

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, March 16, 2026

5:30 PM

Community Meeting Room

City Council

*Chair: Darrin Palumbo
Vice-Chair: Rene Champagne*

*City Council: Erik Brechnitz, Tamara Goehler,
Stephen Gray, Deb Henry,
Bonita Schwan*

*Interim 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.

2. Roll Call

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

Also Present

Casey Lucius, Interim City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
Dave Ennis, Police Captain
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Carol McDermott, Finance Director
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Justin Martin, Public Works Director
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager
Samantha Malloy, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors

3. Invocation

Offered by Reverend Jon Fogarty of First Baptist - The Family Church of Marco Island.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Reverend Jon Fogarty.

5. Approval of the Agenda

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

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

6. Approval of the Minutes

[ID 25-4912](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026

Attachments: [City Council Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026](#)

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Gray, that City Council Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026 be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilor Henry requested that Agenda Item 7c (Resolution - Approving Racquet Center Fees and Membership Amendments) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

[Editorial Note: the record of the Council's decision on this item is now reflected in these Minutes under Agenda Item 16 (Items Removed From the Consent Agenda)]

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

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

[Approval of Consent Agenda passes all routine items listed below.]

a. [ID 26-5219](#)

Authorize the Interim City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Central Florida Yamaha in the Amount of \$83,398 using the State Contract 47QSWA23D006A- Chief Tracy Frazzano, Police Department.

Attachments: [Mercury Quote With Trade-in](#)

[Contract](#)

[GSA PRICE SHEET](#)

[City of Marco Island Central Florida Yamaha Inc Contract
47QSWA23D006A Signed](#)

b. [ID 26-5227](#)

Authorize the Interim City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc., in the Amount not to exceed \$74,231 for the 2026 Hideaway Beach Erosion Control Project Monitoring Survey - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works

Attachments: [Coastal Engineering Consultants Proposal](#)

[Cosatal Engineering Consultants Fee Schedule](#)

[Agreement for Professional Services](#)

[Contract Renewal 2023009CE \(Fully Executed\)](#)

[Hideaway Beach Tax District Meeting Minutes 2.19.26](#)

8. Proclamations and Presentations

a. [ID 26-5222](#) Proclamation- Marco Island Houses of Worship Recognition

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Council Chair Palumbo, assisted by Vice-Chair Champagne, and supported by the entire City Council, expressed the Council's appreciation and gratitude in a Proclamation shared with representatives from the Island's faith-based organizations and congregations recognizing the many years of dedication, compassion, and shared commitment that they have exhibited in strengthening the fabric of the Marco Island community.

- b. [ID 26-5221](#) Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) Designation Recognition for Joan Taylor, City Clerk - Council Chairman Darrin Palumbo and Scotty Lynn Kelly, City Clerk, City of Sanibel and Southwest Florida District Director for the Florida Association of City Clerks

Chair Palumbo, with the support of the entire Council, recognized City Clerk Joan Taylor on her study and achievement resulting in her designation as Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) for the State of Florida.

Ms. Scotty Lynn Kelly, Southwest Florida District Director for the Florida Association of Clerks, and City Clerk for the City of Sanibel, shared her congratulations with Ms. Taylor via Zoom teleconference connection.

- c. [ID 26-5226](#) Recognition - Marco Island Police Department Achieves CFA Re-Accreditation

Chair Palumbo, with the support of the entire City Council, recognized Marco Island Police Chief Tracy Frazzano and her entire team on its three-year re-accreditation by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) at its formal ceremony in St. Augustine, Florida on February 19, 2026.

Police Chief Frazzano invited all members of her Police Department team present at the City Council Meeting to join her in accepting the recognition plaque commemorating the Department's re-accreditation from Chair Palumbo and the Council.

- d. [ID 26-5229](#) Audit Advisory Committee Update - Chair Gene Siegel and Vice-Chair Elena McFann

Attachments: [Audit Advisory Committee Update](#)

City of Marco Island Audit Advisory Committee Chair Eugene Siegel, accompanied by Committee Vice-Chair Elena McFann, shared an update on the progress of the Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit and Report timeline with the Council.

Promising continued full transparency and ongoing engagement with the Council as the Committee continues its work with the City's outside auditors and Finance Department, Mr. Siegel and Ms. McFann indicated a likely end-of-May, 2026 audit completion date, with a full report and review with the City Council early in the month of June, 2026.

The completed Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Audit Report is due to the State of Florida on or before June 30, 2026.

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

The following individuals came forward to share their perspective with the Council on recent Marco Island community discourse regarding onshore shark fishing along the beaches on Marco Island:

- 1) Ms. Sabine Scholz (Marco Island resident)
- 2) Ms. Matea Denisen (Tama Cir., Naples, FL)
- 3) Mr. Spencer Wonder (Arlingwood Dr., Milton, FL.), with time ceded from Mr. Jack Augustine (Delbrook Way)
- 4) Mr. David Boggs (Delbrook Way), with time ceded from Mr. Logan Labreck (Delbrook Way)
- 5) Mr. Michael Nguyen (Gulf Blvd., N. Redington Bch, FL)
- 6) Mr. Paul Miller (Seaview Ct.)
- 7) Ms. Roxanne (Address Unknown)

The following individuals came forward to offer their comments regarding the management of activity and the mitigation of pickleball-playing noise at the Marco Island Racquet Center and other pickleball-playing facilities on Marco Island:

- 1) Mr. Rich Blonna (San Marco Rd.)
- 2) Mr. David Cadwell (Marco Villas Dr.)
- 3) Mr. Tim Annett (Ludlow Rd.)
- 4) Mr. John Firriolo (Seminole Ct.)
- 5) Mr. Greg Folley (Cape Marco Dr.)

The following Marco Island resident notified the Council of the success of a citizen-led petition to place a referendum on the August, 2026 Primary Ballot for the citizens of Marco Island to consider regarding implementation of Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) technology at the City of Marco Island reuse water treatment facility:

- Ms. Nanette Rivera (Ludlow Rd.)

10. City Manager's Report

[ID 25-4975](#) City Manager's Report

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

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius advised all meeting attendees and broadcast viewers of the postponement of the City of Marco Island Water & Sewer Department Open House to an unspecified future date.

Councilors Gray and Goehler posed questions for City of Marco Island Finance Director Carol McDermott regarding the City water utility payment process and citizen assistance in managing the new water usage application.

Chair Palumbo noted March's designation as "Florida Bicycle Safety Month" and he shared several "best practices" to enhance bicycle safety on Marco Island.

11. City Attorney's Report

[ID 25-4913](#) City Attorney's Report

Attachments: [City Attorney Report](#)

City Attorney Alan Gabriel provided an update on the status of amicus briefs filed by eighteen (18) states, the Department of Justice, and several law enforcement Associations in support of the City of Marco Island's position regarding the use of vehicle license plate readers on the Island.

City Attorney Gabriel also outlined certain requirements outlined in the City's Charter, the timetable for next steps, and the options available to the Council relative to the recently-certified citizen-led petition to place a referendum before the voters on Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) implementation at the City's reuse water treatment facility on Marco Island. He responded to a number of questions from members of the Council.

City Attorney Gabriel advised the Council that he will be sending them a memo on the results of his investigation into the manner and extent to which local municipalities like Marco Island may regulate onshore shark fishing from its beaches, if the Council should decide to do so.

City Attorney Gabriel concluded his report by advising the Council that two Bert Harris Act actions have recently been filed against the City.

12. Departmental Reports

[ID 25-4914](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

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

Councilor Schwan noted that the City of Marco Island Fire Rescue Department Report began monthly reporting of false alarms on the Island. She thanked Fire Chief Byrne for this addition to the report.

(THE MEETING WENT INTO RECESS AT 7:03 P.M. IT IS NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT ALL COUNCILORS WERE PRESENT WHEN THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 7:11 P.M.)

13. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

14. Ordinances

None.

15. Resolutions & City Council Items

a. [ID 26-5230](#) Discussion of Alternative Revenue Options, Casey Lucius, Interim City Manager

Attachments: [March 16 Revenue Options](#)
[Local Govt Financial Info Handbook](#)

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius reviewed three (3) potential alternative sources of revenue that the Council could consider to augment and diversify the City's current reliance on ad valorem property tax receipts. The alternatives proposed were:

- 1) an increase to the City's Communications Services Tax;
- 2) the implementation of a Local Business Tax, and;
- 3) the implementation of a Public Services Tax

The Council engaged in considerable discussion regarding these and other Councilor-proposed alternatives.

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

- 1) Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.)
- 2) Mr. Gregg Vilk (Magnolia Ct), with additional time ceded from Ms. Liz Fitch (Magnolia Ct.)
- 3) Mr. Anthony Oliverio (Olds Ct.)
- 4) Ms. Christine Dowell (Biscayne Way)

Noting the expressed preferences of each Councilor on each of the three alternatives that she presented, Interim City Manager Lucius received Council endorsement to further investigate the following implementation steps to:

- 1) potentially increase the City's existing Communications Services Tax, and;
- 2) implement an equity study in support of the Council's future consideration of potentially enacting a Local Business Tax.

The results of both investigations will be brought before the Council at a future date.

16. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- 7c. [ID 26-5238](#) Resolution - Approving Racquet Center Fees and Membership Amendments - Samantha Malloy, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 26-13](#)

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 26-13 into the record by title only.

City of Marco Island Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager Samantha Malloy came forward to address questions from members of the Council.

The following individuals came forward to offer perspective for the Council's consideration:

- 1) Mr. Detlef Rethage (Waterway Ct.)
- 2) Mr. Michael Nash (Granada Dr.)
- 3) Mr. Jim DeFrell (Jamaica Ct.)
- 4) Mr. Rob Krizmanich (Clyburn St.)
- 5) Ms. Lori Larkin (100 N. Collier Blvd.)
- 6) Mr. Greg Folley (Cape Marco Dr.)

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Vice-Chair Champagne, that Resolution 26-13 - Amending the fees and membership structure for the City of Marco Island Racquet Center, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

No: 3 - Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry and Chair Palumbo

17. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Councilor Henry thanked Interim City Manager Casey Lucius for keeping the Council apprised of the specifics of its past decisions and directives so that City resources are consistently and effectively applied.

Councilor Henry complimented the organizers of the recent Leadership Day Activity at Tommie Barfield Elementary School.

Councilor Henry encouraged all registered Marco Island voters who spend their summers away from the Island to request mail in ballots early for this Fall's local and School Board elections.

Councilor Henry concluded by reminding all residents and visitors of the upcoming Saturday, March 21st cookoff sponsored jointly by the Kiwanis, Rotary, and Optimist Clubs of Marco Island.

Councilor Schwan advised the Council of her intention to submit a White Paper regarding onshore shark fishing for future Council discussion.

Councilor Gray proposed that the Council consider how to appropriately support all special interest activity groups on Marco Island without catering to a select few. He identified several activity group examples for the Council's consideration.

Councilor Gray observed that the City's volunteer Committees published a very consequential slate of agenda items to address at their Committee meetings during the week of March 16 - 20. He cited specific examples, and he expressed his appreciation to all of the citizen volunteers who donate their time and talents for the benefit of the City and its citizens.

Councilor Gray, later during Council Communications, obtained clarification from Chair Palumbo on the proper procedure to gain City Council support before undertaking a White Paper effort.

Councilor Goehler provided an explanation about her reasons for voting in the affirmative on the increase to the membership and visitor fees at the Marco Island Racquet Center (Agenda Item 7c under Items Removed from the Consent Agenda).

Councilor Goehler expressed her thoughts on the endangerment of certain shark species as a result of onshore shark fishing.

Chair Palumbo expressed how meaningful the "Challenge Coin" that he recently received from Marco Island Police Chief Tracy Frazzano and the Marco Island Police team was to him personally. He thanked Chief Frazzano and her team for their thoughtfulness.

Chair Palumbo briefly held up a binder with the applications and background information received to date from candidates who have expressed an interest in being considered for the Marco Island City Manager opening. He encouraged his fellow Councilors to review their similarly constructed binders prior to Monday, March 23rd..

Chair Palumbo briefly recognized the success of the recent Police Department Luncheon featuring Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno.

Chair Palumbo encouraged his fellow Councilors to engage with the City Attorney and the City Staff as needed to become fully informed on the considerations surrounding the potential implementation of Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) standards at the City's reuse water treatment facility.

Chair Palumbo concluded by playing a brief video of bocce ball play on Marco Island.

[ID 25-4915](#) Future Agenda Items

Attachments: [Future Agenda](#)

Councilor Schwan requested that her White Paper regarding onshore shark fishing on Marco Island's beaches be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

18. Council Reports

- a. [ID 26-5220](#) County Boards and Organizations Quarterly Update - Councilors Brechnitz, Gray, Schwan and Chair Palumbo

Attachments: [TDC Update - Chair Palumbo](#)

Councilor Schwan briefly summarized the key outputs from her recent participation in the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting.

Chair Palumbo highlighted his Tourist Development Council (TDC) report which was attached to the evening's Agenda, and he encouraged his fellow Councilors to identify project opportunities that could qualify for, and benefit from, Collier County Tourist Development Council funding. Councilors Henry, Schwan, Brechnitz, Vice-Chair Champagne, and Interim City Manager Lucius all proposed several ideas for potential consideration.

19. Citizens' Comments

In continuation of the onshore shark fishing comments initially raised during Agenda Item 9 (Public Comments) earlier in the meeting, the following individuals came forward to offer their thoughts for the Council's consideration:

- 1) Mr. Elliott Totten (Apricot Ave.)
- 2) Mr. Adriano Castro (Crescent Ct., Naples)

The following individuals came forward to offer their observations regarding the Council's earlier discussion (Agenda Item 15a) regarding alternative sources of revenue for the City to pursue:

- 1) Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.)
- 2) Mr. Anthony Oliverio (Olds Ct.)
- 3) Ms. Victoria Myers (Bluebonnet Ct.)

20. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Palumbo adjourned the meeting at 9:17 P.M.

Darrin Palumbo, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist