

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, May 6, 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: David N. 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
David Tolces, City Attorney
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
Dave Ennis, Police Captain
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Jose Duran, Information Technology Director
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager
Raul Perez, Chief Building Official
Josh Ooyman, Planner II
Samantha Malloy, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors

3. Invocation

Offered by Reverend Scott Kerens of the Marco Presbyterian Church.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chair Grifoni.

5. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Councilor Folley, 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

[ID 23-3117](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024

MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Councilor Irwin, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of April 22, 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

Councilor Rola requested that the following be removed from the Consent Agenda:

Agenda Item 7c (Resolution 24-19: Reappointment of Mr. Marv Needles to the Ad Hoc Business Development & Redevelopment Committee);

Agenda Item 7d (Resolution 24-20: Appointment of Mr. Robert Cholka to the Ad Hoc Business Development & Redevelopment Committee);

Agenda Item 7e (Resolution 24-21: Appointment of Mr. Darin Spindler to the Ad Hoc Business Development & Redevelopment Committee), and;

Agenda Item 7f (Resolution 24-22: Urban Cooperation Agreement - City of Marco Island and Collier County)

Council action on the aforementioned items is recorded under Agenda Item 13 (Items Removed From the Consent Agenda)

MOTION by Councilor Folley, seconded by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, that the Consent Agenda be Approved as Amended. 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 24-3575](#) Authorize the City Manager to Execute the State of Florida Department of Financial Services Grant Agreement Number FM907 for the Acquisition of a High-Water Fire Suppression Vehicle in the Amount of \$212,500 - Chris Byrne, Fire Chief, Fire-Rescue Department
- b. [ID 24-3589](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Afton Pumps, Inc. in the Amount of \$69,750.00 for the Purchase of an Afton Pump Model 12X14-16 MPV Vertical Turbine Pump for the City's South Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) High Service Pump Station (HSPS) - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer Department

8. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 23-3301](#) Employee Service Awards:
Gabriel Sigler - 5 Years
Alejandro Correa - 10 Years
Raul Perez - 10 Years
Christopher Bowden - 15 Years

City Manager Mike McNees recognized and called forward City employees Gabriel Sigler, Chris Bowden, and Raul Perez individually (note: employee Alejandro Correa was not present) to receive their appreciation of service recognition certificates and pins as presented by City Council Chair Jared Grifoni.

Each recipient received a warm round of applause from all present.

b. [ID 24-3490](#) Proclamation - National Drowning Prevention Awareness Month

City Council Chair Jared Grifoni proclaimed May, 2024 as National Drowning Prevention Awareness Month for the City of Marco Island, and he presented the Proclamation to mascot Stewie The Duck and four representatives of the NCH Safe & Healthy Children Coalition. Ms. Coral Vargas, Coordinator of the NCH Safe & Healthy Children Coalition, shared several insights regarding children and water safety in Collier County, and she highlighted the Coalition's programs to enhance child safety in this area.

c. [ID 24-3525](#) Proclamation - Reuse Water Week

City Council Chair Jared Grifoni proclaimed May 19 - 25, 2024 as Florida Reuse Water Week for the City of Marco Island, and he presented the Proclamation to Ms. Charlette Roman, District Governing Board Member of the South Florida Water Management District, Mr. Mark Elsner, Water Supply Bureau Chief of the South Florida Water Management District, Mr. Robert Wanvestraut, Alternative Water Supply Reuse Coordinator, South Florida Water Management District, and Mr. Jeff Poteet, General Manager, Marco Island Water & Sewer Department.

Mr. Elsner offered a few words of appreciation, and all recipients received a warm round of applause from those present at the meeting.

Added [ID 24-3619](#) Proclamation - 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerk's Week

In special recognition of the professionalism of Marco Island City Clerk, Joan Taylor, Chair Grifoni surprised Ms. Taylor by calling her forward to receive a Proclamation announcing the 55th Annual Recognition of Professional Municipal Clerks Week, May 5 - 11, 2024.

d. [ID 24-3415](#) Presentation - The Purple Pipe System - Ms. Charlette Roman, District Governing Board Member of the South Florida Water Management District, Mr. Mark Elsner, Water Supply Bureau Chief of the South Florida Water Management District, and Mr. Robert Wanvestraut, Alternative Water Supply-Reuse Coordinator Water Supply Bureau of the South Florida Water Management District

Ms. Charlette Roman, District Governing Board Member of the South Florida Water Management District introduced and explained the significance of the color purple in her attire in bringing visibility to importance of State's "The Purple Pipe System". She introduced Mr. Mark Elsner, Water Supply Bureau Chief, and Mr. Robert Wanvertraut, Alternative Water Supply Reuse Coordinator, of the South Florida Water Management District to share a presentation highlighting the benefits of regional water supply planning and the prudent use of reclaimed water in addressing the needs of the various communities within the 16 counties of the South Florida Water Management District.

e. [ID 24-3598](#) Presentation - Plante & Moran Assessment Report of the City's Permitting and Land Management Process - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director, Community Affairs/Growth Management

City of Marco Island Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith, and City Chief Building Official Raul Perez, presented a summary of insights and planned next steps in implementing improvements to the City's processes for building permitting, site development plan submissions and reviews, special event permitting, and commercial land use policy applications. The recommendations presented resulted from inputs to the City from the Marco Island Builders and Business Owners Roundtable on November 2, 2023, a recent Plante & Moran study of the City's permitting processes, and City Staff input.

Public Comment

Land Use and Zoning Attorney Zachary Lombardo of Woodward, Pires & Lombardo, P.A. offered several insights from his experience in advancing property development and redevelopment projects on behalf of his firm's clients on Marco Island.

Messrs. Smith and Perez indicated that a City project team had already prioritized improvement actions, established task implementation timelines, and is currently assigning lead responsibilities to execute the identified system, process, and procedural improvements identified.

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

Mr. Daniel High (Jamaica Ct), General Manager of Rose Marina, shared his concern in attempting to gain Collier County attention and action in addressing dangerous and continually shifting navigation channels in the Big Marco/Capri Pass waterway.

10. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

[ID 24-3566](#) Resolution - Conditional Use Permit (CUP-23-000444) to Construct a Recreational Vehicle (RV) Garage for the Property Located at 951 Scott Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145 - Josh Ooyman, Planner II, Growth Management/Community Affairs

City Attorney David Tolces briefly summarized the procedural requirements of the quasi-judicial hearing, and he requested a verbal ex parte disclosure from each Council member. Following each Council member's disclosure, Mr. Tolces swore in all parties who indicated an intention to provide witness or testimony.

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 24-18 into the record by title only.

Marco Island City Planner Josh Ooyman outlined the details of the Conditional Use Permit petition, noted the unanimous vote of the Planning Board in its review of the matter, and communicated the City Staff's recommendation of approval.

Neither the Applicant, a representative of the Applicant, nor any member of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Irwin, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that Resolution 24-18 - Conditional Use Permit (CUP-23-000444) to Construct a Recreational Vehicle (RV) Garage for the Property Located at 951 Scott Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145, 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

11. Ordinances

A. Public Hearings

None.

B. First Readings

1. [ID 24-3587](#) Ordinance - First Reading - Requested Amendment (REZN-24-000006) to Hideaway Beach Planned Unit Development (PUD), Allowing Recreation and Parking on Lots 1 and 2, Block 18, Hideaway Beach - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director, Community Affairs/Growth Management

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Ordinance 24-12 into the record by title only.

Vice-Chair Brechnitz, as a resident within the Hideaway Beach Planned Unit Development (PUD), sought and received advice from City Attorney Tolces on his ability to comment and vote on the proposed Ordinance. City Attorney Tolces raised several questions for clarification, and he concluded that there was no conflict of interest in this matter.

Marco Island Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith explained the proposed amendment to the Hideaway Beach Planned Unit Development's allowable uses, and he noted the City of Marco Island Planning Board's unanimous recommendation to approve the revised amendment language relative to the Golf Course Tract, but also to recommend exclusion of Pickleball, Tennis, and other related racket uses on Residential Lots 1 and 2 of Block 18, Hideaway Beach, Single Family Residential Tract within the PUD.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Councilor Irwin, that Ordinance 24-12 - Requested Amendment (REZN-24-000006) to Hideaway Beach Planned Unit Development (PUD), Allowing Recreation and Parking, but Excluding Pickleball, Tennis, and Related Racket Uses on Residential Lots 1 and 2, Block 18, Hideaway Beach, be Approved on First Reading. 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

2. [ID 24-3599](#) Ordinance - First Reading - Amending Chapter 22 "Fire Prevention and Protection" Article III in Accordance with Secure Act 2.0 and Authorized Investment Procedures Set Forth in Section 175.071 F.S - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Ordinance 24-13 into the record by title only.

Attorney Pedro Herrera of Sugarman Susskind Braswell & Herrera, General Counsel for the Pension Fund, was connected telephonically and available to address questions.

Vice-Chair Brechnitz noted the availability of new investment classes and products that were not in existence at the time of the drafting of the Pension Plan's initial investment policy, and he cited this as a key reason for requesting a variance to the Pension Plan's authorized investment policy.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that Ordinance 24-13 - Amending Chapter 22 "Fire Prevention and Protection" Article III in Accordance with Secure Act 2.0 and Authorized Investment Procedures Set Forth in Section 175.071,

Florida Statutes, be Approved on First Reading. 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

12. Resolutions & City Council Items

None.

13. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

Councilor Rola shared his rationale for requesting the removal from the Consent Agenda of Resolutions 24-19, 24-20, & 24-21 regarding the appointment and reappointment of candidates to the Ad Hoc Development & Redevelopment Advisory Committee.

Each of the three Resolutions were individually considered, discussed, and voted upon by Council.

- 7c. [ID 24-3592](#) Resolution - Reappointment of Mr. Marv Needles to the Ad Hoc Business Development and Redevelopment Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 24-19 into record by title only.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Irwin, seconded by Councilor Blonna, that Resolution 24-19 - Re-Appointment of Mr. Marv Needles to the Ad Hoc Business Development and Redevelopment Advisory Committee, 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

- 7d. [ID 24-3595](#) Resolution - Approving the Appointment of Mr. Robert Cholka to the Ad Hoc Business Development and Redevelopment Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

City Clerk read Resolution 24-20 into the record by title only.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Councilor Irwin, that Resolution 24-20 - Appointment of Mr. Robert Cholka to the Ad Hoc Business Development and Redevelopment Advisory Committee, 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

- 7e. [ID 24-3593](#) Resolution - Approving the Appointment of Mr. Darin Spindler to the Ad Hoc Business Development and Redevelopment Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 24-21 into the record by title only.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Irwin, seconded by Councilor Blonna, that Resolution 24-21 - Appointment of Mr. Darin Spindler to the Ad Hoc Business Development and Redevelopment Advisory Committee, 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

- 7f.** [ID 24-3493](#) Resolution - Urban Cooperation Agreement between the City of Marco Island and Collier for Community Block Grant (CDBG) - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director, Community Affairs/Growth Management

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 24-22 into the record by title only.

Councilor Rola, who requested that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda, explained his rationale for requesting a review of this item, and he offered his perspective for his colleague Councilors' consideration. Several questions were posed to City Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith by members of the Council.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Blonna, seconded by Councilor Irwin, that Resolution 24-22 - Urban Cooperation Agreement Between the City of Marco Island and Collier County for the Project Funding of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) on Marco Island, 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

14. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Councilor Irwin congratulated Marco Island Police Chief Tracy Frazzano on her graduation as a member of the 2024 Class of Leadership Collier, and she expressed her appreciation to City Manager Mike McNees for encouraging and supporting the continued cross-organizational development of City personnel in advancing relationships with governmental departments and employees of Collier County.

Councilor Folley sought clarification on the status of currently-scheduled City Council meetings in July and August, and he requested that the City Staff confirm the dates of planned Council meetings during those two summer months.

Council Folley also raised concern with the conflicting opinions expressed publicly by some parties in and around Marco Island regarding the environmental effect of excess phosphorous in reclaimed water. He requested that the City re-publish earlier data and findings in the public domain regarding this issue.

Later during Council Communications, Councilor Folley indicated his intention to submit his letter of resignation from the Marco Island City Council, with an effective date of November 5, 2024, in compliance with State Law given his candidacy for the office of Florida State Representative - District 81.

Councilor Palumbo shared his reflections on the recent National Day of Prayer event at Veterans

Community Park, and he advised the Council of his meeting with members of the Marco Island Model Yacht Club at Mackle Community Park. Referencing the concern raised during Citizens' Comments (Agenda Item 9) earlier in the evening, Councilor Palumbo precipitated a discussion among members of the Council regarding how he, the Council, and the City Staff might energize action to address the issue. Several suggestions were offered.

Councilor Blonna read a text message excerpt from the President of the Marco Island Women's Club regarding the cleanliness of the fountain at Veterans Community Park, and he asked the City Staff to address the reported situation.

[ID 23-3118](#) Future Agenda Items

No new Future Agenda items were proposed during the meeting.

15. Council Reports

None.

16. City Manager's Report

City Manager McNees advised the Council of his intention to work with Collier County government in defining a specific project for County funding to address the Big Marco/Capri Pass issue raised earlier in the evening during Citizens' Comments (Agenda Item 9), and discussed during Council Communications (Agenda Item 14).

City Manager McNees also highlighted the scheduling of community activities and events in and around the bandshell at Veterans Community Park, and he cited a recent Friday evening musical event that was performed without charge by local artists for the enjoyment of residents and visitors to Marco Island.

17. City Attorney's Report

None.

18. Departmental Reports

[ID 23-3119](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

No citizen or Council comments were raised regarding the City's Departmental Reports.

19. Citizens' Comments

No citizens 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 7:45 P.M.

Jared Grifoni, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist