

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, March 17, 2025

5:30 PM

Community Meeting Room

City Council

Chair: Erik Brechnitz

Vice-Chair: Stephen Gray

*City Council: Rene Champagne,
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 meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call

[Editorial Note: The agenda/minutes software has limitations for capturing multiple title changes per meeting . The voting summary titles under Item 2: Roll Call, and Election of Chair & Vice Chair, reflect the Council members' titles after the vote was taken for the Chair/Vice Chair election.]

Present: 7 - Councilor Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Vice-Chair Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Palumbo, Councilor Schwan and 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
Justin Martin, Public Works Director
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager
Joe Parrilli, Fleet & Facilities Manager
Samantha Malloy, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors*

Modifications to the Agenda

Vice-Chair Brechnitz advised the Council and those attending the meeting of the following modifications to the Agenda:

- 1) The Reverend Scott Kerens will deliver the Invocation in place of Reverend Casey Nowlin, and;*
- 2) Tommie Barfield Elementary Student Carson Dechaine was not present to lead the Pledge of Allegiance*

3. Invocation

Offered by the Reverend Scott Kerens of the Marco Island Presbyterian Church.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chair Brechnitz.

Additions to the Agenda

Given the successful appointment of Mr. Rene Champagne to the Marco Island City Council during its Special-Called City Council Meeting earlier in the day, Vice-Chair Brechnitz:

- 1) formally welcomed Mr. Champagne to the Council, and;*
- 2) announced that the Council's election of a Chair and Vice-Chair will be undertaken as the first order of*

business for the Council

Election of Chair & Vice-Chair

[ID 25-4341](#) Election of Chair & Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Brechnitz briefly outlined the procedure for nominations to the position of Chair and Vice-Chair.

He then opened nominations for Chair of the Marco Island City Council.

MOTION by Councilor Gray nominating current Vice-Chair Erik Brechnitz to the position of Chair of the Marco Island City Council. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 4 - Councilor Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Vice-Chair Gray and Chair Brechnitz

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

MOTION by Councilor Henry nominating Councilor Schwan to the position of Chair of the Marco Island City Council. NO VOTE TAKEN.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan nominating Councilor Palumbo to the position of Chair of the Marco Island City Council. NO VOTE TAKEN.

(Note: Given that first nominee Erik Brechnitz received a majority vote of the Council, no vote was taken on the nominations of Councilors Schwan and Palumbo.)

Newly-elected Chair Brechnitz opened nominations for Vice-Chair of the Marco Island City Council.

MOTION by Councilor Goehler nominating Councilor Gray to the position of Vice-Chair of the Marco Island City Council. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Councilor Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Vice-Chair Gray, Councilor Palumbo and Chair Brechnitz

No: 2 - Councilor Henry and Councilor Schwan

MOTION by Councilor Henry nominating Councilor Schwan to the position of Vice-Chair of the Marco Island City Council. NO VOTE TAKEN.

(Note: Given that first nominee Stephen Gray received a majority vote of the Council, no vote was taken on the nomination of Councilor Schwan.)

(THE MEETING WENT INTO RECESS AT 5:40 P.M. TO RECONFIGURE THE SEATING ARRANGEMENT AND ELECTRONIC SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL. IT IS NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT ALL COUNCILORS WERE PRESENT WHEN NEWLY-ELECTED CHAIR ERIK BRECHNITZ RECONVENED THE MEETING AT 5:50 P.M.)

5. Approval of the Agenda

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

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

6. Approval of the Minutes

[ID 25-4096](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2025

MOTION by Vice-Chair Gray, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2025 be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilor Palumbo requested that Agenda Item 7d (Change Order for Ajax Paving in the Amount of \$26,456.90) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

[Editorial Note: The Council's action on this Item is recorded under Agenda Item 13 (Items Removed From the Consent Agenda)]

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

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

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

- a. [ID 25-4269](#) Resolution - Approving the Appointment of Mr. Chris Lewandowski to the Waterways Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- b. [ID 25-4295](#) Resolution - Approving Appointments to the Hideaway Beach Tax District Board - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- c. [ID 25-4293](#) Award of Contract for Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC to Resurface Both Parking Lots at Winterberry Park in the Amount of \$71,893.63 - Joe Parrilli, Manager, Fleet & Facilities
- e. [ID 25-4301](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Quality Enterprises USA Inc., for the Replacement of the Raw Water Influent Header Pipe Inside of the Membrane Building at the South Water Treatment Plant in the Amount of \$139,966.40 Under the City's Public Infrastructure Construction Services Contract #2023-029 - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer Department

8. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 25-4109](#) Proclamation Recognizing National Arbor Day - April 25, 2025

City Council Chair Erik Brechnitz proclaimed April 25, 2025 as National Arbor Day and presented a copy of the Proclamation to Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee member Victoria Myers and Public Works Director Justin Martin.

- b. [ID 25-4226](#) Presentation - Recognition of Mr. Ray Kane for Donation of AED (Automated External Defibrillator) at Winterberry Park, Chris Byrne, Chief, Fire-Rescue

Marco Island Fire Rescue Chief Chris Byrne, and City Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager Samantha Malloy recognized and thanked Marco Island resident Ray Kane for his donation of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for use at Winterberry Park. Mr. Kane briefly shared his story and the life-saving effect of an AED in the hands of fast-acting individuals who helped to save his life.

- c. [ID 25-4228](#) Presentation - Parks Master Plan - Dr. Carlos Perez

Dr. Carlos Perez, President and Founder of Perez Planning & Design LLC, returned in follow-up to his October 21, 2024 presentation to the Marco Island City Council to highlight opportunities for the Council to enhance the quality and delivery of recreational and cultural-enrichment activities at the City's various parks.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

The City Council will discuss Parks priorities during the City's 2026 fiscal year budget.

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

Mr. Peter Pareene (Tallwood St.) shared his insights on the advantages and disadvantages of deploying artificial turf on recreational fields on Marco Island.

Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.) updated the Council on the progress of Marco Island Youth Baseball, Inc. in advancing its efforts to renovate the playing field on the grounds of Tommie Barfield Elementary School. Mr. Oliverio also congratulated the Council on its selection of Mr. Rene Champagne as its seventh City Councilor.

10. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

11. Ordinances

None.

12. Resolutions & City Council Items

- a. [ID 25-4294](#) Award of Contract to Advanced Roofing Inc. to Remove and Replace the City Hall Annex Building 1310 San Marco Road Marco Island Roofing in the Amount of \$150,743.89 - Joe Parrilli, Manager, Fleet & Facilities

Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli briefly outlined the nature of the project and responded to questions from members of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Henry, that the Award of

a Contract to Advanced Roofing Inc. to Remove and Replace the City Hall Annex Building Roof at 1310 San Marco Road, Marco Island in the Amount of \$150,743.89, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

- b.** [ID 25-4266](#) Resolution - Supporting Hands-free Cell Phone Use While Driving - Casey Lucius, Ph.D., Assistant City Manager

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 25-18 into the record by title only.

Assistant City Manager Casey Lucius briefly described the genesis of this Resolution for the Council's consideration.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Vice-Chair Gray, that Resolution 25-18 - Supporting Hands-Free Cell Phone Use While Driving, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

- c.** [ID 25-4308](#) Resolution - Approving a Local Agency Program (LAP) Supplemental Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the Construction of the Collier Boulevard Alternate Bike Lanes Project - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 25-20 into the record by title only.

Public Works Director Justin Martin outlined the opportunity afforded to the City by executing the proposed Local Agency Program Supplemental Agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that Resolution 25-20 - Executing a Local Agency Program (LAP) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the Construction of the Collier Boulevard Alternate Bike Lanes Project, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

- d.** [ID 25-4305](#) Approval of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to Comply with Florida Statue Chapter 908 and Assist United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) a Component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) - Tracy Frazzano, Chief, Police

Marco Island Police Chief Tracy Frazzano briefly outlined the purpose of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that the

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to Comply with Florida State Statute 908 and Assist United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a Component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

13. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- 7d. [ID 25-4303](#) Change Order for Ajax Paving Inc. in the Amount of \$26,456.90, for the Leigh Plummer Parking Lot Repair, to Original Purchase Order #00250384 \$49,969.89, bringing Project Price to \$76,426.79 - Joe Parrilli, Manager, Fleet & Facilities

Councilor Palumbo requested additional insight from City Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli on the proposed project upgrades. City Manager Mike McNees also shared his perspective for the Council's consideration.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Vice-Chair Gray, that the Change Order (in the Amount of \$26,456.90) to the Original Purchase Order of \$49,969.79 for Ajax Paving Inc. to Fully Replace the Parking Lot at Leigh Plummer Park, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

14. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Councilor Schwan requested that a review of proposed Beautification Advisory Committee budgetary items for fiscal year 2026 be added to the Council's Future Agenda.

Councilor Schwan advised the Council that a potential micro-wheeled/e-bike ordinance is advancing from development by the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) toward a review at an upcoming meeting of the Collier County Commissioners.

Later, during Council Communications, Councilor Schwan noted that she provided a draft of the MPO micro-wheeled/e-bike ordinance to the Ad Hoc Bike Path Volunteer Committee for its input.

Councilor Schwan also asked if recent information on traffic counts and the level of service for the Island's main roads (e.g. Collier Boulevard, Barfield Drive, Bald Eagle Drive) could be made available for the Council's review. City Manager Mike McNees briefly clarified the relationship between "data" and "level of service", as well as the nature of the most recent information which the City currently possesses. Public Works Director Justin Martin committed to include the latest available information in his department's next City Council Monthly Departmental Report.

Councilor Henry alerted the Council of a "Tossin' in Paradise" community event of games, food, and music sponsored by the Kiwanis and Sunshine & Noontime Rotary on Saturday, March 22nd at Veterans Community Park.

Councilor Goehler complimented the administration and staff of Tommie Barfield Elementary on their successful Leadership Day event.

Councilor Goehler also advised the Council of her discussions with Assistant City Manager Casey Lucius

regarding the need for an up-to-date "in season" traffic study for Old Marco in light of a recently proposed redevelopment plan for that area.

Councilor Goehler concluded by thanking Police Chief Tracy Frazzano for her assistance in providing her (Councilor Goehler) with information regarding police body cams.

Councilor Champagne encouraged all members of the community to attend the Marco Island Fire Rescue Foundation Pancake & Scrambled Egg Breakfast at Fire Station 50 on Sunday, March 23rd from 8:00 - Noon. Tours of the Fire Station 50 will also be available.

Councilor Palumbo thanked all of the candidates who applied to fill the opening on the Marco Island City Council, and he welcomed newly-appointed Councilor Champagne to the position.

Councilor Palumbo observed that e-bikes appear to be traveling faster now than before, and he relayed his recent personal experience in "clocking" an e-bike rider at 27 mph on Yellowbird Street. He offered several potential ideas to better enhance the safety of e-bikes for riders and pedestrians alike, and he asked that a discussion of this topic come before the Council at a future date.

Councilor Palumbo encouraged his fellow Councilors to view the video and discussion of the Old Business item on the March 7, 2025 Planning Board Agenda entitled "Continued from 2/7/25 Planning Board Meeting - Required Variance for Providing More Than 120% of Required Parking."

Councilor Palumbo confirmed with City Manager McNees the plan for the Council's 2026 Fiscal Year Budget Workshops.

Councilor Palumbo next advised the Council of his intention to bring forward a White Paper exploring alternative ways, other than through additional ad valorem property taxes, to raise funds to address City infrastructure and service needs.

Councilor Palumbo then advised the Council of the positive feedback that he had received on the accessibility improvements undertaken at the Canine Cove Dog Park at Mackle Park. Noting that much of the funding for that improvement was privately raised, he suggested that the next privately-funded project for that area could be the installation of permanent shade structures.

Councilor Palumbo concluded by enumerating the eleven specific parking alleviation/public transit ideas that came before the Council during his first two years as a Marco Island City Councilor. He encouraged his fellow Councilors to come prepared to address those "hard decisions" on behalf of the residents and visitors to Marco Island.

Vice-Chair Gray noted that, with the wide array of manual, electric, and gas-powered bikes currently in operation on the Island, the Council should devote some time to defining its position on where and on which pathways certain types of manual and powered bikes and scooters should be allowed.

Vice-Chair Gray referred to a recent email from Collier County District 1 Commissioner Rick LoCastro regarding Caxambas Park's designation as a "residential park". Councilors Palumbo, Henry, and Schwan shared their insights regarding current and potential allowable uses that are currently in discussion at the County level.

Councilor Palumbo proposed that the Council discuss the potential of the City of Marco Island assuming the responsibility to operate Caxambas Park.

Chair Brechnitz expressed his appreciation to his fellow Councilors for the trust that they placed in him to lead the Council through the balance of the year, and he committed to working diligently to unify and advance the collective will of the Council.

[ID 25-4097](#) Future Agenda Items

Councilor Schwan requested that a review of proposed budgetary items by the Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee be added to the Council's Future Agenda for May 5, 2025.

Councilor Palumbo requested that a discussion of e-bike safety be placed on a Future Agenda of the Marco Island City Council.

15. Council Reports

None.

16. City Manager's Report

City Manager McNees noted, in response to items raised during Agenda Item #14 (Council Communications & Future Agenda), that:

1) the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is already well down the path of investigating e-bikes and other similar alternatives. He proposed that the City obtain a draft of the MPO's prototype ordinance and circulate it among the members of the Council for their background and consideration. Councilor Schwan, as Marco Island's current representative on the MPO, volunteered to obtain a copy of the prototype ordinance;

2) Collier County is currently operating Caxambas Park under a Marco Island City Council-approved Site Development Plan. The City's Planning Board has already been tasked with reviewing how kayak rentals at that location might be allowed, and;

3) he (City Manager McNees) will continue to focus on the collective direction of the Council on issues raised during Council Communications

17. City Attorney's Report[ID 25-4098](#) City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Alan Gabriel referred the Council to his firm's report included with the Agenda, and he congratulated Messrs. Champagne, Brechnitz, and Gray on their new roles on the Council.

18. Departmental Reports[ID 25-4099](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

No comments were raised during the Council's Monthly Departmental Reports portion of the Agenda. However, during Council Communications & Future Agenda Items (Agenda Item #14), Vice-Chair Gray requested that the City Staff provide trend analyses and insights with the submitted monthly reports.

19. Citizens' Comments

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

20. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Brechnitz adjourned the meeting at 8:12 P.M.

Erik Brechnitz, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist