

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 20, 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 Gray called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Councilor Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Vice-Chair Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Palumbo and Councilor Schwan

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

(Note: Chair Brechnitz was not present at Roll Call, but joined the meeting at 5:44 P.M. via Zoom teleconference connection; he disconnected from the meeting at 9:20 P.M.)

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
Carol McDermott, Finance Director
Sharon Dangles, Controller
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Justin Martin, Public Works Director
Jose Duran, Information Technology Director
Stephen DiSantis, Purchasing & Risk Manager
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors*

3. Invocation

Offered by the Reverend Matt White of the Wesley United Methodist Church.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

[ID 25-4339](#) Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Charlotte Schrimper of Tommie Barfield Elementary School

In Miss Schrimper's absence, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chair Gray.

5. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Champagne, that the Agenda be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

6. Approval of the Minutes

[ID 25-4203](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2025

Attachments: [City Council Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2025](#)

Councilor Henry requested an opinion from City Attorney Alan Gabriel regarding the Council's procedure for soliciting and recording a voting consensus by members of the Council. This request emanated from her review of the video of the October 6, 2025 City Council "voice vote" on the Motion during Roll Call (Agenda Item 2) to recognize Chair Brechnitz's absence from the meeting as "Excused". City Attorney Gabriel noted the right of the Chair to utilize his/her discretion in calling for and conducting a vote.

Councilor Goehler asked why her name was not specifically noted as the subject of Mr. Ryan Sullivan's comments during Agenda Item 9 (Citizens' Comments), and the Special "Vote of No Confidence" Motion during Council Communications & Future Agenda (Agenda Item 17). After a brief explanation and discussion, no request followed to amend the Minutes as originally drafted.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Champagne, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2025, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

Motion to Allow for Remote Participation by Chair Brechnitz

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Schwan, to allow Chair Brechnitz to participate in, and vote on, all 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 Palumbo and Councilor Schwan

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

(Note: Chair Brechnitz joined the meeting two minutes after the Motion to allow for his remote participation)

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

Councilor Palumbo requested that Agenda Item 7d (Agreement - Request from the YMCA of Collier County, Inc. to Defer Impact Fees) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Vice-Chair Gray requested that Agenda Item 7a (Authorize the City Manager to Approve Purchase Orders) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Champagne, that the Consent Agenda be Approved as Amended. 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 Items Listed Below]

- b. [ID 25-4682](#) Extension of Contract #2022-003 with Advanced Environmental Laboratories, Inc. for Monthly Surface Water Quality Testing of City Waterways for Nutrients and Quarterly Testing for Potentially Toxic Cyanobacteria (Algae) in the Amount of \$92,416.80 Annually - Justin Martin, Director, Public Works
- Attachments:** [Advanced Environmental Laboratories Quote](#)
[Extension of Contract #2022-003 Letter - Executed](#)
[Contract #2022-003 Fully Executed](#)
[Waterways Advisory Committee Minutes 4-18-24](#)
- c. [ID 25-4756](#) Reappointment of the Special Magistrate Robert D. Pritt for an Additional Two-Year Term - Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
- Attachments:** [Magistrate Contract](#)
[Magistrate Pritt Account Summary](#)
[Extension of Contract Agreement](#)
[Extension Agreement City](#)

8. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 25-4739](#) Proclamation - Florida City Government Week

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Vice-Chair Gray, with the support of the Council, proclaimed the week of October 20 - 26, 2025 as Florida City Government Week and presented the Proclamation to Ms. Joan Taylor, Marco Island City Clerk.

- b. [ID 25-4773](#) Proclamation - Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Attachments: [Proclamation](#)

Vice-Chair Gray, with the support of the Council, proclaimed October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and presented the Proclamation to Ms. Meredith Gavin, Outreach Manager, and Ms. Mary Domack, Community Education and Training Advocate, of The Shelter for Abused Women and Children.

(Note: a 10 minute recess was called at 5:47 p.m. so that broadcast and recording technical difficulties could be addressed. Council resumed session at 5:58 p.m.)

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

Ms. Anita Sargese (Manor Terr.) requested that the Council publicly illuminate its plan and timetable for identifying candidates to succeed City Manager Mike McNees.

[Editorial Note: Mr. McNees, in a letter to the Marco Island City Council dated August 12, 2025, communicated his intention to terminate his service to the City as Marco Island City Manager effective September 30, 2026.]

Ms. Linda Scherzinger (Plantation Ct), Vice-Chair of the Beautification Advisory Committee, expressed her appreciation for the Council's support of the Committee's Tree City USA activities for Fiscal Year 2026. She recognized and thanked City Council Vice-Chair Stephen Gray for the generous donation to the Beautification Advisory Committee, and she requested citizen and business community support to help fund the installation and removal of Christmas lights on 40 light poles along Collier Boulevard.

Ms. Victoria Myers (Bluebonnet Ct.), Member of the Beautification Advisory Committee, also expressed her appreciation for the Council's budget allocation toward the Committee's 2026 Fiscal Year Tree City USA effort, and she joined in Ms. Scherzinger's request for citizen and business community support to help fund the Christmas light pole adornment effort for this year. Ms. Myers concluded by thanking City Council Vice-Chair Stephen Gray for his leadership on the Council and his personal donation to the Beautification Advisory Committee's efforts.

Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.) noted the recent Marco Island Charter Middle School (MICMS) gala fund-raiser, and he thanked Marco Island City Councilor Rene Champagne and his wife (and others) for their contribution. Mr. Oliverio reminded the Council of the City's many infrastructure improvement needs, and he encouraged the Council to work toward the development of a comprehensive City of Marco Island infrastructure improvement proposal and accompanying referendum that can be brought before the Marco Island voters.

10. City Manager's Report

City Manager McNees introduced Ms. Carol McDermott as the City's new Finance Director.

In follow-up to the Council's approval to act as the Council's emissary to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) in requesting the PRAC's review and recommendations regarding potential changes to the revenue and membership models for the Marco Island Racquet Center (see Agenda Item 11 of the Minutes of the September 22, 2025 City Council Meeting), Mr. McNees advised the Council that he was on the PRAC's Agenda for this discussion on October 21, 2025.

City Manager McNees advised the Council of the Home Depot Foundation's "Kick-Off" Event on Tuesday morning, October 21, 2025, at Veterans Community Park. He advised members of the public that the Foundation's effort will be well-staffed with Foundation volunteers, and that residents and visitors of Marco Island cannot, unfortunately, volunteer to participate in the project's activities.

Mr. McNees, along with Assistant City Manager Casey Lucius, explained the City Staff's discovery, following the Council's approval of Resolution 25-37 (Implementing a Convenience Fee for Credit/Debit Card and Electronic Payment Transactions), that no avenue currently exists in the City's updated, financial transaction system to accommodate ACH (Automated Clearing House) transactions. Staff reminded Council that the Public can continue to pay in person or mail a check without accruing a transaction fee. The Council engaged in considerable discussion. City Staff brought forward a recommendation to: 1) wave the previously approved e-check fee; 2) amend Resolution 25-37 at the November 3, 2025 meeting of the City Council, and; 3) return to the Council at a future date to report on the status of ACH transaction capabilities.

The following members of the public came forward to offer comment:

- 1) Mr. Brandon Swope (Seaview Ct.)*
- 2) Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.)*

MOTION by Councilor Champagne, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that the waiver of the e-check fee approved under Resolution 25-37, be Approved.

MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

(Note: Five (5) members of the Council were heard to voice their support of the Motion - Councilors Champagne, Goehler, Palumbo, Schwan, and Vice-Chair Gray. No responses were heard from Councilor Henry or Chair Brechnitz)

11. City Attorney's Report

[ID 25-4205](#) City Attorney's Report

Attachments: [City Attorney](#)

City Attorney Alan Gabriel briefly updated the Council on the status of case "Shannon Schemel, et al v. City of Marco Island, Case No. 2:22-cv-00079-MRM (M.D. Fla.)".

No questions or comments were raised by the public or members of the Council.

12. Departmental Reports

[ID 25-4207](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

Attachments: [Finance](#)

[Community Affairs](#)

[Fire-Rescue](#)

Vice-Chair Gray referenced and complimented the Finance Department's report regarding the summation and comparison of outstanding and collected fines by the City. Later, after the comments received by Mr. Bartolucci below, Vice-Chair Gray also shared his observations regarding the Community Affairs report, specifically discussing the need for additional venues to help accommodate events, and the Fire-Rescue Department reports which recognized an off-shore rescue.

Public Comment

Mr. Dennis Bartolucci (Caxambas Dr.) proposed that the Finance Department consider augmenting its recent information in its Departmental Report regarding fines with similar data from time periods preceding May, 2025. He also offered his assessment of the ACH (Automated Clearing House) situation discussed during the City Manager's Report (Agenda Item 10).

13. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

14. Ordinances

None.

15. Resolutions & City Council Items

- a. [ID 25-4790](#) Resolution - Site Development Plan Amendment (SDP-25-000172) for the Vietnam Memorial Located at Veterans Community Park at 901 Park Avenue, Marco Island, FL 34145 - Daniel J. Smith, Director, Community Affairs/Growth Management

Attachments: [Resolution 25-53](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Application & Cover](#)
[Survey](#)
[Cover](#)
[Renderings](#)
[SDP Plans](#)
[Civil Plans](#)
[Landscape Plan](#)

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 25-53 into the record by title only.

City of Marco Island Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith reviewed the Site Development Plan amendment with visuals for the Council's consideration and benefit.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Goehler, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that Resolution 25-53 - Site Development Plan Amendment (SDP-25-000172) for the Vietnam Memorial located at Veterans Community Park at 901 Park Avenue, Marco Island, FL 34145, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

- b. [ID 25-4704](#) Resolution - Approving a Local Agency Program (LAP) Supplemental Agreement No. 2 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

Attachments: [Resolution 25-51](#)
[Exhibit B](#)
[Signed Local Agency Agreement](#)

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 25-51 into the record by title only.

City of Marco Island Public Works Director Justin Martin outlined the reasons for this Local Agency Program (LAP) Supplemental Agreement, and he advised the Council of an upcoming item related to the contracting for the construction of the Collier Boulevard alternate bike lanes that will be coming to the Council at a future meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Alan Musico (Serrano Circle, Naples) provided insight and perspective on traffic and the bike pathways at various points along Collier Boulevard.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that Resolution 25-51 - Local Agency Program (LAP) Supplemental Agreement No. 2 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

- c. [ID 25-4786](#) Resolution Ratifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local No. 2887 - Chris Byrne, Fire Chief, Fire Rescue Department

Attachments: [Resolution 25-52](#)
[Memorandum to Council Regarding Approval of 2025-2028 IAFF CBA](#)
[IAFF Collective Bargaining Agreement 2025-2028 Clean](#)
[IAFF Collective Bargaining Agreement 2025-2028 Redline](#)

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 25-52 into the record by title only.

Marco Island Fire Chief Chris Byrne outlined the key terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, and he addressed a number of questions from members of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Goehler, that Resolution 25-52 - Ratifying the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local No. 2887, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

No: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

- d. [ID 25-4787](#) Authorize the City Manager to Approve a Payment for FY24 Audit Services in the Amount of \$109,190 which will Increase the Total to \$187,190 - Continued from October 20, 2025 Meeting - Sharon Dangles, Interim Finance Director

Attachments: [CLA Invoice](#)
[CLA Contract Fully Executed](#)
[Pages from CLA Proposal to Marco Island RFP 2023-031](#)
[Presentation - Audit Charges](#)

City of Marco Island Controller Sharon Dangles reminded the Council of the discussion of this item at its October 6, 2025 meeting, and she introduced Mr. Christopher Kessler, Principal - State & Local Government Services Team, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, to review the billing for the City's 2024 Fiscal Year audit and to address questions from members of the Council.

The following members of the community came forward to offer comment:

- 1) Mr. Dennis Bartolucci (Caxambas Dr.)
- 2) Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Dr.)
- 3) Mr. Michael Josephs (Wintergreen Ct.)
- 4) Ms. Victoria Myers (Bluebonnet Ct.)
- 5) Ms. Teri Sommerfeld (San Marco Rd.)

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that Authorization to the City Manager to approve a payment of \$30,000.00 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA), with further discussion regarding the remaining amount of the submitted bill to be addressed following the receipt of additional documentation from CLA, be Approved. MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 2 - Councilor Henry and Councilor Palumbo

No: 5 - Councilor Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Vice-Chair Gray, Councilor Schwan and Chair Brechnitz

MOTION by Councilor Champagne, seconded by Chair Brechnitz, that Authorization of the City Manager to Approve payments to CliftonAllenLarson LLP for a total of \$69,100 which consists of: 1) \$22,000.00 for the balance of the outstanding billing for FY 2024 single audit services, and; 2) \$47,190.00, a portion of the outstanding invoiced amount for the FY 2024 City of Marco Island Audit, 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

Motion to Extend the Meeting

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Champagne, to extend the City Council Meeting to conclude no later than 9:45 P.M. 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

(THE MEETING WENT INTO RECESS AT 9:08 P.M. IT IS NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT ALL COUNCILORS WERE PRESENT WHEN THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 9:18 P.M. CHAIR BRECHNITZ SUBSEQUENTLY LEFT THE MEETING AT 9:20 P.M. PRIOR TO THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM 15e)

- e. [ID 25-4788](#) Discussion - Local Bill to the Florida House of Representatives, Continued from October 20, 2025 Meeting - Charter Amendment Regarding City of Marco Island City Council Vacancies - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Attachments: [Revised DRAFT - Marco Island Bill](#)
[Original DRAFT- Marco Island Bill](#)
[DRAFT - Economic Impact Statement Marco Island Special Election for Vacancy](#)
[DRAFT - Marco Island Response to DRAFT House Bill Council Vacancy](#)

Vice-Chair Gray solicited input from members of the Council on his proposed letter to Florida District 81 State Representative Yvette Benarroch.

City Manager Mike McNees shared insights with the Council resulting from his discussion with Representative Benarroch regarding her reasons for drafting the proposed bill, and City Attorney Alan Gabriel highlighted certain provisions in the bill for consideration by the Council.

The following members of the public came forward to offer comment:

- 1) Ms. Sheelah Yawitz (N. Collier Blvd.)
- 2) Ms. Lisa Foster (Marco Island resident)
- 3) Ms. Teri Sommerfeld (San Marco Rd.)

The Council, in addition to its direction on the Motion presented, requested Staff to include both the Collier County Legislative Delegation and Lobbyist with receiving the letter. Further, Council committed to review the key provisions of the Marco Island City Charter regarding the filling of Council member vacancies.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Henry, that the sending of a letter to Florida District 81 Representative Yvette Benarroch regarding her proposed bill to amend Subsection (3), Section 3.05, Article III of the City of Marco Island Charter regarding how vacancies on the City Council are filled, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

16. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

- 7a. [ID 25-4765](#) Authorize the City Manager to Approve Purchase Orders which are Anticipated to Exceed \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2026 - Casey Lucius, Ph.D., Assistant City Manager

Attachments: [FY26 Purchase Orders Over \\$50,000](#)

Assistant City Manager Casey Lucius, accompanied by City of Marco Island Purchasing & Risk Manager Stephen DiSantis, outlined the history and the rationale for the proposed authorization.

Mr. Dennis Bartolucci (Caxambas Dr.) shared his perspective on the proposed Authorization.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Henry, that Authorization of the City Manager to approve the identified and listed, regularly-occurring, purchase orders in excess of \$50,000.00 drafted against already-approved FY 2026 budget allocations, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Councilor Champagne, Vice-Chair Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Palumbo and Councilor Schwan

No: 1 - Councilor Goehler

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

Motion to Extend the Meeting

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Schwan, to extend the City Council Meeting to conclude no later than 10:15 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

7d. [ID 25-4800](#)

Agreement - Request from the YMCA of Collier County, Inc. to Defer Impact Fees - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director - Community Affairs/Growth Management

Attachments: [YMCA Agreement for Deferral](#)

[YMCA Invoice 25-0060512 for Marco Island Impact Fees](#)

Councilor Palumbo thanked the representatives present from the YMCA of Collier County for their long history of successful community service on Marco Island, and he indicated his support of the proposed Impact Fee deferral.

City of Marco Island Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith was available to address questions from members of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that the proposed YMCA of Collier County Agreement deferring the Impact Fee payment (Invoice 25-0060512 and permit COMM-24-06109) until the YMCA requests a Certificate of Occupancy, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

17. Council Communications & Future Agenda**a. [ID 25-4802](#)** Discussion - Senate Bill 180 Legal Challenge - Stephen Gray, Vice-Chairman City Council

Attachments: [Vice-Chair Gray Whitepaper Senate Bill 180](#)

[Example - Naples Resolution Senate Bill 180](#)

Vice-Chair Gray referred the Council to the draft of his proposed position statement, and City Manager Mike McNees shared insights that he obtained from the City's Legislative Consultant, and members of the local Southwest Florida Legislative Delegation.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Goehler, seconded by Vice-Chair Gray, that the City of Marco Island's action to join the lawsuit brought by certain municipalities and counties against the State of Florida to block the implementation of Florida SB 180, be Approved. MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Yes: 2 - Councilor Goehler and Vice-Chair Gray

No: 4 - Councilor Champagne, Councilor Henry, Councilor Palumbo and Councilor Schwan

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

Motion to Extend the Meeting

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Goehler, to extend the City Council Meeting to conclude no later than 10:30 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

- b.** [ID 25-4804](#) Discussion - Draft Letter to Governor DeSantis - Exemption from Live Local Act - Stephen Gray, Vice-Chairman, City Council

Attachments: [Draft Letter - Marco Island Live Local Act Exemption](#)

Vice-Chair Gray briefly highlighted his rationale for the proposed draft letter, and City Manager McNees provided insight for the Council's consideration.

The following members of the public came forward to offer comment:

- 1) Ms. Victoria Myers (Bluebonnet Ct.)*
- 2) Ms. Lisa Foster (Marco Island resident)*

MOTION by Councilor Goehler, seconded by Vice-Chair Gray, that the sending of a letter from the City of Marco Island to Governor Ron DeSantis requesting that Marco Island be exempt from the LIVE LOCAL Act, be Approved. MOTION FAILED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

Yes: 3 - Councilor Goehler, Vice-Chair Gray and Councilor Palumbo

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

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

Council Communications, Continued

Councilor Henry proposed that the Council and City Staff set a near-term Workshop date to identify the major priorities for the Council's action in the upcoming year.

Councilor Henry expressed her appreciation to all members of the City of Marco Island team as City Government Week gets underway (October 20 - 26, 2025), and she amplified on the request by members of the Beautification Advisory Committee during Citizens' Comments (Agenda Item 9) by noting how members of the community may contribute to the annual Christmas/Holiday street light display along Collier Boulevard this year.

Councilor Henry expressed her thanks to the leaders and volunteers the Home Depot Foundation whom she met in anticipation of that organization's work on the Island, and Councilor Henry recognized Ms. Diana Dohm, Executive Director of the Marco Island Chamber of Commerce, and the owners of Phelan Family of Brands, The Italian Deli, Joey's Pizza & Pasta, and the Snook Inn for their gracious hospitality of the Home Depot Foundation's Project Managers on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

Councilor Henry concluded her remarks by encouraging all members of the public to "check out" and support the wide array of adult and children activities and sponsored events coming up during the week of October 20th. And, encouraged people to attend a Meals of Hope event to help raise money.

Councilor Champagne displayed a list of eleven (11) potential Workshop topics for the Council's consideration. He recommended that each Councilor come prepared to share her/his priorities for the Council's collective action at the next City Council Meeting so that a series of Workshops can be planned for and scheduled as soon as possible.

Vice-Chair Gray, in response to Councilor Champagne's recommendation, requested that City Clerk Joan Taylor begin to identify potential, near-term Workshop dates for the Council's consideration.

Councilor Schwan requested that a discussion of a potential capital improvement referendum be placed on the Council's Future Agenda, with a more detailed discussion to follow soon thereafter in a Workshop setting.

Councilor Palumbo recommended that the Council consider identifying its collective priorities as its first order of business.

City Manager McNees indicated that the City Staff can accommodate either: 1) the Council's identification and discussion of priorities, or; 2) the City's capital infrastructure needs at its next near-term meeting or Workshop.

Councilor Palumbo distributed a document highlighting recent information on grant approvals, Committee membership, and recent actions at the Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC) on which he is the Council's representative. He promised additional dialogue on this information at the next City Council Meeting.

[Editorial Note: a copy of Councilor Palumbo's document may be found at www.cityofmarcoisland.com > Menu > Agendas and Minutes > City Council > 10/20/25 > Meeting Details]

Councilor Palumbo expressed his appreciation to American Legion Post 404 for its initiative and fund raising effort to bring its Vietnam Veterans tribute memorial to Veterans Community Park.

[Editorial Note: see Agenda Item 15a (Site Development Plan Amendment (SDP-25-000172) for the Vietnam Memorial Located at Veterans Community Park)]

Councilor Palumbo proposed that a Council discussion regarding how it solicits and records verbal consensus decisions be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

Councilor Goehler thanked Councilor Palumbo for his endorsement and signature on the petition being circulated by The Right Club of South Collier County to bring forward a referendum to the voters to adopt Advanced Water Treatment (AWT) standards at the City of Marco Island's wastewater treatment plant. She encouraged all Marco Island residents to consider signing the petition.

Vice-Chair Gray held up for viewing a copy of the City of Marco Island 2003 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan to accentuate his belief that a comprehensive effort by the City Council and City Staff to define its forward Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan will be positively received and voted upon by the citizens of Marco Island.

Vice-Chair Gray concluded by encouraging all members of the community to be friendly and gracious to one another in their daily interactions.

c. [ID 25-4204](#) Future Agenda Items

Attachments: [Future Agenda](#)

The Council requested that a review of the Marco Island City Charter's provisions regarding the filling of Council member vacancies be placed on a Future Agenda. [Editorial Note: this request originated from the Council's discussion and action on Agenda Item 15e]

Councilor Schwan requested that the Council's discussion of a Capital Improvement Referendum be placed on the Council's Future Agenda prior to a formal Workshop on this topic.

Councilor Palumbo requested that a discussion of the Council's consensus process be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

Motion to Extend the Meeting

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, (no second voiced), to extend the City Council Meeting to conclude no later than 10:40 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY ASSUMED MEETING CHAIR CONSENSUS:

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

Not Present: 1 - Chair Brechnitz

18. Council Reports

[ID 25-4750](#) Monthly Committee Updates (County Boards and Organizations)

Vice-Chair Gray shared an overview of his recent interaction with the Florida League of Cities, and he advised the Council that he engaged that organization in dialogue regarding Marco Island's water quality efforts.

Councilor Schwan shared an overview of the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and she shared examples of resources that are available for the public's interest and information.

19. Citizens' Comments

No members of the public came forward to address the Council during this portion of the Agenda.

20. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Vice-Chair Gray adjourned the meeting at 10:38 P.M.

Stephen Gray, Council Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist