr.) read a "Letter to the Editor" published in a local newspaper encouraging Marco Island residents to support the Island's small businesses.*

*Mr. Martin Winter (Perrine Ct.) thanked the members of the Council for their service, and he encouraged those who have not yet voted to do so.*

## **10. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing**

*None.*

## **11. Ordinances**

### *A. Public Hearings*

- [ID 24-3918](#) Ordinance - Second Reading - Land Development Code Amendment (LDC) to Sec. 30-84, Conditional Uses, 7. and Sec. 30-88. Structural and Site Design Guidelines (5). a. 4 by Deleting Both in their Entirety - Daniel J. Smith, Director,

---

Community Affairs.

*City Clerk Joan Taylor read Ordinance 24-17 into the record by title only.*

*Marco Island Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith expressed his appreciation to the outgoing Council members for their service. He then briefly reminded the Council of the rationale for the proposed change to the City's Land Development Code.*

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

**MOTION by Councilor Irwin, seconded by Councilor Blonna, that Ordinance 24-17 - Land Development Code (LDC) Amendments to Sec. 30-84, Conditional Uses, 7, and Sec. 30-88 Structural and Site Design Guidelines (5) A. 4, by Deleting Both in Their Entirety, be Approved on Second Reading. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:**

**Yes:** 6 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo and Chair Grifoni

**No:** 1 - Councilor Rola

**B. First Readings**

*None.*

**12. Resolutions & City Council Items**

- a. [ID 24-3929](#) Resolution - Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Re-Appropriation - Guillermo Polanco, Director, Finance

*City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 24-65 into the record by title only.*

*Marco Island Finance Director Guillermo Polanco thanked the outgoing members of the Council for their service. He then highlighted the significant adjustments that were reflected in the final Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Re-Appropriation Resolution.*

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

**MOTION by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that Resolution 24-65 - Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Re-Appropriation, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:**

**Yes:** 7 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo, Councilor Rola and Chair Grifoni

- b. [ID 24-3926](#) Name Recommendation for the New City Park - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director - Community Affairs

*Marco Island Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith briefly outlined the history of the park and the process for developing name recommendations, and Assistant City Attorney David Tolces clarified the City's rights and responsibilities on the Planned Unit Development (PUD) site.*

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

**MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Councilor Irwin, that the Name "Castaways Park" for the new, 1.87 acre City Park Within the Planned Unit**

---

**Development (PUD) Located on the Northwest Corner of the Intersection of San Marco Road and Bald Eagle Drive, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:**

**Yes:** 7 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo, Councilor Rola and Chair Grifoni

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

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

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

*Councilor Folley briefly outlined the memorable accomplishments of the Council during his tenure, and he expressed his appreciation for the support that he received from his colleague Councilors, the City Staff, his Committee appointees, and all who supported him in office.*

*Councilor Blonna thanked the three departing Councilors, and he briefly highlighted what he learned from each of them during their time together on the Council.*

*Councilor Irwin also thanked the departing Councilors for the personal respect that they exhibited during their time on the Council, and she complimented the City Staff's professionalism over the past four years. Councilor Irwin concluded her remarks by encouraging citizens to submit their applications to serve on a City Committee in the upcoming year.*

*Councilor Palumbo wished good luck to the candidates seeking election to the Marco Island City Council, and he expressed his respect for the three current Councilors who are not seeking re-election during this election season.*

*Vice-Chair Brechnitz shared the details of a recent personal experience with the Marco Island Police Department, addressing inaccuracies and omissions that were characterized in a publicly-released document originating from the City's police union.*

*Chair Grifoni recommended that the incoming City Council consider commissioning an independent review of the Marco Island Police Department's policies and practices. He also queried the City's Community Affairs Director on the status of a Planning Board review item (parking a vessel / vessel trailer on residential property) that recently came before that body.*

*Chair Grifoni highlighted the upcoming Veterans Day Celebration Concert at Veterans Community Park on Sunday, November 10, 2024, and he encouraged the new City Council body to work together to achieve positive outcomes for the community.*

#### **[ID 23-3172](#) Future Agenda Items**

*No new items were added to the Council's Future Agenda at this meeting.*

### **15. Council Reports**

*None.*

### **16. City Manager's Report**

*City Manager Mike McNees assured the Council that the police union's recently-published concerns were being appropriately addressed.*

City Manager McNees also alerted the Council to a forthcoming mid-November letter to approximately 4,800 property owners on Marco Island regarding potential issues with their drinking water. Water & Sewer General Manager Jeff Poteet communicated that a Town Hall Meeting for concerned citizens has been scheduled for December 12, 2024.

Mr. McNees reminded the Council that the first Farmer's Market for the 2024 - 2025 season will take place on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at Veterans Community Park.

City Manager McNees concluded by recognizing the courage and fortitude that current Councilors and prospective candidates to the City Council display in seeking to serve the community, and he expressed his appreciation for the many positive outcomes that this body of Councilors achieved during his time as City Manager.

Mr. McNees also noted that recently-deceased former City Councilor Howard Reed will be missed by many on Marco Island.

**17. City Attorney's Report**

Assistant City Attorney David Tolces, on behalf of City Attorney Alan Gabriel, conveyed Ms. Gabriel's appreciation for the gestures of support that he received as he grieves the recent loss of his wife.

**18. Department Reports**

[ID 23-3173](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

No questions or comments were raised regarding the Monthly Department Reports.

**19. Citizens' Comments**

Mr. Martin Winter (Perrine Ct.) complimented Collier Area Transit Authority (CAT) and Collier County District 1 Commissioner Rick LoCastro for acting at the behest of his wife to erect a new, partially-enclosed bus stop enclosure on Collier Boulevard for the benefit of off-Island hospitality workers.

**20. Adjournment**

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Grifoni adjourned the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jared Grifoni, Council Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist