

Agenda Item:	Prepared By: Erik Brechnitz
Business: Ordinance - First Reading	Department: City Council

**Subject:**

Ordinance - First Reading & Public Hearing – Making Certain Amendments to the Marco Island Charter and Code of Ordinance Related to the Establishment of the Office of Mayor and Having City Clerk Report to the City Council, Pending the Results of the Special Called Election to be Held on March 19, 2024. – Erik Brechnitz, City Council

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**BACKGROUND:**

Last time City Charter was amended in January of 2010. It is proposed that two changes be made to the Charter (and related changes to a certain parts of the Code of Ordinances) – 1. establishing the office of Mayor who would be elected directly by the Marco Island voters and 2. having City Clerk report directly to the City Council.

Any changes to the City Charter require approval by the Marco Island voters. It is proposed that two charter amendment questions be presented to the Marco Island votes during the presidential preference primary election that will be held on March 19, 2024. Should the proposed change regarding the Mayor pass, first mayoral election will be held along with the regular City Council election on November 5, 2024.

Procedurally this needs passage of two documents - Ordinance changing the Charter language, which needs two readings, and the Resolution calling for a special election and approving ballot language. Resolution is attached to the agenda for a reference, it will be presented for formal approval on October 2, 2023 along with the second reading of this Ordinance.

The proposed changes mimic current form of government as it exists in the City of Naples. Seven-member City Council would consist of six Council Members and a Mayor. Mayor would be elected directly by the people of Marco Island for a maximum two four-years terms. Mayor would be considered the official head of the City Government. Positions of Chair and Vice-Chair would be eliminated.

**FUNDING SOURCE / FISCAL IMPACT:** None. Salary of the Mayor will be \$9,000 annually, same as currently Council Chairman's, position to be eliminated. Special called election will coincide with the presidential preference primary election on March 19, 2024, therefore adding ballot questions related to these changes will not cost anything extra for the Marco Island taxpayers.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the Ordinance on the First Reading.

**POTENTIAL MOTION:** "I move to approve Ordinance 23-\_\_\_\_ on first reading"