

# City of Marco Island Florida

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



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

**Monday, August 21, 2023**

**5:30 PM**

**Community Meeting Room**

### **City Council**

*Chair: Greg Folley*

*Vice-Chair: Jared Grifoni*

*City Council: Rich Blonna,  
Erik Brechnitz, Becky Irwin,  
Darrin Palumbo, Joe Rola*

*City Manager: Mike McNees*

*Assistant City Manager: Casey Lucius*

*City Attorney: Alan L. Gabriel*

*City Clerk: Joan Taylor*

## 1. Call to Order

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

## 2. Roll Call

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

## 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  
Guillermo Polanco, Finance Director  
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director  
Justin Martin, Public Works Director  
Miguel Carballo, Fleet & Facilities Manager  
Melissa Raynor, Budget Manager  
Angela Johenning, 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 Rabbi Mark Gross of the Jewish Congregation of Marco Island.*

## 4. Pledge of Allegiance

*Led by Chair Folley.*

## 5. Approval of the Agenda

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

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

## 6. Approval of the Minutes

[ID 22-2610](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2023

*Councilor Irwin noted an error in the stated application of the Motion on Item 8b. (Request for Right-of-Way Permit Fee Waiver) in the draft Minutes of August 7, 2023, and she requested its correction. [Note: the requested correction is reflected in the final, published version of those Minutes]*

**MOTION by Councilor Irwin, seconded by Vice-Chair Grifoni, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of August 7, 2023 be Approved as Amended. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:**

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

## **7. Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

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

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

- a. [ID 23-2973](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to One Source Construction Inc., for the Replacement of an Existing Storm Water Pipe and Drain at 457 Tallwood Street, in the amount of \$178,000.00, using the City Public Infrastructure Construction Services Contract 2021-006 - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works
- b. [ID 23-2991](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to One Source Construction, Inc., for the Replacement of the Metal Outfall Pipe at 696 Tigertail Court in the amount of \$94,981.13 using the City Public Infrastructure Construction Services Contract 2021-006 - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works
- c. [ID 23-3000](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to One Source Construction, Inc. for the Replacement of the Sidewalk, Fence, and Storm Water Pipe at 1330 Forrest Court in the amount of \$87,000.00 - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works
- d. [ID 23-2988](#) Authorize the City Manager to Renew Contract 2021-013 with Prolime Corporation for an additional Two-Year Term with an Estimated Annual amount of \$250,000 for the North Water Treatment Plant (NWTP) Lime Sludge Hauling, Removal, and Disposal for an additional Two-Year Term - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water and Sewer
- e. [ID 23-2990](#) Resolution - Approving Two Purchase Orders Exceeding \$50,000 with Ferguson Enterprises, LLC, - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water and Sewer
- f. [ID 23-2996](#) Resolution - Authorizing a Contract with PalmDale Oil Company, Inc., for Gas and Diesel Fuel per Collier County Contract #18-7321, Estimated to Exceed \$50,000 - Miguel Carballo, Fleet & Facilities Manager
- g. [ID 23-3006](#) Resolution - Approving of the Appointment of Mr. Jim Snider to the Waterways Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- h. [ID 23-2999](#) Approval of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) to Provide School Resource Officers for Marco Island Schools - Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief

**8. Proclamations and Presentations**

[ID 23-2992](#) Legislative Update by the City's Lobbyist, Ron Book

*Legislative Consultant and Lobbyist Ronald L. Book outlined the recent successes in advancing the City of Marco Island's legislative priorities in the past year, and he shared insight, perspective, and his recommendations for the Council's consideration in prioritizing the City's legislative initiatives for the upcoming year. [Note: see also Agenda Item 12b. (Legislative Priorities)]*

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

*No members of the public came forward to offer comment during this portion of the Agenda.*

**10. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing**

*None.*

**11. Ordinances**

*None.*

**12. Resolutions & City Council Items**

- a. [ID 23-2989](#) City of Marco Island Budget Update - Guillermo A. Polanco, CPA, Director, Finance

*City Finance Director Guillermo Polanco reviewed the list of unfunded capital projects and anticipated shortfalls to the City's Five Year Capital Funding Plan, and he presented recommendations and offered suggestions for the Council's consideration.*

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

*After considerable Council discussion, Chair Folley directed the City Manager & Staff to:*

- 1. Prioritize and pursue implementation of the Pedestrian Crosswalks Study, the proposed Public Works Facility, and the Mackle Park Airnasium, with final review of the Airnasium request by the Council in September;*
- 2. Present the City's desired Parks & Recreation projects to the Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC) and other related entities for potential County funding, and;*
- 3. Distribute the draft of the City of Marco Island's request to the Collier County Board of Commissioners for extension/continuation of the temporary 1% Sales Tax to all members of the City Council for their review and input*

- b. [ID 23-2993](#) Legislative Priorities - Casey Lucius, Ph.D., Assistant City Manager

*Assistant City Manager Casey Lucius updated the Council on the date for the upcoming Collier County Legislative Delegation Hearing, and she presented four proposed City of Marco Island legislative funding priorities for the upcoming Legislative Year.*

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

**MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Vice-Chair Grifoni, to adopt the four proposed 2024 City of Marco Island Legislative Priorities with an increased funding request of \$1.5 million dollars (rather than \$500,000) for the Public Works Exfiltration Swales Project. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

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

- c. [ID 23-3002](#) Letter of Objection to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regarding the Collier County Storm Risk Feasibility Study - Mike McNees, City Manager

*City Manager McNees shared a draft of the proposed Letter of Objection with the Council and, after input from several members, received direction from Chair Folley to re-draft the letter to better capture the Council's desired message and tone.*

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

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

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

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

*Councilor Palumbo requested insight from his colleague Councilors on how to more fully educate himself on the history and factors affecting water quality in and around Marco Island. He also requested understanding of the nature and intent of Councilor Brechnitz's forthcoming white paper on the Charter Review Process, and he expressed his belief that additional sources of revenue will be required to support the Island's tourist business after the expiration of the County's temporary 1% Sales Tax levy.*

*Councilor Palumbo concluded his remarks by sharing citizen feedback and questions that he recently received regarding: 1) civility in meetings; 2) the fish dying in Mackle Park Lake; 3) eBike and pedestrian safety; 4) security cameras, and; 5) tide leveling/canal connection projects under San Marco Road.*

*Councilors Grifoni, Brechnitz, and Irwin shared in a discussion regarding the impact of tourism on Marco Island, compensation for City Councilors, and the potential of a citizen referendum to amend the City's Charter.*

*Councilor Irwin requested that City Clerk Joan Taylor announce the deadline and process for volunteer candidates to submit their credentials for consideration to fill open positions on the City's Waterways Advisory Committee and Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee.*

*Councilor Rola requested that Public Works Director Justin Martin clarify the number and amount of grants that the City has received from State agencies to support the tide leveling/canal connection projects under San Marco Road.*

#### [ID 22-2611](#) Future Agenda Items

*Councilor Blonna requested that his white paper on the establishment of an Ad Hoc Business Advisory Committee be added onto the Future Agenda.*

*Vice-Chair Grifoni requested that a presentation/review of Marco Island's compensation for City Councilors be added onto the Future Agenda.*

### **15. Council Reports**

*None.*

## 16. City Manager's Report

*City Manager Mike McNees updated the Council on the City's progress in identifying process and procedural hurdles in the City's permit process, and he indicated his intention to convene a local builders roundtable to solicit insight and perspective from that community of business owners. [Editorial Note: City Manager McNees was asked to include representation from the Island's Realtors' Association]*

*Mr. McNees also advised the Council of an outreach by the City's Police Union requesting a re-opening of its labor agreement one year early. The Council agreed to meet in a closed session to discuss this issue more thoroughly on September 5th.*

*Lastly, Mr. McNees communicated that acquisition terms with the North Marco Utilities Company (NMU) have been successfully reached. He expects to present a proposed agreement with NMU for Council approval before the conclusion of the 2023 calendar year.*

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

### [ID 23-3001](#) City Council Proposed Rules of Decorum - Mike McNees, City Manager

*City Manager McNees reviewed the genesis for his presented Rules of Decorum for Marco Island City Council Meetings, and he shared the result of his investigations and study into the proper balance between the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment Rights of free speech and the need to conduct City meetings effectively, fairly, and with civility.*

#### *Public Comment*

*Mr. Martin Winter (Perrine Ct.) offered a brief comment on decorum and he expressed his appreciation for the comments and actions of the Council members who advance the principals of civility.*

**MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that the City Council Proposed Rules of Decorum be Adopted and included with all future Agendas of the Marco Island City Council. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

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

## 17. City Attorney's Report

### [ID 22-2612](#) City Attorney's Report

*City Attorney Alan Gabriel highlighted a recent civil action that the City is undertaking on an unpaid code enforcement fine as included in his report (City of Marco Island v. Artesian Pool Construction, Inc.).*

#### *Public Comment*

*Mr. Martin Winter (Perrine Ct.) questioned the June and July legal service fees related to Vacation Rentals in the City Attorney report.*

## 18. Departmental Reports

### [ID 22-2613](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

*No questions were raised by members of the Council or the public on the Monthly Department Reports.*

**19. Citizens' Comments**

*Mr. Joel Cohn (Menorca Ct.) requested that the Council amend and simplify its current Vacation Rental Registration Ordinance.*

*Ms. Alys Macias (Dove Ct.) proposed that the Council consider a lodging tax to help fund needed community improvements and as a means to bring the people of the Island together.*

*Mr. Glenn Turner (Quintara Ct.) endorsed the discussion and direction of the Council on swale funding and a compensation increase for City Councilors, and he requested that representatives from the Island's tourist industry be included in any Ad Hoc Business Advisory Committee that might be established. He also requested that monies budgeted in the City's current fiscal year budget be removed during the period of suspension of the Vacation Rental Registration Ordinance.*

**20. Adjournment**

*There being no further business before the Council, Chair Folley adjourned the meeting at 7:54 P.M.*

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*Greg Folley, Council Chair*

ATTEST:

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*Joan Taylor, City Clerk*

PREPARED BY:

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*Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist*