

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, February 2, 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
Assistant City Attorney: David Tolces
City Clerk: Joan Taylor*

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: 1 - Councilor Brechnitz

Also Present

*Casey Lucius, Interim City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
David Tolces, Assistant City Attorney
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Carol McDermott, Finance Director
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Justin Martin, Public Works Director
Diana Snover, Human Resources Director
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager
Joe Parrilli, Fleet & Facilities Manager
Mary Holden, Senior Planner
Sonia Iszler, Water & Sewer Engineering & Operations Manager
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors*

3. Invocation

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance

[ID 25-4896](#) Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Rocco Lepore of the Marco Island Charter Middle School

Master Rocco Lepore led the meeting's attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Palumbo noted that Agenda Item 15a (Resolution - Variance Petition (VP-24-000165)) will be reviewed as a Quasi-Judicial item under Agenda Item 13. He also proposed that Agenda Item 15f (City Manager Search Timeline, Process, and Job Description) be the first item reviewed by the Council under Agenda Item 15 (Resolutions & City Council Items).

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

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

6. Approval of the Minutes

- a. [ID 26-5114](#) Approval of the City Council Priorities Workshop Minutes of January 12, 2026

Attachments: [City Council Workshop Minutes of January 12, 2026](#)

MOTION by Vice-Chair Champagne, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that the City Council Priorities Workshop Minutes of January 12, 2025 be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

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

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

Yes: 6 - 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 26-5104](#) Resolution - Approving an Appointment to the Audit Advisory Committee by Councilor Henry - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- Attachments:** [RESOLUTION 26-05](#)
[Chris Scherzinger Application](#)
- b. [ID 26-5112](#) Resolution - Approving Appointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee by Councilor Goehler - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- Attachments:** [RESOLUTION 26-06](#)
[Beth Baltis Application](#)
- c. [ID 26-5117](#) Authorize the Interim City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Bowman Gulf Coast, LLC for Limited Construction Engineering Services for the Collier Alternate Bike Lanes Project (south segment), in an amount not to exceed \$62,010, Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works
- Attachments:** [Marco Island Collier Alternate Bike Lane Addition \(South\) REV](#)
[Bowman Consulting 2025-009-6 \(Fully Executed\)](#)

8. Proclamations and Presentations

[ID 25-4898](#) Employee Service Awards - Diana Snover, HR Director

City of Marco Island Human Resources Director Diana Snover individually recognized and called forward Fire Rescue Captain Jeff Kutzke (15 years) and Growth Management Planner Sherry Kirsch (20 years) to

receive their appreciation of service recognition certificate and pin as presented by City Council Chair Darrin Palumbo with the support of the entire City Council.

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

Mr. David Cadwell (Marco Villas Dr.) reiterated his comments at the Council's January 20, 2026 meeting regarding the intrusive noise that he and his neighbors experience from the pickleball activities at the City of Marco Island Racquet Center. He proposed that the Council consider: 1) relocating the Racquet Center facility, or; 2) building an indoor facility to contain the noise and improve the environment of the adjacent neighborhood.

Mr. Rich Blonna (San Marco Rd.) noted that current City ordinances do not adequately consider and address the unique acoustical characteristics and stress-inducing effects of daily, extended-duration pickleball playing noise. He proposed that the City immediately consider: 1) making "quiet" paddles and balls a requirement for play at the Marco Island Racquet Center and all other public and private facilities, and; 2) re-zoning this facility and others like it on the Island into a special land-use category with specific sound barrier requirements and other conditions. On a longer term basis, Mr. Blonna recommended that the City consider fully-enclosing its current or future facility to contain its noise and eliminate its effect on the surrounding neighborhood.

Mr. Tom Polston (Seaview Ct.), as Commissioner of the Marco Island Senior Softball League, commended the City Staff on its responsiveness to the irrigation and field maintenance concerns at Winterberry Park that he addressed with the Council at its January 5, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Joe Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.) briefly reviewed the extensiveness of the renovations that the City and supporters of Marco Island Youth Baseball LLC undertook over the past year to recondition and upgrade the playing field on the grounds of Tommie Barfield Elementary School. With additional plans to further enhance the amenities at that location in the upcoming year, Mr. Oliverio asked for the City's consideration in helping to offset the annual cost of providing potable irrigation water to maintain the field at this location.

Ms. Anita Sargese (Manor Terr.) expressed her belief that the City's interests may be best served to have the Marco Island Racquet operated by an outside, private entity. She shared several reasons for her recommendation to the Council.

10. City Manager's Report

[ID 25-4972](#) City Manager's Report

Attachments: [City Manager's Report](#)
[Council Letter to County \(Re: Sales Tax\)](#)

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius requested, and received, unanimous Council endorsement to send the "Council Letter to County (Re: Sales Tax)" as drafted, and without modification, to Chairman Burt Saunders and the Collier County Board of Commissioners.

Chair Palumbo also took a brief moment to highlight several of the positive initiatives and outcomes contained in the City Manager's Report.

11. City Attorney's Report

None.

12. Departmental Reports

[ID 25-4899](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

Attachments: [City Clerk's Office](#)
[Internal Services](#)
[Public Works](#)
[Water & Sewer](#)
[Police](#)

Councilor Schwan highlighted and commended the Public Works Department on the pedestrian and bike safety initiatives outlined in the Public Works Departmental Report for January, 2026.

13. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

- 15 a. [ID 26-5106](#) Resolution - Variance Petition (VP-24-000165) request to Sec. 30-624 (h) (2) to allow for a Metal Building and Sec. 30-435 (b), (c), and (d), Landscape Requirements for the Marco Island Public Works Department located at 415 Lily Ct., Marco Island, FL 34145 - Mary P. Holden, Planning Manager, Community Affairs/Growth Management

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 26-07](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Application](#)
[Plans](#)
[Architectural Plans](#)
[Landscape & Irrigation Plans](#)
[NIM Minutes](#)
[Notice of Publication](#)

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 26-07 into the record by title only.

Assistant City Attorney David Tolces 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.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that Resolution 26-07 - Variance Petition (VP-24-000165) request to Sec. 30-624 (h)(2) to allow for a metal building, and Sec. 30-435 (b), (c), and (d), Landscape Requirements, for the Marco Island Public Works Department located at 415 Lily Court, Marco Island, FL 34145, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

14. Ordinances

None.

15. Resolutions & City Council Items

- b. [ID 26-5136](#) Discussion and Possible Action - Regarding the Refund of Application Fees for Boat Dock Extension (BD-25-000210) for Property Located at 1695 Ludlow Rd., Marco Island, FL 34145 - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director, Community Affairs/Growth Management

Attachments: [Application & Supporting Documents](#)
[RESOLUTION 21-50 - Growth Management Fee Schedule](#)

Chair Palumbo briefly outlined the rationale for his asking that this item come before the Council, and Marco Island Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith came forward to address questions from members of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Chair Palumbo that the refund of application fees for Boat Dock Extension (BD-25-000210) for the property located at 1695 Ludlow Road, Marco Island, FL 34145, be Approved. MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND.

- c. [ID 26-5101](#) Award of Contract to Capital Contractors LLC in the Amount of \$517,050 for Racquet Center Upgrades. - Joe Parrilli, Fleet and Facilities Manager

Attachments: [Racquet Club Lighting & Electrical Plans](#)
[Racquet Club Civil Plans](#)
[Capital Contractor Bid](#)
[Capital Contract FE \(24-8200\)](#)

City of Marco Island Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli briefly reviewed the Council's direction at its June 2, 2025 meeting (Agenda Item 15c) regarding the re-allocation of funds and of the approval of the reconstruction of the Airnasium structure at Mackle Park from the cancellation of the Marco Island Racquet Center project earlier in the 2025 fiscal year.

Proposing that the remaining \$517,000 be directed toward the demolition of the racquetball building and the stadium pickleball court for the creation of additional parking and lighting at the Marco Island Racquet Center, Mr. Parrilli's request generated considerable Council discussion regarding the long-term plan for that facility.

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

- 1) Mr. John Aguis (S. Heathwood Dr.)
- 2) Ms. Anita Sargese (Manor Terr.)
- 3) Mr. Mike Dilcher (Beachcomber St.)
4. Ms. Beth Baltis (Geranium Ct.)

MOTION by Vice-Chair Champagne, seconded by Councilor Goehler, that authorization of the Interim City Manager to award a contract to Capital Contractors LLC in the Amount of \$517,050.00 be Approved. MOTION WITHDRAWN PENDING FURTHER COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND DETERMINATION OF NEXT STEPS AT ITS FEBRUARY 9, 2026 PARKS MASTER PLAN & CAPITAL

INFRASTRUCTURE BOND WORKSHOP.

- d. [ID 26-5130](#) Authorize the Interim City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Aria Filtra - Trojan Technologies Corp. for Replacing 144 Microfiltration Membranes at the North Water Treatment Plant (NWTP) in the amount of \$531,026.61 - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer Department.

Attachments: [Marco Island Utility WTP - OPP2151137 - Module Replacement](#)
[Marco Island Utility WTP Sole Source Letter](#)

City of Marco Island Water & Sewer Department Engineering & Operations Manager Sonia Iszler outlined the rationale for the request, and she addressed several questions from members of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Goehler, seconded by Councilor Gray, that authorization of the Interim City Manager to issue a Purchase Order to Aria Filtra of Trojan Technologies Corp. for replacing 144 microfiltration membranes at the North Water Treatment Plant (NWTP) in the amount of \$531,026.61, be Approved.

MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

- e. [ID 26-5129](#) Authorize the Interim City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Toray Membrane USA, Inc. for Replacing 180 Reverse Osmosis (RO) Membranes at the South Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) in the Amount of \$83,452.36 - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer Department.

Attachments: [Toray Membrane USA Proposal 01.19.2026](#)
[Toray Single Source Manufacturer of Model TM720D-400 Membrane Element January 22, 2026](#)

City of Marco Island Water & Sewer Department Engineering & Operations Manager Sonia Iszler provided the Council with summary information and rationale for this request.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Goehler, seconded by Councilor Gray, that authorization of the Interim City Manager to issue a Purchase Order to Toray Membrane USA, Inc. for replacing 180 reverse osmosis (RO) membranes at the South Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) in the amount of \$83,452.36, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

- f. [ID 26-5139](#) City Manager Search Timeline, Process and Job Description. - Diana Snover, HR Director

Attachments: [City Manager Timeline Process](#)
[City Manager Job Description](#)
[Marco Island, FL Charter](#)

City of Marco Island Human Resource Director Diana Snover reviewed each step in her proposed City Manager Recruitment Process and Timeline plan, and she addressed a number of questions from members of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Vice-Chair Champagne, that the City Manager Search timeline, process, and job description, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

16. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

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

17. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Councilor Gray advised the Council of his attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Picayune Strand Restoration Project, a pivotal achievement under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) championed by, among others, South Florida Water Management District Board Member and former Marco Island City Councilor Charlette Roman.

Councilor Gray noted the front page article of the January 29 - February 4, 2026 edition of the Coastal Breeze newspaper regarding shark fishing on the beach, and he proposed that the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) be invited to conduct public information and education sessions on Marco Island.

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius volunteered to have Police Chief Tracy Frazzano reach out to her contacts at FWC to initiate this request.

Councilor Gray highlighted the January 2026 Monthly City Council Report from the City Clerk's Office and complimented the completion of training on ADA requirements from the Florida League of Cities. He encouraged City Clerk Taylor to solicit the input and resources of the Island's resident population in advancing the City's conformance to ADA standards.

Councilor Gray updated the Council and the public on his ongoing effort to draft a revised noise ordinance for the Council's consideration.

Councilor Gray noted the City of Jacksonville Beach's success in creating and disseminating low-cost, two-minute informational/educational videos for its residents and visitors. He encouraged the City Staff to consider this and other approaches to better communicate with the residents of, and visitors to, Marco Island.

Councilor Schwan encouraged Councilor Gray to consider the noise ordinance revisions for pickleball noise proposed by Mr. Rich Blonna during Public Comment (Agenda Item 9) as he (Councilor Gray) refines his revised noise ordinance proposal.

Councilor Schwan showed a series of photos and shared her experience in reading to the Kindergarten class of Tommie Barfield Elementary School during Literacy Week, Florida! (January 26 - 30, 2026).

Councilor Schwan referenced the Council's review of the City's proposal to eliminate the use of rodenticides in favor of alternative rodent control measures at its January 5, 2026 meeting (Agenda Item 8c). She clarified that the Council did not, and cannot, "ban" the use of rodenticides. Councilor Schwan further noted that the Council cannot endorse any particular brand or method of rodent control. She requested that a copy of Chair Palumbo's response to the Connecticut Chapter of the Friends of Animals international advocacy group be distributed by the City Staff to the members of the Council. [Editorial Note: see Chair Palumbo's comments on this letter delivered during Council Communications (Agenda Item 17) at the January 20, 2026 City Council Meeting]

Councilor Henry shared a recent experience that reminded her that, unlike many of the people who move to Marco Island later in life, this Island is "hometown" to a younger generation of people who were born and raised here. She asked her fellow Councilors to remember this as the Council considers and deliberates on matters coming before it.

Councilor Henry congratulated Councilor Schwan on her graduation from this year's Leadership Marco Program. She encouraged all members of the community to consider applying for inclusion into next year's Program.

Councilor Henry concluded by encouraging the community to support the Annual Souper Bowl Event at Veterans Community Park on Saturday, February 7th from 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Councilor Goehler, with the support of Chair Palumbo, requested that the City Staff investigate and determine how the City might be able to respond to the request by citizen Joe Oliverio (see Agenda Item 9 (Public Comment)) to assist with the cost of irrigating the playing field on the grounds of Tommie Barfield Elementary School. Interim City Manager Casey Lucius committed to bring this forward for Council discussion and direction at a future meeting of the City Council.

Councilor Goehler requested an update on the condition and status of the boardwalk at the Winterberry Beach Access location. Interim City Manager Casey Lucius noted that a review and proposal regarding this item was being prepared and has already been scheduled for review on an upcoming Council Agenda.

Councilor Goehler referenced a citizen email that was recently received by the members of the Council regarding the application of ad valorem property taxes across residential and commercially-zoned properties. Chair Palumbo added additional clarification on the nature of the questions raised in the email, and he commended the quality and the depth of research that was included with the email. Vice-Chair Champagne shared his observations regarding the factors that affect property value differences between residential and commercial properties, and he indicated his belief that the individual who sent the email is "on the right track" with questioning why Collier County is different from the majority of counties in Florida.

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius advised the Council of her fact-finding discussions with the Collier County Tax Collector's Office on the issues raised in this email, and she indicated her intention to bring this information forward, along with other alternative revenue-generating ideas, for the Council's consideration.

Vice-Chair Champagne noted an upcoming opportunity for members of the community to attend an "Open House" review of the playing field on the grounds of Tommie Barfield Elementary School. He noted the City's \$200,000 contribution toward the field renovation, and he expressed his belief that the community will be pleased to see the significant improvements implemented there.

Vice-Chair Champagne concluded his remarks by encouraging all members of the public to support the Marco Island Center for the Arts "Night Fever" dinner/show event on February 28, 2026.

Chair Palumbo shared his view on the interconnected relationship between the economic success of the

commercial businesses on Marco Island and the health of the Island's residential neighborhoods. He complimented Councilor Schwan on her report and photos from the "Literacy Week" activities at Tommie Barfield Elementary School (TBE), and he noted his planned attendance at TBE's upcoming "Leadership Day".

Chair Palumbo, in support of Councilor Henry's comments, encouraged community participation at the upcoming Annual Souper Bowl event on February 7, 2026.

Chair Palumbo shared impressions from his attendance at the recent Watermark at Marco Island Assisted Living Event, and he asked his colleague Councilors to ponder how the Council and the community might assist the new NCH Urgent Care facility to remain open and available to residents and visitors 24 hours a day.

Chair Palumbo concluded his remarks by encouraging Councilor Gray to consider the practical application of the "plainly audible" standard in his proposed changes to the City's Noise Ordinance, and he encouraged the members of the Council to read the article entitled "Tapped Out" in a recent issue of Florida Trend Magazine which provides insight into the future of Florida's water resources and resiliency.

[ID 25-4900](#) Future Agenda Items

Attachments: [Future Agenda](#)

Councilor Goehler and Chair Palumbo requested that the subject of the ongoing irrigation cost of maintaining the playing field at Tommie Barfield Elementary School be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

18. Council Reports

Councilor Schwan noted that the 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan had been released by the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and that it will be proceeding through its approval process at the County-level.

Councilor Gray had no new information to share from the Florida League of Cities.

Chair Palumbo had no new information to share from the Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC).

19. Citizens' Comments

Mr. Rich Blonna (San Marco Rd.) noted the overlapping leadership structure between the City of Marco Island's current City Council, Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, City Clerk's office, and the 501(c)(3) entity known as The Marco Island Community Parks Foundation.

Mr. Blonna questioned the appropriateness and potential conflicts of interest that may exist in having City resources applied in support of an independent 501(c)(3) entity, and he recommended that the Foundation's Articles of Incorporation be amended to eliminate this overlap.

Ms. Lisa Foster (South Seas Ct.) cautioned the Council on assuming an element of the ongoing maintenance of the playing field at Tommie Barfield Elementary School for which the City has no ownership interest.

Ms. Foster also shared her understandings and insights on what could be accomplished by the Marco Island City Staff and City Council to better regulate the shark fishing activity along Marco Island's beaches.

Mr. Joe Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.) commented and provided perspective on the monetary contributions of the Island's business community in funding the operations of the City. He also broadly quantified his estimate of the relative impact to homesteaded residential property taxes should the Island's electorate approve a \$50 million transportation infrastructure referendum in August, 2026.

Mr. Oliverio commented on his estimate of the likely cost to the City of tearing down the racquetball building at the Marco Island Racquet Center.

20. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Palumbo adjourned the meeting at 8:33 P.M.

Darrin Palumbo, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist