

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, July 6, 2026

5:30 PM

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 meeting to order at 5:30 P.M., and he:

- 1) highlighted the Rules of Decorum for all present;*
- 2) congratulated America on the 250th anniversary of its founding;*
- 3) thanked the individuals and businesses that donated to this year's July 4th fireworks display;*
- 4) reminded all present of the U.S. World Cup soccer team's advancement into the Round-of-16, and;*
- 5) shared a solemn tribute in memory of former 2000 -2004 City Councilor Heywood Boyce*

2. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

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
Diana Snover, Human Resources Director
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager
Joe Parrilli, Fleet & Facilities Manager
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors*

3. Invocation

Offered by the Reverend Timothy Navin of the San Marco Catholic Church.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Councilor Schwan.

5. Approval of the Agenda

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

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

6. Approval of the Minutes

- a. [ID 26-5491](#) Approval of the City Council Capital Budget Workshop Minutes of June 15, 2026

Attachments: [City Council Capital Budget Workshop Minutes of June 15, 2026](#)

**MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Goehler that the City Council Capital Budget Workshop Minutes of June 15, 2026, be Approved.
MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

- b. [ID 26-5490](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2026

Attachments: [City Council Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2026](#)

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2026, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilor Dohm requested that Agenda Item 7b (Resolution - Approving the Use of the Parking Lot at the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

[Editorial Note: the Council's action on this item is reflected in these Minutes under Agenda Item 16 (Items Removed from the Consent Agenda)].

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

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

[Approval of the Consent Agenda Passed the Routine Item Listed Below]

- a. [ID 26-5483](#) Resolution - Amending the Schedule of Civil Penalties and Fines to Increase the Administrative Fee Assessed upon the Failed Appeal of a Code Enforcement Citation or Notice of Violation - Joseph Belardo, Interim Police Chief

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 26-29](#)
[Code Enforcement - Costs Per Case](#)
[Code Enforcement - Fee Summary](#)

8. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 26-5493](#) Employee Service Awards:
Scott Henriksson - 20 Years
Anthony Gordon - 20 Years

City of Marco Island Human Resources Director Diana Snover recognized and called forward North Water Treatment Facility Chief Plant Officer Scott Henriksson to receive his 20 year service recognition certificate, \$100.00 gift card, and pin as presented by City Council Chair Darrin Palumbo with the support of the entire City Council.

Fire Rescue Department Employee Anthony Gordon was not present to receive his recognition of service award at this meeting.

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

Mr. Len Schuman (S. Collier Blvd.) presented: 1) an American flag that flew over the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, and; 2) a copy of the Special Edition book "One Nation: America Remembers September 11, 2001" to the City of Marco Island as a gift to the Island's youth in remembrance of these important 1941 and 2001 historical events in American history. City Council Chair Darrin Palumbo, accompanied by City of Marco Island Fire Rescue Chief Chris Byrne, received both gifts with thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Schuman on behalf of the City.

Ms. Barbara Ann Heegan (Arlington Cir., Naples) encouraged all present to attend The Arlington of Naples' Senior Health & Wellness Expo on Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

Mr. Alex Parker (N. Collier Blvd.) shared three perspectives as: 1) a Marco Island Chamber of Commerce Board Member; 2) a local Marco Island building contractor, and; 3) an Island resident, on the importance and impact of the recently installed Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Veterans' Community Park.

Mr. Michael Josephs (Wintergreen Ct.) shared his recent experiences of: 1) the exceptional responsiveness of the Marco Island Fire Rescue Team to a recent medical emergency at the Snook Inn, and; 2) his initial visit to the newly-installed Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Veterans' Community Park. Mr. Josephs volunteered to assist in maintaining the appearance of the Memorial into the future.

10. City Manager's Report

[ID 26-5485](#) City Manager's Report

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

City Manager Casey Lucius directed the Council's attention to her written report as she corrected the stated FEMA damage reimbursement to the City from Hurricane Irma to be \$1.2 million (versus \$188,472 as noted in her report).

11. City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Alan Gabriel requested a closed-door attorney session with the City Council to review the July 1, 2026 enactment of Florida HB 655 and its relationship to the City's responsibilities under the Bert Harris Private Property Rights Protection Act.

The Council tentatively identified an August 3, 2026 date for this session pending confirmation of the availability of appropriate attorney session support personnel.

12. Departmental Reports

[ID 26-5486](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

Attachments: [City Clerk's Office](#)

[Internal Services](#)

[Public Works](#)

[Water & Sewer](#)

[Police](#)

Councilor Henry queried City of Marco Island Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli on enhancements to the clay tennis courts at the Marco Island Racquet Center, and she confirmed the forthcoming re-opening of the North Collier Boulevard / North Barfield Drive intersection with City of Marco Island Public Works Director Justin Martin.

Councilor Goehler thanked Public Works Director Justin Martin on the improvements to the North Collier Boulevard / North Barfield Drive intersection, and she requested insight from Interim Police Chief Joe Belardo and City Attorney Alan Gabriel on the City's approach to collecting noise violation fines from non-residents.

Councilor Schwan requested insight on the timetable for the installation of: 1) the perimeter noise abatement panels approved by the Council at its May 4, 2026 meeting (Agenda Item 8c) , and; 2) the between-court pickleball sound mitigation panels approved by the Council at its June 15, 2026 meeting (Agenda Item 15a). City of Marco Island Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli provided an update on the status of both installations.

Councilor Gray highlighted for the community the comprehensive field survey of 4,871 water service lines of unknown material classification that are being addressed to ensure that no lead materials are in the City's customer service lines in concert with the Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI) water meter conversions on the Island (noted on page 3 of the July 6, 2026 Water and Sewer (W&S) Departmental Report).

Councilor Gray also questioned City of Marco Island Water & Sewer General Manager Jeff Poteet on: 1) whether the Injection Well #1 Mechanical Integrity Test (MIT) can also assess the remaining capacity of the well to accept injections (Answer: It cannot), and; 2) if a reduced debt level can be realized by drawing down less of the capital lease for the AWI project in light of the Water & Sewer Department's favorable financial performance this year. General Manager Poteet indicated that this opportunity is not available to the Water & Sewer Department at this time under the terms of its Agreement.

For the record, General Manager Poteet also advised the Council of an error in the body of his report on additional water and sewer revenues realized during the first eight months of the fiscal year with the implementation of the Advance Meeting Infrastructure (AMI) project. Rather than the \$4 million noted, he corrected the actual increase realized for the first eight months of the fiscal year to be \$585,000.

Chair Palumbo called attention to recent residential near-drowning incident involving a young boy and a hot tub without an installed anti-entrapment drain cover. He urged all pool and hot tub owners on the Island to install this safety device without delay.

13. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

14. Ordinances

None.

15. Resolutions & City Council Items

- a. [ID 26-5484](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to BITDirect, For One 25' Bimini Boat, in the Amount of \$173,687.80, Using TIPS Cooperative Contract #230105. -Joe Belardo, Interim Police Chief

Attachments: [BIT Quote & Pricing List From TIPS](#)
[TIPS Cooperative Contract With BIT Direct](#)
[TIPS Member PO Process](#)

Interim Police Chief Joe Belardo outlined the age and the condition of the existing Police Department boat, and he addressed several questions from members of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Goehler, that authorization of the City Manager to issue a purchase order to BITDirect for one (1) 25 foot Bimini Boat, in the amount of \$173,687.80, using TIPS Cooperative Contract #230105, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

- b. [ID 26-5502](#) Authorize the City Manager to Award a Contract to Rycon Construction, Inc. for the Construction of the SWTP Portable Generator Open Storage Structure in the amount of \$1,658,476.60 - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water and Sewer Department.

Attachments: [ITB 2026-004 Bid Tab](#)
[Rycon Construction, Inc. ITB Submittal](#)

City of Marco Island Water & Sewer General Manager Jeff Poteet outlined the need for the proposed structure, noted the inclusion of a grant from the Florida Department of Commerce for this project, and he addressed several questions from members of the Council regarding the use and maintenance of the City's generators.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Dohm, that authorization of the City Manager to award a contract to Rycon Construction, Inc. for the construction of the South Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) portable generator open storage structure in the amount of \$1,658,476.60, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

- c. [ID 26-5504](#) Approval of a Purchase Order to Genserve LLC for Supply and Install a New Generator at the Marco Island Police Department in the Amount of \$234,070. - Joe Parrilli, Director, Fleet & Facilities

Attachments: [Genserve LLC Contract #B240559DJN](#)
[Genserve Quote](#)

Marco Island Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli noted the age and condition of the Police Department generator and fuel tank system, and he addressed several questions from members of the Council.

Public Comment

Mr. Mike Josephs (Wintergreen Ct.) encouraged the City to solicit multiple contractor bids in sourcing all facility and infrastructure projects.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Goehler, that authorization of the City Manager to award a purchase order to Genserve LLC for the supply and installation of a new generator for the Marco Island Police Department in the amount of \$234,070.00, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

- d. [ID 26-5507](#) Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Interlocal Agreement Between the City of Marco Island and Collier County Regarding Disaster Debris Removal and Joint Utilization of Disaster Debris Management Sites. - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works

Attachments: [Amendment 1 - City of Marco Island Interlocal Agreement](#)
[DMS Sites Buffers](#)
[State Legislature & Federal Guidance Memo \(2005\)](#)
[City of Marco Island Interlocal Agreement For Debris Removal \(January 2009\)](#)

City of Marco Island Public Works Director Justin Martin outlined the reasons for the amended interlocal agreement, and he confirmed that no additional liability will accrue to the City as a result of this proposed amendment.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Henry, that Amendment No. 1 to the interlocal agreement between the City of Marco Island and Collier County regarding disaster debris removal and the joint utilization of disaster debris management sites, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

- e. [ID 26-5499](#) Discussion with Council Action - Marco Island City Council Scheduled Meeting Times - Casey Lucius, Ph.D., City Manager and Kevin Dohm, City Councilor

Attachments: [Council Meetings Memo](#)
[Effects of Fatigue White Paper - Councilor Dohm](#)

City Manager Casey Lucius briefly described the two (2) alternatives that were outlined in her "City Council Meeting Times" memo dated July 6, 2026, and she recommended that any change adopted by the Council begin with the first City Council Meeting of the 2027 Fiscal Year (i.e. October 5, 2026).

Ms. Lucius noted that the Council's meeting start time is outlined in the Marco Island City Council Rules of

Procedure and not the City Charter (which would require voter approval), and she recommended ways by which the Council could accommodate public comment after 5:00 P.M. on issues mandated by state statute.

Councilor Dohm, the originator of the proposal to revise City Council's meeting start time, shared the observations noted in his White Paper regarding the effects of fatigue on performance, safety, and physical well-being, and he urged his colleague Councilors to consider an earlier-in-the-day start time for future City Council meetings.

Members of the Council discussed and debated the recommendations offered by City Manager Lucius, as well as other Council member proposed alternatives.

Chair Palumbo obtained overall Council consensus (6 For, 1 Against) in a "show of hands" favoring a future 1:30 P.M. (versus current 5:30 P.M.) Council Meeting start time.

Public Comment

Mr. David Boggs (Delbrook Way) offered his support of an earlier-in-the day schedule, and he cited certain ways by which other municipalities provide for public engagement and comment.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Dohm, that authorization of the City Staff to schedule the City Council's regular meetings to commence at 1:30 P.M., beginning October 5, 2026, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

No: 1 - Councilor Gray

16. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- 7b.** [ID 26-5494](#) Resolution - Approving the Use of the Parking Lot Located at the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island, 991 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island, Florida for Community Events and for an Additional Twenty-Eight (28) Day Extension for Community Events - Samantha Malloy, Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 26-30](#)

Marco Island City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 26-30 into the record by title only.

Councilor Dohm shared his rationale for removing this item from the Consent Agenda.

City of Marco Island Community Affairs Director Dan Smith came forward to address questions from members of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Dohm, seconded by Councilor Gray, that Resolution 26-30 - authorizing the use of the parking lot located at the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island, 991 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145, for community events and for an additional twenty-eight (28) day extension for community events, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Dohm, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

17. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Vice-Chair Champagne shared a deep, thoughtful review of the many individuals, business owners, organizational leaders, and City employees who partnered with the American Legion Post 404 veterans to make the recently-installed Vietnam Veterans' Memorial a reality. He encouraged all Island residents and visitors to never forget the sacrifices that are represented by this Memorial.

Councilor Goehler shared a personal reflection of her mother's reaction to the Memorial upon viewing it firsthand. In the spirit of the volunteerism exhibited by Mr. Josephs during Public Comment (Agenda Item 9), Councilor Goehler indicated her willingness to help maintain the Memorial on a regular basis.

Councilor Goehler concluded by complimenting Mr. Christian Davies, the City's new Public Information Officer and Police Department Social Media Manager, on the content and the quality of his recent postings.

Councilor Henry echoed Councilor Goehler's praise of Mr. Davies, and she encouraged all members of the public to take advantage of the July 15th Senior Health & Wellness Expo that was promoted by Ms. Barbara Ann Heegan during Public Comment (Agenda Item 9).

Councilor Henry thanked all those who contributed patriotic window artwork at Marco Walk Plaza in honor of America's 250th birthday. She also recognized Ms. Brittany Richards' article highlighting this activity in the July 2 - 8, 2026 edition of the Coastal Breeze News.

Councilor Henry concluded by requesting the addition of an item to the Council's Future Agenda (see "Future Agenda Items" on next page).

Councilor Schwan displayed a slide of Ordinance 19-03 (Amending the City of Marco Island Police Officers' Pension Plan to Provide for Compliance with the 2015 - 2018 Term Collective Bargaining Agreement), and she engaged the Council in a discussion of the reported shortfall in the funding of the Marco Island Police Pension Fund.

Chair Palumbo requested that the City Staff review: 1) the cause(s) for the current underfunded position; 2) the Council notification procedure, and; 3) potential ways to address the shortfall. City Manager Casey Lucius indicated that this topic will be addressed at the Council's July 20th Operating Budget Workshop.

Chair Palumbo reiterated the dates and topics for the next two Council Workshops on July 13th and July 20th for the benefit of the members of the Council.

Councilor Schwan requested an update on the status of the PodPlay pickleball scheduling and facility access control system that was briefly discussed at the Council's June 15, 2026 meeting (see the 6/15/26 Minutes of Agenda Item 15a). City Manager Lucius indicated that a forthcoming meeting with the PodPlay representative was scheduled, and that the benefits and costs for this tool will be discussed with the Council at its July 20th Operating Budget Workshop.

Councilor Schwan concluded by engaging City Manager Lucius, the City Clerk Taylor, and all members of the Council in a discussion of attendance standards for volunteer City Committee members and their impact on the Audit Advisory Committee's responsibilities relative to the upcoming CliftonLarsonAllen Fiscal Year 2025 audit results and recommendations for the City of Marco Island.

Following significant Council dialogue on this topic, Chair Palumbo solicited and obtained a majority "show of hands" (5 For, 2 Against) supporting the City Manager's decision to facilitate a physical quorum of Audit

Advisory Committee members at its July 9, 2026 meeting.

Chair Palumbo, in consideration of information shared with the Council via email by Marco Island Planning Board Vice-Chair Hayden Dublois regarding other municipalities' use of remote teleconferencing technology, solicited and obtained a majority "show of hands" (6 For, 1 Against) requesting that the Planning Board formally provide its recommendation to the City Council on the future application of remote teleconferencing technology at Planning Board meetings.

[ID 26-5488](#) Future Agenda Items

Attachments: [Ordinance- Police Pension Fund, Councilor Schwan](#)
[Future Agenda](#)

Councilor Henry requested that her White Paper on EV (Electric Vehicle) chargers be added to the Council's Future Agenda.

18. Council Reports

a. [ID 26-5487](#) Discussion- Legal Services for the City - Councilor Deb Henry

Attachments: [Amendment \(Oct 4, 2022\)](#)
[Fully Executed Contract \(2015\)](#)
[Weiss Serota RFP response](#)

Councilor Henry briefly outlined the scope of services and monthly costs to the City in retaining Weiss Serota, Helfman Cole + Bierman, P.L. as its legal counsel, and she proposed that the Council consider directing the City Staff to solicit bids under three alternative legal service models to determine if a more cost-effective alternative exists for the City.*

**The legal service models proposed were:*

- 1) an "all-inclusive" monthly legal services retainer without additional hourly fees;*
- 2) in-House legal representation with supporting outside legal services, and;*
- 3) a revised monthly retainer plus hourly fee schedule updated to the City's current service needs*

The Council engaged in a significant amount of dialogue regarding this proposal, and Weiss Serota, Helfman Cole + Bierman, P.L. City Attorney Alan Gabriel shared additional background and insight regarding his firm's support of the City's legal needs.

Chair Palumbo solicited a "show of hands" to determine if Council support existed for pursuing in-House legal representation with supporting outside legal services. Only two of the seven Councilors indicated a desire to pursue this alternative at this time.

Following additional Council dialogue on the remaining two alternatives, Chair Palumbo solicited a "show of hands" to determine if a majority of the Council supported soliciting bids for the City's legal services. Only three of the seven Councilors indicated a desire to solicit bids at this time.

Vice-Chair Champagne requested that City Attorney Alan Gabriel prepare an updated legal services agreement between Weiss Serota, Helfman Cole + Bierman, P.L. and the City of Marco Island that is more accurately reflective of the scope of work currently being provided to the City.

19. Citizens' Comments

No members of the public came forward to address the Council during this portion of the meeting.

20. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Palumbo adjourned the meeting at 8:28 P.M.

Darrin Palumbo, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist