

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, May 18, 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 briefly reminded all present of the City Council Rules of Decorum.

2. Roll Call

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

(Note: Councilor Dohm was officially appointed to the Council at Agenda Item 6 (Appointment of City Council Vacancy), and began voting as a member of the Council with Agenda Item 7 (Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes).

Also Present

Casey Lucius, Interim City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney
Dave Ennis, Police Captain
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Justin Martin, Public Works Director
Jose Duran, Information Technology Director
Diana Snover, Human Resources Director
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager
Carol McDermott, Controller
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors

3. Invocation

Offered by Chair Palumbo.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

[ID 26-5371](#) Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Laura Revard of Tommie Barfield Elementary School

Miss Revard led the evening's attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Councilor Gray requested that the Agenda be Amended to include a reconsideration of the Council's vote on Agenda Item 16a (Re-appropriation of General Fund Reserves for the Winterberry Beach Access Boardwalk) and Agenda Item 16c (Resolution - Approve a Bond Referendum Not to Exceed \$23 million) from the May 4, 2026 City Council Meeting.

[Editorial Note: Both of Councilor Gray's reconsideration requests were seconded, and the Council's discussion and decision on both reconsideration requests are recorded between Agenda Items 17 & 18 in these Minutes]

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

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

6. Appointment of City Council Vacancy

[ID 26-5396](#) Appointment of City Council Vacancy - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Attachments: [John Aguis](#)
[Rich Blonna](#)
[Christopher Boehringer](#)
[Anthony Costantino](#)
[Kevin Dohm](#)
[Anthony Oliverio](#)
[Chris Ricci](#)
[Rick Woodworth](#)

Chair Palumbo noted the withdrawal of self-nomination candidate Anthony Oliverio. He requested that each of the seven remaining candidates rise and receive his thanks on behalf of the Council as Marco Island City Clerk Joan Taylor publicly called their names to be recognized by the public.

Chair Palumbo briefly outlined his plan to: 1) open the floor for nominations by the members of the Marco Island City Council; 2) provide an opportunity for Councilors to question each nominated and seconded candidate, and; 3) allow for public comment upon the conclusion of the Councilor nominations.

No Councilor questions were directed toward the candidates, and no members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that Kevin Dohm be appointed to the Marco Island City Council. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 4 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

No: 2 - Councilor Goehler and Councilor Gray

MOTION by Councilor Goehler, seconded by Councilor Gray, that Douglas (Rick) Woodworth be appointed to the Marco Island City Council. NO VOTE TAKEN GIVEN THE COUNCIL'S MAJORITY VOTE ON NOMINEE KEVIN DOHM.

Upon Mr. Dohm's appointment to the Council, Marco Island City Attorney Alan Gabriel administered the Oath of Office and congratulated Mr. Dohm on his appointment.

Chair Palumbo took a moment to encourage all Marco Island citizens to consider completing the requirements to seek election to the City of Marco Island City Council to potentially fill three of the seven seats coming before the voters in November.

(THE MEETING WENT INTO RECESS AT 5:40 P.M. TO ADJUST THE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT TO RECOGNIZE AND ALIGN WITH THE NEW COUNCILOR'S APPOINTMENT. ALL SEVEN COUNCILORS WERE PRESENT WHEN THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 5:49 P.M.)

7. Approval of the Minutes

[ID 25-5003](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2026

Attachments: [City Council Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2026](#)

Councilor Gray requested that Minutes of the May 4, 2026 City Council Meeting regarding Agenda Item 16a (Re-apportionment of General Fund Reserves for the Winterberry Beach Access Boardwalk be modified to more correctly reflect the emergency "replacement" (rather than "repair") of that structure.

Additionally, Councilor Gray requested that the scrivener's error (i.e. the word "Fifty") be removed at the bottom of Page 2 of Attachment: Resolution 26-21 for Agenda Item 16c (Resolution - Approve a Bond Referendum Not to Exceed \$23 million)

[Editorial Note: The requested corrections were made prior to finalizing and publishing the Minutes of the May 4, 2026 City Council Meeting]

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Vice-Chair Champagne, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2026 be Approved as Amended. 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

8. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilor Henry requested that Agenda Item 8a (Approval of Memorandum of Understanding to Provide School Resource Officers) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Gray requested that Agenda Item 8b (Appointment of Councilor Deb Henry to the Coastal Advisory Committee) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Champagne, seconded by Councilor Gray, 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]

- c. [ID 26-5400](#) Authorize the Interim City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to B&J Linings, Inc., for the Sewer Manhole Rehabilitation Project in the Amount of \$224,150. - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water and Sewer Department.

Attachments: [Contract #2024-015-1 Sanitary Sewer Manhole Lining Services](#)
[Quote #1299 - B & J Linings, Inc. \(2026\)](#)

9. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 26-5297](#) Proclamation - National Safe Boating Week: May 16 - 22, 2026

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Chair Palumbo, with the support of the Council, proclaimed May 16 - 22, 2026 as National Safe Boating Week on Marco Island. He presented copies of the Proclamation to Mr. James Addison, Executive Officer, Marco Island Sail & Power Squadron, and Flotilla 95 Vice-Commander Frank Ciriello.

Fifteen representatives from the Marco Island Sail & Power Squadron and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxilliary Flotilla 95 came forward and were present for the Proclamation.

Mr. Chris Ricci shared a water safety message and expression of thanks on behalf of both organizations.

b. [ID 26-5318](#) Proclamation - Water Reuse Week: May 17-23, 2026**Attachments:** [Proclamation](#)

Chair Palumbo, with the support of the Council, proclaimed May 17 - 23, 2026 as Water Reuse Week on Marco Island. He presented the Proclamation to City of Marco Island Water & Sewer General Manager Jeff Poteet.

c. [ID 26-5376](#) Presentation - Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee Update - Chair Chris Ricci**Attachments:** [Presentation - Beach & Coastal Resources Committee Update](#)

Mr. Chris Ricci, Chair of the Marco Island Beach & Coastal Advisory Committee, provided the Council with an overview of the Committee's role, focus, observations, and recent successes. He requested, and received, input and direction from members of the Council.

d. [ID 26-5405](#) Presentation - 2nd Quarter Financial Report - Carol McDermott, Director, Finance**Attachments:** [2nd Quarter Financial Report Memo](#)

City of Marco Island Controller Carol McDermott presented her Fiscal Year 2026 Mid-Year Financial Update to the Council. She addressed a number of questions, and she received encouraging feedback from the Council regarding the improvements that she had implemented over the past year in the City's financial reports and updates.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

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

Mr. Randy Egan (Bonita Ct.) shared his concerns about potentially more restrictive noise ordinance standards should they be adopted by the Council in the future.

11. City Manager's Report[ID 25-5004](#) City Manager's Report**Attachments:** [City Manager's Report](#)
[2026 City Council Priorities Scorecard \(May Update\)](#)
[After Action Status \(March 2 - May 4\)](#)

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius highlighted and briefly explained the reports that she included with the evening's Agenda, and she took a moment to recognize the role of Mr. Christian Davies, the City's new Public Information Officer.

There were no questions or comments raised regarding Dr. Lucius' Report.

12. City Attorney's Report

[ID 25-5005](#) City Attorney's Report

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

City of Marco Island Attorney Alan Gabriel called attention to his May 8, 2026 written Report, and he updated the Council on the status of the Tige Thompson v. City of Marco Island complaint.

At the request of Councilor Gray, Attorney Gabriel briefly outlined the responsibilities and limitations of the members of the Council relative to any potential General Obligation Bond Referendum that may come before the voters later this year.

13. Departmental Reports

[ID 25-5006](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

Attachments: [Finance](#)
[Community Affairs](#)
[Fire-Rescue](#)

No questions were raised regarding the Monthly Department Reports.

14. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

15. Ordinances

None.

16. Resolutions & City Council Items

- a. [ID 26-5393](#) Resolution - Authorization to Execute the Termination of State Funded Agreement for the Florida Department of Transportation Joint Participation Agreement FM 450848-1-54-01 for the City of Marco Island / Construction and CEI of Marco Island Smokehouse Bay Bridge Replacement (#034113); - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 26-24](#)
[Termination Agreement \(450848-1-54-01\)](#)
[Executed State Funded Grant Agreement \(450848-1\)](#)

Marco Island City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 26-24 into the record by title only.

City of Marco Island Public Works Director Justin Martin provided the Council with a brief review of the City's actions to initially replace, later rehabilitate, the Smokehouse Bay (aka West Winterberry) Bridge.

With the work well completed, he requested Council approval to terminate the original Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation on its previously-approved joint participation bridge replacement grant.

Public Comment:

Mr. Randy Egan (Bonita Ct.) complimented Mr. Martin and the Marco Public Works Team on its efficient utilization of City resources on the Smokehouse Bay Bridge project.

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that Resolution 26-24 - authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute the termination of Florida Department of Transportation Joint Participation Agreement FM 450848-1-54-01 for the City of Marco Island / Construction and CEI of Marco Island Smokehouse Bay Bridge Replacement (#034113), 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 26-5369](#) Discussion with Council Action - Racquet Sports Regulation Options - Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney

Attachments: [Racquet Sports Regulation Memo](#)

City of Marco Island Attorney Alan Gabriel called attention to his April 13, 2026 Memorandum to the City Council entitled Racquet Sports Noise Regulation Options, and he requested direction from the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

Given the Council's recent direction and approvals at its April 20, 2026 meeting regarding noise mitigation and improved public access control at the City of Marco Island Racquet Center (Agenda Items 15a, 15b, and 15c), the Council determined that additional insight from the application of these recent improvements should be gathered before requesting that the City Attorney draft a new, City-wide ordinance addressing standards and restrictions for racquet sport activities across Marco Island.

- c. [ID 26-5401](#) City Manager Interview Discussion and Next Steps. - Diana Snover, Director, Human Resources

City of Marco Island Human Resources Director Diana Snover briefly recounted the Council's direction and the sequence of activities that her office undertook to solicit and identify City Manager candidates for the Council's consideration, and she requested the Council's approval to proceed with the required background screening process and coordination with the City Attorney in drafting a proposed Employment Agreement for the Council's desired candidate.

The Council reviewed the summary of individual Councilor candidate ratings for the four (4) City Manager candidates interviewed on May 11, 2026, and it discussed the Councilor perspectives and insights gained from that effort.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Champagne, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that an offer of employment as Marco Island City Manager be extended to Interim City Manager Casey Lucius. 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

Following the Council's vote and congratulations extended to Ms. Lucius, Ms. Snover was requested to coordinate with City Attorney Alan Gabriel in drafting a proposed Employment Agreement and bringing it forward for the Council's review and approval at its June 1, 2026 City Council Meeting.

17. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- 8a. [ID 26-5375](#) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Provide School Resource Officers for Marco Island Schools

Attachments: [2026-27 SRO Agreement](#)

Councilor Henry briefly explained her reason for requesting a discussion of this Memorandum of Understanding, and the Council discussed the financial participation of Collier County in partially funding the expense of placing sworn City of Marco Island police officers in each of the City's three (3) schools.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Vice-Chair Champagne, that the City Manager's authorization to release the 2026 - 2027 School Year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Collier County School Board regarding the Assignment of School Resource Officers, 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

Following the Council's unanimous approval of the MOU, City Manager Lucius was directed to draft a letter to the school board, requesting additional funding, beyond the required amount to cover the costs for having 3 Marco Island PD SROs. Chair Palumbo also encouraged all members of the Council to regularly attend and voice the City of Marco Island's expectations and needs at future County School Board and County Government public meetings.

- 8b. [ID 26-5399](#) Appointment of Councilor Deb Henry to the Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC) of Collier County, Florida - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 26-22](#)

Marco Island City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 26-22 into the record by title only.

Councilor Gray, in outlining his understanding of the remaining term of former Councilor Brechnitz's appointment to the Collier County Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC), suggested that it might be more appropriate to await the results of this fall's City Council election before naming a City Council replacement to this Committee.

In learning that former Council Brechnitz's term on the CAC extended into May, 2027, he retracted his recommendation.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Champagne, seconded by Councilor Dohm, that the Marco Island City Council's nomination of City Councilor Deb Henry as its representative to the Collier County Coastal Advisory Committee (CAC), 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

SPECIAL ITEMS: Re-Consideration of Council Actions at its May 4, 2026 Meeting

[ID 26-5436](#) Re-Consideration of May 4, 2026 Council Action on the Winterberry Beach Access Boardwalk Replacement Project

Councilor Gray shared information that he obtained regarding the age and the FEMA-assessed condition of the Winterberry Beach Access Boardwalk that was not presented at the initial review of this proposed project. He specifically requested that an assessment of the remaining useful life of the existing structure be completed before the Council consider the approval of a full replacement of the existing structure.

City Manager Casey Lucius confirmed the Council's desire to not pursue a beach mat alternative to the boardwalk structure.

Chair Palumbo also noted that, since the Council's May 4th review of this project, he had received favorable indications that the replacement of the Winterberry Beach Access Boardwalk could, potentially, qualify Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC) funding.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that authorization of the City Manager to bring the Winterberry Beach Access Boardwalk replacement project back for Council re-consideration at its June 1, 2026 meeting, 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

[ID 26-5437](#) Re-Consideration of May 4, 2026 Council Action on the \$23 Million General Obligation Bond Referendum Approval

Councilor Gray queried Marco Island City Attorney Alan Gabriel on the compliance of the proposed general obligation bond offering with the City's guiding principles, and he sought clarification from City Manager Casey Lucius on the list of projects to be funded if this bond offering is approved by the voters.

Attorney Gabriel and City Manager Lucius responded to Councilor Gray's queries.

MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Councilor Goehler, that re-consideration of the Council's May 4, 2026 approval of Resolution 26-21, be Approved. MOTION WITHDRAWN BY COUNCILORS GRAY AND GOEHLER.

18. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Councilor Schwan displayed a copy of the Marco Island Police Department Nightly Beach Report for May 8th, 2026 to engage the Council in a discussion regarding the benefits and drawbacks of regularly publishing this information on the Police Department's social media channel.

Following considerable Council dialogue, Chair Palumbo received a 5 - 2 majority "show of hands" by the members of the Council endorsing the publication of the Marco Island Police Department Nightly Beach Report the MIPD webpage (rather than social media channel).

Councilor Schwan next advised the Council of the Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee's decision to recommend that the Marco Island Planning Board consider modifying the City's sign ordinance to more closely harmonize with the provisions and specifications of the Naples, Florida sign ordinance.

Councilor Schwan displayed an email from Collier County Supervisor of Elections Melissa Blazier conveying her support of the harmonization effort across municipalities, and City Attorney Alan Gabriel briefly outlined the extensive investigation and effort that was undertaken several years ago under the Marco Island City Council's direction to craft the Marco Island sign ordinance as it is currently written.

Following significant Council dialogue, Chair Palumbo solicited a "show of hands" by members of the Council to determine if support existed to request that the Planning Board proceed with the Beautification Advisory Committee's recommendation. Only three (3) of the seven (7) Councilors supported the proposal.

Councilor Schwan concluded by calling for all members of the Council to exercise care in distributing email correspondence in a manner that is consistent with the provisions of the Florida Sunshine Law.

Councilor Goehler expressed her appreciation to all of the Marco Island candidates who expressed their interest in serving out former Councilor Brechnitz's remaining term of office on the Marco Island City Council.

Councilor Goehler also congratulated City Manager Lucius on her appointment during the evening's meeting.

Councilor Henry, in response to comments raised earlier in the meeting regarding the potential use of unmanned drones to patrol the beaches, reminded the Council that the Marco Island Police Department had requested funding for this technology in its 2026 Fiscal Year Budget.

Councilor Henry reminded everyone present of the continuous and ongoing need to support, and to donate to, the Our Daily Bread Food Pantry during the summer months of the year.

Chair Palumbo amplified the comments by Councilor Schwan regarding email and the Florida Sunshine Law. He noted the differences between emails received or sent via cellphone versus those that are communicated via laptop or desktop computer.

Chair Palumbo expressed his thanks to the Council for its unanimous vote of support for Ms. Lucius as Marco Island City Manager, and he thanked all of the citizen candidates who self-nominated to serve the remaining City Council term of former Councilor Brechnitz. He congratulated Councilor Dohm on his appointment.

Councilor Gray commented on the importance of sea turtle preservation education during their nesting season.

[ID 25-5007](#) Future Agenda Items

Attachments: [Councilor Schwan - Council Communications](#)
[Future Agenda](#)

19. Council Reports

None.

20. Citizens' Comments

Mr. David Boggs (Delbrook Way) expressed his support of the Council's request to publicize the information captured in the Marco Island Police Department Nightly Beach Report on the Police Department's web page. He displayed a nighttime photo of the beach which highlighted the comparative ambient light impacts of onshore fishing versus condominium building lighting.

Mr. Boggs concluded by noting the positive relationships that the Marco Island Police Department has established with young fisherman on the beach.

21. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Palumbo adjourned the meeting at 8:33 P.M.

Darrin Palumbo, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist