

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

2:00 PM

Special-Called Meeting

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

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Brechnitz called the Special-Called Meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

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

Also Present

Michael McNees, City Manager
Casey Lucius, Assistant City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors

3. Business

[ID 25-4223](#) Selection of Candidate to Fill the City Council Vacancy - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Vice-Chair Brechnitz opened the Special-Called Meeting by briefly reviewing the process and result from the Council's most recent effort to select a seventh City Councilor at its January 21, 2025 Special-Called Meeting.

He identified three potential paths forward for the Council's consideration.

Option 1: Re-open the self-nomination application process to solicit additional candidates
Option 2: Continue to operate as a body of six Councilors in conducting the City's business
Option 3: Petition the State Attorney General for an opinion on conducting a special general election

All members of the Council participated in sharing perspectives on the Vice-Chair's proposed alternatives, and City Attorney Alan Gabriel was consulted several times during the course of the Council's discussion for his opinion and guidance.

Council applicant Nanette Rivera was put forward for a vote, and community leader Allyson Richards, who did not originally submit an application to be considered, was promoted by some members of the Council but not voted upon. Other candidates discussed, but not voted upon, included:

Mr. Dennis Bartolucci (an applicant who emerged and was voted upon at the January 21st Special-Called Meeting);

Mr. David Crain (an applicant who emerged and was also voted upon at the January 21st Special-Called Meeting), and;

Mr. Jason Bailey, current City Planning Board Chair, who did not submit an application for consideration during the self-nomination process

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that Ms. Nanette

Rivera be appointed to the Marco Island City Council. MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Yes: 3 - Councilor Henry, Councilor Palumbo and Councilor Schwan

No: 3 - Councilor Gray, Councilor Goehler and Vice-Chair Brechnitz

The Council next considered a Motion advanced by Vice-Chair Brechnitz to solicit an opinion from the State Attorney General on holding a Special General Election to select Marco Island's seventh City Councilor.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, seconded by Councilor Gray, that Authorization of the City Attorney to Petition the Florida State Attorney General's Office for an Opinion on Conducting a Special General Election to Select Marco Island's Seventh City Councilor, be Approved. MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

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

The Council then considered re-opening the citizen self-nomination process to solicit additional City Council candidates for the Council's consideration.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Henry, that the Candidate Self-Nomination Process be Re-Opened for "One Week" (through 5:00 P.M. February 28, 2025) to Receive New City Council Candidates, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

City Manager Mike McNees offered his thoughts on the challenges faced by current and new candidates, and City Clerk Joan Taylor solicited clarification and agreement from the Council in specifying the date and time by which new self-nomination applications will be accepted. [Editorial Note: Confirmed by the Council as no later than 5:00 P.M. (Eastern) on Friday, February 28, 2025]

4. Citizens' Comments

The following individuals came forward to offer perspectives and recommendations for the Council's consideration:

- 1) Ms. Nanette Rivera (Ludlow Rd.)
- 2) Mr. Randy Egan (Bonita Ct.)
- 3) Ms. Dolores Siegel (Gumbo Limbo Ln.)
- 4) Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.)
- 5) Mr. David Crain (Gayer Way)
- 6) Mr. Mario Curiale (Eubanks Ct.)
- 7) Ms. Teri Sommerfeld (San Marco Rd.)
- 8) Mr. Brad Henson (Marco Island Resident)

5. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Vice-Chair Brechnitz adjourned the Special-Called Meeting at 3:22 P.M.

Erik Brechnitz, Council Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist