

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, June 17, 2024

5:30 PM

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

City Attorney: Alan L. Gabriel

City Clerk: Joan Taylor

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Councilor Blonna, Vice-Chair Brechnitz, Councilor Folley, Councilor Palumbo, Councilor Rola and Chair Grifoni

Not Present: 1 - Councilor Irwin

(Note: Councilor Irwin joined the meeting at 5:31 P.M.)

Also Present

Michael McNees, City Manager

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney

John Wallace, Police Captain

Dave Ennis, Police Captain

Chris Byrne, Fire Chief

Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director

Justin Martin, Public Works Director

Jose Duran, Information Technology Director

Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager (participated via Zoom teleconference connection)

Sonia Iszler, Water & Sewer Engineering & Operations Manager

Bart Bradshaw, Water & Sewer Collections & Distribution Manager

Lazaro Pomier, Fleet & Facilities Project Manager

Heather Reed, Fleet & Facilities Coordinator

Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist

Citizens and Visitors

3. Invocation

Offered by Father Timothy Navin of the San Marco Catholic Church.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Leg by Chair Grifoni.

5. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, seconded by Councilor Rola, 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

[ID 23-3128](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2024

MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Councilor Irwin, that the City Council

Meeting Minutes of June 3, 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 Folley, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, 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 All Routine Items Listed Below]

- a. [ID 24-3660](#) Award of Contract for the Replacement of the City Hall Roof to Advanced Roofing, Inc. in the Amount of \$165,510.00, Lazaro Pomier, Ph.D., Project Manager, Fleet and Facilities
- b. [ID 24-3668](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Earth Tech Enterprises, Inc. for the 2024 Tigertail Lagoon/Sand Dollar Island Ecosystem Restoration Project Operational Maintenance in the Amount of \$295,365 - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works
- c. [ID 24-3650](#) Resolution - Approving of the Appointment of Mr. George Vlasuk to the Waterways Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- d. [ID 24-3664](#) Resolution - Appointment of Mr. Leslie Shade to the Firefighters' Pension Plan Board of Trustees - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- e. [ID 24-3662](#) Resolution - Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Association of Firefighters, Local #2887 - Chris Byrne, Fire Chief, Fire-Rescue Department

8. Proclamations and Presentations

[ID 24-3651](#) Presentation - Fourth of July Fireworks Donation - Mr. James Garcia, General Manager, Marco Island Hilton Beach Resort and Spa

Mr. James Garcia, General Manager of the Marco Island Hilton Beach Resort and Spa, expressed his organization's support for the City's annual Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration by announcing a donation of \$5,000.00 to the City for this year's event. Chair Grifoni, on behalf of the Council and the citizens of Marco Island, graciously accepted the donation and thanked Mr. Garcia and the Marco Island Hilton Beach Resort and Spa for its support.

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

Mr. Keith Flaugh (Quintara Ct.) requested that the Council consider adopting a resolution that would urge Marco Island residents to vote 'No' on proposed Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution entitled "Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion" which will appear on the statewide ballot on November 5, 2024.

Ms. Jennifer Stonebreaker (Hernando Dr.) supported Mr. Flaugh's request, and she offered her perspective on elements of the proposed Florida Constitutional Amendment.

Mr. Scott Kiley (Cutler Ct.) also urged the Council to consider adopting the resolution proposed by Mr. Flaugh, and he compared and contrasted elements of the proposed Amendment with the State's current "Heartbeat Protection Act" (SB 300) which was signed into law on April 13, 2023.

10. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

[ID 24-3665](#) Resolution - Variance Petition (VP-24-000099) Request to the Land Development Code (LDC) Sec 30-488 for Reduced Parking, Sec. 30-439 Reduced Vehicle Use Area, and Sec. 30-411(g) Buffer Requirements for the Marco Island Racquet Center Located at 1275 San Marco Road, Marco Island, FL 34145 - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director - Community Affairs/Growth Management

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 24-32 into the record by title only.

City Attorney Alan Gabriel swore in all parties who indicated an intention to provide witness or testimony, and each Council member conveyed a verbal ex parte disclosure related to the Applicant's Appeal.

City Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith outlined the scope of the proposed project, and he highlighted the requested variances for buffers, landscape, and parking accommodations proposed by the City.

Public Comment

Mr. David Cadwell (Marco Villas Dr.) expressed the concerns that he and other residents of the San Marco Villas Condominium complex have regarding the expansion of pickleball activities at the Marco Island Racquet Center.

Mr. Ed Hiney (Clyburn St.) offered his perspective on the overall impact of more traffic, people, and noise on the overall well-being of residents residing near the Racquet Center.

The Council engaged in considerable discussion prior to, and after, Public Comment, and a Motion seeking to reach a position of agreement and compromise was advanced.

MOTION by Councilor Folley, seconded by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, that Resolution 24-32 - Variance Petition (VP-24-000099) Request to the Land Development Code (LDC) Sec 30-488 for Reduced Parking, Sec 30-439 Reduced Vehicle Use Area, and Sec 30-411(G) Buffer Requirements for the Marco Island Racquet Center, 1275 San Marco Rd., Marco Island, FL 34145 be Approved With the Following Amendments: a) reduction to 7 (from 8) new pickleball courts; b) parking in a ratio of 3 spaces/court without variance; c) maintenance of the existing 10 foot landscape buffer along the north, east, south, and west perimeter of the property, with the exception of the area near the lift station, which is to remain as it currently exists, and; d) continuation of the 8 foot sound barrier around the perimeter of the property as presented, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

No: 1 - Councilor Blonna

11. Ordinances

None.

12. Resolutions & City Council Items

- a. [ID 24-3661](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to All Roads Kenworth, LLC for the Purchase of a T880 Kenworth Dump Truck for the Water and Sewer Department in the Amount of \$255,365.00 - Jeffrey Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer Department

Water & Sewer Department Engineering & Operations Manager Sonia Iszler briefly outlined the rationale and need for the proposed purchase.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, seconded by Councilor Blonna that Authorization for the City Manager to Issue a Prurchase Order to All Roads Kenworth, LLC for the Purchase a T880 Kenworth Dump Truck for the Water and Sewer Department in the Amount of \$255,365.00, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

- b. [ID 24-3666](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to All Roads Kenworth, LLC for the Purchase of a T880 Kenworth Semi Tractor for the Water and Sewer Department in the Amount of \$194,997.00 - Jeffrey Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer

Water & Sewer Department Engineering & Operations Manager Sonia Iszler briefly outlined the rationale and need for the proposed purchase.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, seconded by Councilor Irwin, that Authorization for the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to All Roads Kenworth, LLC for the Purchase of a T880 Kenworth Semi Tractor for the Water and Sewer Department in the Amount of \$194,997.00, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

13. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

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

14. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Councilor Blonna read a prepared statement outlining his revised perspective and point-of-view regarding the pursuit of advanced wastewater treatment technologies for the Marco Island Water & Sewer utility. He indicated his intention to seek the publishing of his statement in the local Marco Island newspapers.

Councilor Blonna also asked Council to support and encourage the City Staff to eliminate the use of

rodenticide in rodent bait boxes around City facilities to reduce the harm to the native bird and burrowing owl population.

Councilor Irwin noted recent incidences of individuals picking fruit from trees on private property without authorization by the owners, and she implored citizens to respect the rights of property owners by not picking fruit from trees on privately-owned property parcels.

Vice-Chair Brechnitz reported on the failure of the Collier County Coastal Advisory Committee, of which he is a member, to obtain Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit approvals to dredge the entrance to the Collier Creek Channel from the Marco River.

Vice-Chair Brechnitz also indicated his intention to draft a proposed resolution in support of the concerns raised by several citizens during Public Comment (see Agenda Item 9).

Councilor Folley applauded the County's recent action on proposed Florida Constitutional Amendment 4 (Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion), and he indicated his support for the Marco Island City Council to consider a similar resolution. His comments precipitated a brief debate and alternative perspectives from other members of the Council.

Councilor Palumbo recognized and thanked Councilor Irwin for her efforts to promote the planting of trees on Marco Island, and he pledged his support for her efforts. He also recognized and thanked Councilor Blonna for his efforts to engage Conservation Collier in acquiring additional property in the Inlet Dr. - South Barfield Dr. area, and he pledged his support for his efforts. Councilor Palumbo concluded by expressing his hope that Councilors Irwin and Blonna will be successful in their re-election campaigns.

Councilor Rola requested that the Council agenda package and supporting meeting materials for the July 22, 2024 City Council Meeting be distributed to Council members at least ten days before the meeting. City Manager McNees pledged to advance the pre-meeting materials for the July meeting to the degree possible.

[ID 23-3129](#) Future Agenda Items

Vice-Chair Brechnitz requested that a City Council resolution regarding proposed Florida Constitutional Amendment 4 (Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion) be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

15. Council Reports

[ID 24-3663](#) Expanding the CAT Service (Collier Area Transit) to Marco Island - Councilor Rich Blonna

Councilor Blonna presented his white paper proposing a January 1, 2025 - April 1, 2025 pilot program and data-gathering test to determine the efficacy of operating a daily or weekend only Tigertail Beach to Caxambas Park route transit bus, and a daily Collier Area Transit (CAT) Route 21 on-Island circulator bus to reduce seasonal traffic and parking congestion on Marco Island.

Public Comment

Ms. Megan Greer (Kentucky St., Bonita Springs), Executive Director of the Blue Zones Project - SW Florida Team, clarified the details of the Blue Zones transit test in support of the Island's Christmas Island Style activities that was proposed, but not implemented, in 2020 - 2021, and she shared her organization's recent engagement with Marco Island business owners and employers in generating support for a test of the transit-based solution proposed by Councilor Blonna.

Mr. Howard Reed (Bald Eagle Dr.) presented a visual overview and summary of areas on the Island that are, and are not, served by the proposed pilot program. He highlighted several negative aspects of the proposed pilot program that he felt were of high importance to residents of the Island, and he urged the Council to place the needs of the residents first.

Mr. Martin Winter (Perrine Ct.) pointed to the recognized need for parking alternatives and solutions for the Island, and he read an email from a recent customer of his business who was surprised that no Collier Beach Corridor trolley was in operation on this destination Island. He encouraged the Council to implement the proposed pilot program.

Ms. Dianna Dohm (Copperfield Ct.), Executive Director of the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce, thanked Councilor Blonna for proposing this pilot program, and she expressed confidence that a collaborative City, Chamber, and business community funding solution could be developed to support this effort.

Chair Grifoni, in summing up the discussion and inputs offered by members of the Council and the public, directed that the proposed pilot program and a discussion of its funding come forward for Council consideration and action at its July 22, 2024 Operating Budget Workshop. Councilor Blonna volunteered to champion this proposal at the upcoming Workshop.

16. City Manager's Report

City Manager McNeese recognized the efforts of the City's Public Works team in promptly identifying, marking, and diverting vehicle and pedestrian traffic away from areas that were difficult or impassable from the week-long rains experienced between June 8 - 15. He also highlighted the success of past road and drainage projects that mitigated or relieved the impact of heavy rains on key intersections and roadways on the Island.

17. City Attorney's Report

[ID 23-3130](#) City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Gabriel reported that, on June 10, 2024, a preliminary injunction was issued by Judge Melissa Damian of the Southern District Court of Florida regarding Florida SB 774, and negating the requirement for candidates and elected officials at the County and municipal level to complete and submit Financial Disclosure Form 6 with the Florida Commission on Ethics on or before July 1, 2024.

18. Departmental Reports

[ID 23-3131](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

No questions or comments were raised regarding the Departmental 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 8:03 P.M.

Jared Grifoni, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist