

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, June 16, 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

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

2. Roll Call

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

(Note: Councilor Palumbo participated remotely via Zoom teleconference connection and was present at Roll Call and for the duration of the meeting)

Also Present

*Michael McNees, City Manager
Casey Lucius, Assistant City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
Joe Belardo, Police Lieutenant
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Justin Martin, Public Works Director
Jose Duran, Information Technology Director
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors*

Motion to Allow for Remote Participation by Councilor Palumbo

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Henry, to allow Councilor Palumbo to participate in, and vote on, all allowable matters coming before the Council at this meeting. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

3. Invocation

No invocation was offered at this meeting.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chair Brechnitz.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Brechnitz noted that Agenda Item 8b (Presentation - AI Task Force) was removed from the Agenda due to the inability of the scheduled presenter to be available for the meeting.

Vice-Chair Gray requested that Council discussion regarding a recent safety concern at Mackle Park be addressed at this meeting. Chair Brechnitz proposed that Vice-Chair Gray raise the matter for discussion during Agenda Item 17 (Council Communications & Future Agenda).

The Amended Agenda was Approved without a formal Motion and Second 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

- a. [ID 25-4130](#) Approval of the Budget Policies Workshop Minutes of May 19, 2025

Attachments: [May 19, 2025 Budget Policies Workshop Minutes](#)

MOTION by Vice-Chair Gray, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that the Budget Policies Workshop Minutes of May 19, 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

- b. [ID 25-4161](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2025

Attachments: [June 2, 2025 City Council Minutes](#)

MOTION by Vice-Chair Gray, seconded by Councilor Goehler, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of June 2, 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

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Henry, that the Consent Agenda 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

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

- [ID 25-4486](#) Authorize the City Manager to Execute a Purchase Order Change Order to Ten-8 Fire & Safety LLC for Necessary Repairs of the Fire Rescue Departments Ladder Truck in the Amount not to Exceed \$26,200 - Chris Byrne, Fire Chief, Fire Rescue Department

Attachments: [Ten-8 Fire & Safety Service Estimate - 2-25-25](#)

[Purchase Order Number 25-0455](#)

[Ten-8 250455 Change Order 01 - 2-25-25](#)

[Service Order R102013064 Change Order 02 - 5-19-25](#)

[Ten-8 250455 Change Order 02 - 2-19-25](#)

8. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 25-4503](#) Presentation - Fourth of July Fireworks Donation - The Marco Island Civic Association (MICA)

Marco Island Civic Association (M.I.C.A.) Board Member Glenn Walton, assisted by M.I.C.A. Vice-President Anita Sargese, and M.I.C.A. Executive Director Ruth McCann, presented a check in the amount of \$4,000.00 to the City of Marco Island in support of the City's annual Fourth of July fireworks celebration. City Council Chair Erik Brechnitz received the check on behalf of the City and conveyed the Council's appreciation for M.I.C.A.'s continued partnership with the City in serving the citizens of Marco Island.

- b. [ID 25-4495](#) Presentation - AI Task Force - Mario Blanco, Senior Network Specialist

Attachments: [AI Task Force Memo](#)
[City of Marco Island Interim AI Policy](#)

As noted under Agenda Item 5 (Approval of the Agenda), this item was removed from the Agenda.

- c. [ID 25-4496](#) Presentation - 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season Preparedness - Chris Byrne, Fire Chief

Attachments: [Hurricane Presentation](#)

Marco Island Fire Chief Chris Byrne presented an overview of the City's preparations, primary information sources, and emergency notification systems in place for the 2025 hurricane season, and he encouraged all residents, business owners, and visitors to attend the City's Hurricane Preparation Town Hall on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 beginning at 5:30 P.M.

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

Mr. Tom Gunkel (Coronado Ct.) followed up on his request during Citizens' Comments at the Council's June 2, 2025 meeting to reiterate his difficulties in obtaining permission to have his boat removed from the water for service at Caxambas Park. [Editorial Note: Council discussion regarding Mr. Gunkel's concern is summarized under Agenda Item 17 (Council Communications & Future Agenda)]

Mr. John Martini (Nassau Ct.) identified maintenance conditions primarily at Mackle Park, and secondarily at Veterans Community Park, which he believed should be addressed to better maintain those park's amenities and provide more effective shade coverage for park visitors.

10. City Manager's Report

City Manager Mike McNees had no items to report at this meeting.

11. City Attorney's Report

- [ID 25-4163](#) City Attorney's Report

Attachments: [City Attorney](#)

City Attorney Alan Gabriel provided the Council with a verbal report on two out-of-compliance Code cases (City of Marco Island v. Artesian Pool Construction, Inc., and City of Marco Island v. Uooligan Marco Island Real Estate, LLC) where the City is proceeding to seek remedy through judicial action.

City Attorney Gabriel also updated the Council on the status of the pending waste water referendum petition and recent revisions submitted by the Petitioners.

Vice-Chair Gray queried City Attorney Gabriel regarding potential City Code revisions that might hasten

future compliance, and he requested insight from Marco Island Police Chief Tracy Frazzano on the City's prior awareness of a recent animal control action on Marco Island that was undertaken by Collier County.

12. Departmental Reports

[ID 25-4164](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

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

Vice-Chair Gray requested an update from Assistant City Manager Casey Lucius on the status of the City's recent transition to its new City website.

13. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

14. Ordinances

None.

15. Resolutions & City Council Items

a. [ID 25-4498](#)

Award of Contract to JRL Underground Utilities, Inc., for the Construction of the Water Quality Treatment Exfiltration Swales Project on South Collier Boulevard in the Amount Not to Exceed \$551,200.00 - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works

Attachments: [Bid Tabulation](#)
[JRL Underground Utilities Proposal](#)

City of Marco Island Public Works Director Justin Martin outlined this project's relationship to the City's actions under its Category 4e plan with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and he highlighted the funding sources which will be contributing to this project's completion.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Vice-Chair Gray, that the City Manager's authorization to award a contract to JRL Underground Utilities, Inc. for the construction of the water quality treatment exfiltration swales project on South Collier Boulevard in an amount not to exceed \$551,200.00, 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 25-4497](#) Use of Body-Worn Cameras in the Police Department - Discussion, Chief Tracy Frazzano

Attachments: [Body Worn Cameras Presentation](#)

Marco Island Police Chief Tracy Frazzano, and Police Lieutenant Joe Belardo, presented the results of their research into the costs, benefits, and considerations in implementing the use of body-worn cameras for the sworn officers of the Marco Island Police Department.

Public Comment

Ms. Anita Sargese (Manor Terr.) offered her perspective and knowledge of lower-cost alternative providers and applications that she observed at one law enforcement department in New Jersey.

Following considerable discussion, the Council elected to follow Police Chief Frazzano and Lieutenant Belardo's recommendation to not direct the City Staff to pursue a body-worn camera implementation plan for the Marco Island Police Department at this time.

16. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

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

17. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Vice-Chair Gray complimented the efforts of current and former members of the Beach & Coastal Resources Advisory Committee and the City's Code Enforcement Department for working together to identify and eradicate noxious and invasive species of plants on Marco Island.

Vice-Chair Gray also requested that an item be added to the Council's Future Agenda (see next page).

Councilor Schwan requested Council consensus to direct the City Staff to draft a Proclamation expressing Council support for the continued operation, by Collier County, of regional airports near Everglades City, Immokalee, and Marco Island. [Editorial Note: Council consensus was obtained and the Proclamation was added to the Council's Future Agenda]

Councilor Schwan requested that the City Staff collect and issue a report on the type, number, and the amount of fines assessed by the City over the past five (5) years, along with: 1) how much has been collected, and; 2) what liens have been placed on properties over the corresponding period.

Councilor Schwan acknowledged the concerns raised during Citizens' Comments regarding: 1) allowable activities at Caxambas Park, and; 2) the need for additional shade at Mackle Park. Councilor Schwan noted that the City Manager is actively engaged with Collier County leadership on the Caxambas Park concern, and that the Council is considering additional shade structures in its 2026 Fiscal Year budget.

Councilor Henry acknowledged and thanked members of the City's Beautification Advisory Committee for assisting and providing recommendations to property owners along Mainsail Drive who are interested in beautifying their roadway medians.

Councilor Henry also thanked members of the Calusa Garden Club for the floral arrangements that they provided for: 1) the recent Little Pink Houses of Hope sailing on the Marco Princess, and; 2) the Noontime Rotary Club Spirit Awards Event on April 26, 2025.

Chair Brechnitz queried Marco Island Police Chief Tracy Frazzano on the recent animal control issue found on Marco Island, and he shared his insights on the history of the ownership of that property.

Councilor Palumbo expressed his agreement and support for the comments offered by Vice-Chair Gray and Chair Brechnitz, while also expressing caution with attempting to create special allowable activity "carve outs" at Caxambas Park. He shared a proposed marina use management plan document for

Caxambas Park, and various members of the Council shared their perspectives on elements of it.

[Editorial Note: the document entitled "D Palumbo Caxambas Marina Use Management Plan - Agenda Item 17 (Council Communications)" may be viewed at www.marcoisland.com > Menu > Agendas and Minutes > City Council 6/16/25 > Meeting Details]

City Manager McNees reiterated and confirmed Councilor Schwan's earlier observation regarding his effort to reach a satisfactory solution for Caxambas Park with the leadership of Collier County.

[ID 25-4162](#) Future Agenda Items

Attachments: [Future Agenda](#)

Vice-Chair Gray requested that his White Paper proposing that an amendment to the City's Code of Ordinances making it a fineable offense to leave behind a dangerous item (such as a weapon or explosive) on City property be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

Councilor Schwan requested that a Proclamation supporting the continued operation of regional airports near Everglades City, Immokalee, and Marco Island be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

18. Council Reports

None.

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 7:25 P.M.

Erik Brechnitz, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist