

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

5:30 PM

Community Meeting Room

City Council

Chair: TBD

Vice-Chair: Erik Brechnitz

*City Council: Stephen Gray,
Tamara Goehler, Deb Henry,
Darrin Palumbo, Bonita Schwan*

City Manager: Mike McNees

Assistant City Manager: Casey Lucius

City Attorney: Alan L. Gabriel

City Clerk: Joan Taylor

Swearing in of Councilor-Elect – Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney

No Councilor-Elect was identified prior to the meeting for swearing in by City Attorney Alan Gabriel.

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Brechnitz called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call

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

Also Present

*Michael McNees, City Manager
Casey Lucius, Assistant City Manager
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
Dave Ennis, Police Captain
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Jose Duran, Information Technology Director
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager
Joe Parrilli, Fleet & Facilities Manager
Sonia Iszler, Water & Sewer Engineering & Operations Manager
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors*

3. Invocation

Offered by the Reverend Thomas McCulley of the New Life Community Church.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Vice-Chair Brechnitz.

5. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Henry, that the Agenda be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

6. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Brechnitz called for nominations to the position of Chair of the Marco Island City Council.

ID 25-4059 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

MOTION by Councilor Gray nominating Vice-Chair Brechnitz to the role of Chair of the Marco Island City Council. MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 3 - Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Gray and Councilor Goehler

No: 3 - Councilor Henry, Councilor Palumbo and Councilor Schwan

MOTION by Councilor Schwan nominating Councilor Palumbo to the role of Chair of the Marco Island City Council. MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 2 - Councilor Henry and Councilor Schwan

No: 4 - Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Gray, Councilor Goehler and Councilor Palumbo

Vice-Chair Brechnitz moved forward to address the remainder of the Council's Agenda because motions to elect a Chair or Vice-Chair could not pass.

7. Approval of the Minutes

[ID 24-3973](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2025

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Gray, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2025, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

8. Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilor Palumbo requested the withdrawal of Agenda Item 8f (Resolution - Approving the Appointment to the Audit Committee) from the Council's Agenda.

Councilor Gray requested that Agenda Item 8h (Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.) be removed from the Consent Agenda. As a result, the Council's action on Agenda Item 8h is now reflected in these Minutes under Agenda Item 14 (Items Removed From the Consent Agenda).

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

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

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

- a. [ID 24-4042](#) Resolution - Approving Appointments to the Beautification Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- b. [ID 24-4043](#) Resolution - Approving Appointments to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- c. [ID 24-4045](#) Resolution - Approving Appointments to the Waterways Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- d. [ID 24-4046](#) Resolution - Approving Appointments to the Planning Board - Joan Taylor,

City Clerk

e. [ID 25-4065](#) Resolution - Approving Appointment to the Beach & Coastal Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

f. [ID 24-4004](#) Resolution - Approving Appointment to the Audit Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Withdrawn from agenda

g. [ID 25-4064](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services to Develop Phase 2 of the Lead and Copper Rule Compliance as Required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Regulations 40 CFR Part 141, in the Amount of \$68,083.00. - Jeffrey Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer Department

i. [ID 24-4036](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to the Lowest Responsive and Responsible Bidder, Craneworks, Inc., for the Purchase of a Boom Truck in the Amount of \$294,500.00 per ITB #2025-001 - Jeffrey Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer Department

j. [ID 25-4091](#) Award of Contract to Affordable Landscaping Service and Design for New Walking Path at Marco Island Dog Park in the Amount of \$19,755.50 - Joe Parrilli, Manager, Fleet and Facilities

9. Proclamations and Presentations

[ID 25-4094](#) Presentation - Donation for Dog Park Accessibility Improvements - Ms. Cathy Clausen, Marco Connection

Councilor Palumbo recalled the request made by Ms. Margaret Hackett for accessibility to the City's Canine Cover Dog Park at Mackle Park during Citizens' Comments at the Council's November 18, 2024 meeting, and he recognized donations from Marco Connection, Inc., a voluntary advocacy organization, and Mr. Joseph Oliverio of Joey's Pizza, La Mesa Taqueria, and Doreen's Cup of Joe restaurants, to facilitate the improvements at Canine Cove.

Ms. Cathy Clausen, on behalf of Marco Connection, Inc., noted that businesses Marco Escapes, Horizons Rentals, Clausen Property Rentals, Marco Island Vacation Rentals, and other unnamed private vacation rental home owners were co-contributors to the Marco Connection, Inc. donation.

Ms. Margaret Hackett thanked the Council and the community for its support on behalf of people with mobility challenges on Marco Island.

City Manager McNees noted that the Council's approval of the meeting's Consent Agenda included approval of accessibility improvements at Canine Cove.

Vice-Chair Brechnitz asked the City Staff to formalize a proposed policy to recognize private donations to the City for future Council review and approval.

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

Mr. Peter Pareene (Tallwood St.) referenced his email to the Council regarding the need for improvements to the bocce ball courts and airmasium at Mackle Park.

Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.) proposed that the Council consider tabling its effort to select a seventh City Councilor for sixty days: 1) to determine how effective it will be in addressing the City's business and policy needs in the interim, and; 2) to find areas of common grounds to operate effectively as a body.

Mr. David Rasmussen (Caxambas Ct.) presented a visual of the City's eighteen monthly water quality measurement sites, and he shared his assessment of the site locations and the reasons for the increases in total phosphorous readings at several of those sites.

Mr. Rich Blonna (San Marco Rd.) expressed his disappointment with the Council's failure to abide by the City Charter by selecting a seventh Councilor in a timely manner.

11. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

12. Ordinances**A. Public Hearings**

[ID 25-4054](#) Ordinance - Second Reading - Amending Chapter 32 "Law Enforcement" Article II "Police Officers' Pension Plan", by Amending Section 32-47 "Finances and Fund Management" in accordance with Authorized Investment Procedures under Chapter 185, Florida Statutes - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Assistant City Manager Casey Lucius read Ordinance 25-01 into the record by title only.

Vice-Chair Brechnitz briefly summarized the rationale for this proposed Ordinance as presented by Mr. Scott Owens, Managing Director and Institutional Consulting Director with Graystone Consulting Tampa, at this Ordinance's First Reading before the Council (Agenda Item 13B) at its January 6, 2025 meeting.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that Ordinance 25-01 - Second Reading - Amending Chapter 32 "Law Enforcement" Article II "Police Officers' Pension Plan", by Amending Section 32-47 "Finances and Fund Management" in Accordance with Authorized Investment Procedures Under Chapter 185, Florida Statutes, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

B. First Readings

None.

13. Resolutions & City Council Items

None.

14. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

8h. [ID 24-4048](#) Authorize the City Manager to issue a Purchase Order to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services to Prepare the Reclaimed Water Production Facility Operating Permit Renewal, as Required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection under F.A.C. Chapter 62-600, in the Amount of \$113,356.00 - Jeffrey Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer Department

Councilor Gray requested that a modification to the proposed purchase order be considered that would solicit an engineering proposal to upgrade the City's water treatment facilities to AWT (Advanced Water Treatment) standards.

City Water & Sewer General Manager Jeff Poteet noted the time-sensitive need to obtain the proposed water production facility operating permit renewal as required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and he recommended that Councilor Gray's proposal be addressed under a separate action at a later time.

Councilor Goehler reminded the Council of her upcoming Water Quality Town Hall on Thursday, January 30, 2025, and Councilor Schwan noted the Waterways Advisory Committee's plans to bring forward proposals to address the City's water quality issues at its February 20, 2025 meeting.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

In consideration of the above-noted near-term activities on this topic, Councilor Gray rescinded his requested modification to the purchase order approval.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Henry, that Authorization for the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services to Prepare the Reclaimed Water Production Facility Operating Permit Renewal, as Required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection under F.A.C. Chapter 62-600, in the Amount of \$133,356.00, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

15. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Councilor Henry congratulated the newly appointed members to the City's volunteer Advisory Committees, and she thanked those who previously served for their contributions to the community. She noted her attendance at most of the recent Advisory Committee meetings, reinforced the fact that Marco Island residents of all backgrounds are appointed to them, and she encouraged her colleague Councilors to attend Committee meetings to enhance their understanding of the issues and actions that are being addressed.

Councilor Schwan requested an item is added to the Council's Future Agenda to discuss Advisory Committees and their reporting process to Council. She requested clarification from City Attorney Alan Gabriel regarding the ongoing leadership of the Council given that a new Chair and Vice-Chair had not

been elected.

Councilor Palumbo expanded upon Councilor Schwan's question to the City Attorney regarding the possibility of "rotating" the leadership of the Council to a different Councilor until a new Council Chair can be elected. City Attorney Gabriel shared several concerns with the practicality of the Council operating under such a scenario.

Councilor Palumbo supported the comments by Councilor Henry regarding the City's volunteer Advisory Committees, and he acknowledged the monetary contributions by certain businesses and individuals to the accessibility improvements at the Canine Cove dog park at Mackle Park, the Marco Island Charter Middle School, and other causes.

Councilor Palumbo proposed a review and possible consolidation of the number of City Committees be considered. City Manager McNees agreed to collaborate with City Staff and engage with the current Advisory Committee Chairs through a "focus group" session to receive Advisory Committee feedback.

Councilor Palumbo concluded by providing a brief report on the output of the Collier County Tourist Development Council meeting on which he participates as the City of Marco Island's appointed representative.

Councilor Brechnitz spoke on the inappropriateness of a Councilor proposing "a deal" to solicit his support on a nominee to the seventh Council seat. Councilor Palumbo requested clarification on this topic from City Attorney Alan Gabriel.

ID 24-3974 Future Agenda Items

Vice-Chair Brechnitz requested that the City Staff review its proposed policy for recognizing private donations at a future meeting of the City Council. [Editorial Note: This items was communicated by Vice-Chair Brechnitz during Agenda Item 9 (Proclamations and Presentations)]

Councilor Schwan requested that her proposal to have twice-annual City Committee reports to the Council be placed on a Future Agenda.

Councilor Palumbo requested that the City Staff bring forward recommendations to optimize the number and operation of the City Advisory Committees at a future meeting of the Council.

16. Council Reports

a. ID 25-4058 Marco Island Trolley Discussion - Councilor Stephen Gray

Councilor Gray advanced a Motion that the Council consider deferring any review and/or action on a City or County-sponsored "trolley" on Marco Island for a minimum of at least four years. Councilor Goehler Seconded his Motion.

Following Council discussion and requested City Attorney input regarding the Council's Rules of Procedure (Section 8g) on items not returning for action for at least one year after Council's decision, Councilor Gray withdrew his Motion, and Councilor Goehler withdrew her Second in support of it.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

b. ID 25-4060 Police Body Cams - Councilor Tamara Goehler

Councilor Goehler outlined the rationale for her proposed investigation into body cams for the City of Marco Island's Police Department.

Councilor Henry relayed her understandings regarding the implementation, maintenance, and practical application of body cams, and Councilor Palumbo raised a number of questions for further consideration and investigation.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

Vice-Chair Brechnitz shared his support for the City Staff preparing a cost/benefit analysis on this item, as proposed by City Manager McNees, for the Council's consideration during the 2025 - 2026 Fiscal Year budget development process later this year.

17. City Manager's Report

City Manager Mike McNees offered his recollection of the unanimous support that members of the Waterways Advisory Committee and participating water quality-concerned members of the public showed upon the selection of Environmental Research & Design, Inc. as the City's water quality testing and advisory consultant in January, 2020.

He also responded to Councilor Palumbo's question regarding the status of the dunes ("vegetation trimming")

18. City Attorney's Report

ID 24-3975 City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Alan Gabriel referenced his firm's written report as attached to the Council's Agenda, and he addressed a question from Councilor Gray on the number of open litigation cases for the City.

19. Departmental Reports

ID 24-3976 Monthly Departmental Reports

Councilor Gray expressed his desire to see additional comparative data in the City's Finance Department Accounts Payable report, and City Manager McNees volunteered to set up a meeting with City Finance Director Guillermo Polanco to address Councilor Gray's questions.

20. Citizens' Comments

Mr. Rich Blonna (San Marco Rd.) shared an overview of the effort that he led as City Councilor in 2023 to better "mission" and manage the City's voluntary advisory committees, and he encouraged members of the Council to review and build upon his earlier efforts.

21. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Vice-Chair Brechnitz adjourned the meeting at 6:54 P.M.

Erik Brechnitz, Council Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist