

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, March 17, 2025

1:00 PM

Special Called Meeting

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 Brechnitz called the Special-Called Meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

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

Also Present

Michael McNeas, City Manager
Casey Lucius, Assistant City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney (arrived at 1:02 P.M.)
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief (arrived at 1:03 P.M.)
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors

3. Agenda Additions

Vice-Chair Brechnitz requested, and received, Council member consensus to add a Pledge of Allegiance to the Agenda.

Councilor Schwan also requested that a reading of the City Council Meeting Rules of Decorum be read prior to the undertaking of the business before the Council. Vice-Chair Brechnitz supported her request.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Vice-Chair Brechnitz.

5. Meeting Rules of Decorum

City Manager McNeas read the Marco Island City Council Rules of Decorum in their entirety.

6. Business - Selection of Candidate to Fill City Council Vacancy

[ID 25-4298](#) Selection of Candidate to Fill the City Council Vacancy - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Vice-Chair Brechnitz briefly reviewed the recent actions by the Council to select an applicant to complete the term of former Councilor Greg Folley. He proposed a balloting process that was actively discussed by the members of the Council. Several Councilors proposed an alternative candidate-by-candidate open Motion/Second/Vote on candidates who submitted applications for consideration since the initiation of the candidate identification process.

The four most-recent candidates who submitted applications following the City Council Special-Called Meeting on February 18, 2025 were given four minutes before the Council to outline their qualifications and/or offer comments for the Council's consideration. All four candidates addressed the Council in the following order:

1) Ms. Allyson Richards

- 2) Ms. Becky Irwin
- 3) Ms. Melissa Tschida
- 4) Mr. Rene Champagne

Members of the public were invited to sign-in to address the Council prior to the Council's action on the candidates. [Editorial Note: the record of those citizens who came forward to address the Council is noted under Agenda Item #7 (Public Comment).

Additional Council discussion resulted in a Motion advanced by Councilor Schwan.

MOTION by Councilor Schwan, seconded by Councilor Palumbo, that Mr. Rene Champagne be appointed to the Marco Island City Council. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

Following the Council's unanimous endorsement of Mr. Rene Champagne, Vice-Chair Brechnitz requested that City Attorney Alan Gabriel administer the oath of office.

Mr. Champagne was sworn in as a Marco Island City Councilor.

7. Public Comment

The following individuals came forward to offer comment on the candidates and the process under consideration by members of the Council:

- 1) Mr. Michael Dowell (Biscayne Way)*
- 2) Ms. Chris Dowell (Biscayne Way)
- 3) Mr. Randy Egan (Bonita Ct.)
- 4) Mr. Anthony Oliverio (Olds Ct.)

*Note: Ms. Lisa Foster ceded her time to Mr. Michael Dowell who was granted six minutes (rather than four) to address the Council.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business before the Council, Vice-Chair Brechnitz adjourned the Special-Called Meeting at 2:12 P.M.

Erik Brechnitz, Council Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist