

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

5:30 PM

Meeting Rescheduled from October 7, 2024

Community Meeting Room

City Council

*Chair: Jared Grifoni
Vice-Chair: Erik Brechnitz*

*City Council: Rich Blonna,
Greg Folley, Becky Irwin,
Darrin Palumbo, Joe Rola*

*City Manager: Mike McNees
Assistant City Manager: Casey Lucius
Assistant City Attorney: David Tolces
City Clerk: Joan Taylor*

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Also Present

*Michael McNees, City Manager
Casey Lucius, Assistant City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney (participated via remote teleconference connection)
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Jose Duran, Information Technology Director
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist*

3. Invocation

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chair Grifoni.

5. Approval of the Agenda

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

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

6. Approval of the Minutes

- a. [ID 24-3834](#) Approval of the City Council Workshop Minutes of September 16, 2024

MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that the City Council Workshop Minutes of September 16, 2024, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

- b. [ID 23-3164](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2024

MOTION by Councilor Folley, seconded by Councilor Irwin, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of September 23, 2024, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

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

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

- a. [ID 24-3751](#) Resolution - Approving of the Appointment of Kathleen Heuschkel to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- b. [ID 24-3859](#) Approval of the FY 2024/2025 City Manager Goals - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- c. [ID 24-3858](#) Approval of the Amendment to City Manager's Employment Agreement - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- d. [ID 24-3872](#) First Amendment to the Urban County Cooperation Agreement with Collier County - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

8. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 24-3810](#) Proclamation - National Fire Prevention Week

Chair Jared Grifoni proclaimed October 6 through 12, 2024 as National Fire Prevention Week, and presented the Proclamation to City of Marco Island Fire Chief Chris Byrne, members of the Marco Island fire inspection detail, and "Sparky the Fire Dog", the mascot of the National Fire Prevention Association.

Fire Chief Byrne took the opportunity, upon receiving the Proclamation, to encourage all residents and members of the business community of Marco Island to install, check, and regularly maintain building smoke detectors to ensure the safety of building occupants at all times.

- b. [ID 24-3878](#) Presentation - Old Marco Area Redevelopment Study by Stantec Engineering Firm - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director, Community Affairs / Growth Management

Mr. Jared Beck, Principal and U.S. Southeast Urban Places lead for Stantec, a sustainable engineering, architecture and environmental consulting company, presented a Redevelopment Plan Framework for potential land use, zoning, and property redevelopment criteria to enable improved transportation, parking, and infrastructure management in the Old Marco section of Marco Island.

The following members of the community came forward to offer comment for the Council's consideration:

- 1. Mr. David Heil (Bald Eagle Dr.)*
- 2. Ms. Leslie Heil (Bald Eagle Dr.)*
- 3. Mr. David Crain (Gayer Way)*

Council Chair Jared Grifoni summarized the key considerations and concerns that members of the Council and the public raised during the course of Mr. Beck's presentation, and direction was provided to the City Staff.

Consideration to fund continued consultant support and conduct an updated "in-season" traffic analysis study for the Old Marco area will be addressed by the Council at a later date; currently no funding for these efforts have been allocated for FY 2024/2025.

MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that direction to the City Staff to bring forward recommendations for zoning, land use, and commercial property redevelopment criteria revisions to the Land Development Code for the Old Marco section of the Island, as well as proposals for storm water management/mitigation and elimination of parking from swales located in the Old Marco section, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 6 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo and Chair Grifoni

No: 1 - Councilor Rola

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

Mr. John Martini (Nassau Ct.) raised several questions regarding the public transportation "bus/trolley" pilot program planned for early 2025 implementation, and he expressed his displeasure with the nature and message of a recent Marco Island City Council Election mailpiece that was received at his home.

Ms. Deb Henry (Tulip Ct.), on behalf of the Noontime Rotary Club of Marco Island, presented the Club's donation of a public water fountain and refillable bottle dispenser for the benefit those who participate in activities in and around the Mackle Park Community Center.

Mr. David Crain (Gayer Way) shared information on the use of injection wells to improve canal water quality in Monroe County, Florida, and he encouraged the City to reach out to officials there to gain insight on that community's experience with this technology.

10. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

11. Ordinances

None.

12. Resolutions & City Council Items

[ID 24-3857](#) Discussion - Council Member Appointment to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Tourist Development Council (TDC) - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

The Council, in recognition of Chair Jared Grifoni and Councilor Greg Folley's conclusion in office on the Marco Island City Council effective November 5, 2024, discussed identifying replacement City Council Councilors to serve on the Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC) and the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

A Motion was advanced for both Collier County Council/Board seats. The Council's recommended

candidate as for the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be addressed at a future meeting of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Chair Grifoni, seconded by Councilor Blonna, that a recommendation to appoint Councilor Darrin Palumbo to the Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC) as its Marco Island City Council representative effective November 5, 2024, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Councilor Blonna, Councilor Folley, Councilor Irwin, Councilor Palumbo and Chair Grifoni

No: 2 - Vice-Chair Brechnitz and Councilor Rola

MOTION by Councilor Folley to appoint Vice-Chair Erik Brechnitz to the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as its Marco Island City Council representative effective November 5, 2024 FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

13. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

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

14. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Councilor Irwin noted the community's shared effort in preparing for the impacts of Hurricane Milton, and she noted specific instances where the post-hurricane recovery is most needed.

Vice-Chair Brechnitz expressed his disappointment with the content and tone of certain Marco Island City Council election campaign materials which he recently received.

Council Palumbo noted the passing of long-time Marco Island entrepreneur and resident "Big Al" Landers, and he called attention to a recent commendation that Police Chief Tracy Frazzano and the Marco Island Police Department team received for NARCAN (opioid antagonist) spray training.

Councilor Palumbo also advised the Council of his dialogue with Comcast's Director of Government Affairs on improving Comcast's post-storm service restoration effort, and he proposed that the City Council and City Staff meet with the Comcast account service team to engage in a workshop to identify ways to improve post-storm service restoration on the Island.

Councilor Palumbo concluded by detailing his reasons for supporting certain Marco Island City Council candidates.

Councilor Blonna read a letter commending Public Works Director Justin Martin and his team for the noticeable improvement in storm water management and drainage along South Barfield Drive between Capt Horr Way and Winterberry Drive as a result of the recently-completed South Barfield Drainage Project.

Councilor Folley noted the inappropriately-ascribed City Council candidate endorsement by one of Councilor Folley's City Committee appointees, and he confirmed that his appointee was advised of his error and corrected for any future public statements regarding one or more City Council candidates.

Chair Grifoni commended the City Manager and his Staff's ongoing commitment to learning from, and improving upon, its response to every severe weather event over the past five years, and he supported the proposals advanced by the Chair of the Marco Island Planning Board regarding potential pre-storm and

post-storm actions that the City can take to assist the citizens of the Island.

Chair Grifoni concluded by: 1) recalling various communications issues that occurred during past weather events; 2) confirming that a review of the City's current prohibition of parking/storing one's boat and trailer on his/her property is scheduled for Planning Board review, and; 3) clarifying the ability for public transportation buses to operate across all zoning districts on the Island.

[ID 23-3165](#) Future Agenda Items

The Council requested that the City Staff prepare and present estimates for: 1) a 2025 Winter Season traffic study in the Old Marco section of the Island, and; 2) a potential contract extension with the Stantec consultancy group for Council review and consideration at a future meeting of the Council.

The Council requested that the selection of its recommended candidate for the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) be addressed at a future meeting of the Council.

15. Council Reports

[ID 24-3869](#) Discussion - Amendment 4 - Right to Abortion Initiative - Councilor Greg Folley

Councilor Folley shared his perspective and views on Florida Constitutional Amendment 4 which is on the state's November 5, 2024 ballot for voter consideration. Several Councilors similarly made their positions known.

The following members of the public registered to express their opposition to Amendment 4:

1. Ms. Mary Alger (Clyburn St.)
2. Ms. Jennifer Stonebreaker (Hernando Dr.)
3. Ms. Ricki Giersch (Century Ct.)
4. Mr. Patrick Giersch (Century Ct.) (ceded his time to Dr. Haywood Robinson)
5. Dr. Haywood Robinson (Lambton Lane, Naples)
6. Ms. Mary Pitzi (S. Collier Blvd.) (ceded her time to Ms. Keith Flaugh)
7. Mr. Keith Flaugh (Quintara Ct.)

Councilor Folley thanked the members of the public who came forward to speak on the proposed Amendment.

16. City Manager's Report

City Manager McNees, in referencing recent social media commentary on the City and the Council's efforts to address water quality, noted that his Council-approved goals for the upcoming year includes initiating a post-4e "next steps" planning process.

City Manager McNees also expressed his appreciation to the citizens of Marco Island for respecting the emergency management procedures and requests that were issued by the City of Marco Island in anticipation of Hurricane Milton's impact along the west coast of Florida, and he complimented the Council and his City Staff leaders for advancing initiatives and infrastructure improvements over the past several years that improved the resiliency of the Island.

17. City Attorney's Report

None.

18. Departmental Reports

[ID 23-3166](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

No comments or questions were raised regarding the Monthly Department 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 Grifoni adjourned the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Jared Grifoni, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist