

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, February 17, 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

City Attorney: Alan L. Gabriel

City Clerk: Joan Taylor

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Councilor Brechnitz, Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

Also Present

*Casey Lucius, Interim City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Alan L. Gabriel, 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
Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors*

3. Invocation

Offered by the Reverend Ed Brandt of the United Church of Marco Island.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

[ID 25-4901](#) Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Evan Bergman of Tommie Barfield Elementary School

Master Evan Bergman led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Chair Palumbo advised the Council of the removal of Agenda Item 15b (Discussion and Possible Action - Regarding the City Entering into an Agreement with Marco Island Youth Baseball, Inc.).

[Editorial Note: Mr. Joseph Oliverio shared insight on the reason for the removal of this Item during Public Comment (Agenda Item 9)]

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

Yes: 7 - Councilor Brechnitz, Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

6. Approval of the Minutes

a. [ID 25-4897](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2026

Attachments: [City Council Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2026](#)

MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2026, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Councilor Brechnitz, Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

- b. [ID 25-4902](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2026

Attachments: [City Council Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2026](#)

MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Vice-Chair Champagne, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2026, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Councilor Brechnitz, Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

7. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilor Henry requested that Agenda Item 7a (Resolution - Approving Appointment to the Waterways Advisory Committee) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

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

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

No: 1 - Councilor Brechnitz

[Approval of the Consent Agenda Passed All Routine Items Listed Below]

- b. [ID 26-5150](#) Resolution- An Amendment to Resolution 20-01, Marco Island Community Parks Foundation Articles of Incorporation, Article 7.11 Financial Disclosure - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 26-10](#)

[Marco Island Community Parks Foundation - Articles of Incorporation](#)

[DRAFT Minutes - January 21 2026](#)

- c. [ID 26-5141](#) Authorize the Interim City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Titan Concrete & Utilities, Inc., for the Stormwater Pipe Replacement and at 1240 N. Collier Blvd. in the Amount of \$64,071.04 using the City Public Infrastructure Construction Services Contract 2023-029 - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works

Attachments: [Titan 64071.04 Estimate](#)

[Titan Concrete Contract Fully Executed](#)

- d. [ID 26-5142](#) Authorize the Interim City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Titan Concrete & Utilities, Inc., for the Stormwater Pipe Replacement at 1455 Collingswood Avenue in the Amount of \$68,948.50 using the City Public Infrastructure Construction Services Contract 2023-029 - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works

Attachments: [Titan 68948.50 Estimate](#)
[Titan Concrete Contract Fully Executed](#)

- e. [ID 26-5163](#) Authorize the Interim City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to APEX Companies, LLC (formerly Water Science Associates) for Professional Consulting Services Related to the Underground Deep Injection Control Mechanical Integrity Test of Injection Well #1 (IW-1) in the Amount of \$128,500 - Jeffrey E. Poteet, General Manager, Water & Sewer

Attachments: [APEX Proposal](#)
[Marco Island IW1 73754 0280170-011-UO_1X Notice of Permit Package](#)

8. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 26-5155](#) Presentation - Legislative Update, Ronald L. Book

Legislative Consultants Ronald L. Book and Rona Brown shared their insights and perspective on the status of the State of Florida's legislative session thusfar, as well as their expectations on the likely success of the City of Marco Island's water quality funding priority and the Governor's desire to significantly alter the state's property tax system. He recommended that the City initiate efforts to identify and pursue long-term alternative sources of revenue to fund its operations.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment during this portion of the Agenda.

- b. [ID 26-5162](#) Waterways Advisory Committee Quarterly Update - Chairman Elliott Mascoop and Vice-Chairman Dan High

Attachments: [Presentation- WAC Quarterly Update](#)
[Presentation- Capri Pass Inlet Management](#)
[Minutes From 1.27.2026](#)

City of Marco Island Waterways Advisory Committee Chair Elliott Mascoop shared a report on the Committee's recent activities and accomplishments, and he outlined its goals for 2026.

Chair Palumbo sought, and received, unanimous consent from the Council endorsing the Waterways Advisory Committee's recommendation to start including water nutrient sample readings one time per quarter near: 1) Goodland, and; 2) the Isles of Capri. One of the original allocated readings conducted each quarter for Marco Island waters will be diverted to accommodate the recommended Goodland and Isles of Capri reading.

Mr. Daniel High, Vice-Chair of the City's Waterways Advisory Committee, reviewed his White Paper proposal for managing and improving the navigability and safety of the Big Marco/Capri Pass waterway.

Centering his recommendations on a proposal to potentially amend the existing permits granted to the City

of Marco Island for the maintenance of the Tigertail Lagoon/Sand Dollar Island ecosystem, Mr. High sought to receive Council endorsement to pursue his recommendations.

Public Comment

The following individuals came forward to express their concerns with the recommendations outlined in the Big Marco/Capri Pass White Paper:

- 1) Ms. Lynn Nathanson (Bluebonnet Ct.)
- 2) Ms. Victoria Myers (Bluebonnet Ct.)
- 3) Ms. Anita Sargese (Manor Terr.)
- 4) Ms. Cindy Sheppelman (Treasure Ct.)
- 5) Mr. Dennis Bartolucci (Caxambas Dr.)
- 6) Ms. Teri Sommerfeld (San Marco Rd.)
- 7) Mr. Greg Vilk (Magnolia Ct.)

The Council directed that the City of Marco Island Waterways Advisory Committee undertake additional investigation and study into the benefits, costs, and funding alternatives in developing a viable Inlet Management Plan for the Big Marco/Capri Pass waterway, and to return to the Council at a future date to review its findings and recommendations.

c. [ID 26-5168](#) Review of Q1 26 Financials - Carol McDermott, Director, Finance

Attachments: [Qtr1 FY26 Update](#)

City of Marco Island Finance Director Carol McDermott presented a review of the First Quarter, 2026 Operating Revenues, Expenditures, and Operating Summary Detail for the City's General Fund and the Water & Sewer Utility functions. She thanked several helpful citizens, responded to questions from the Council, and provided additional insights as requested.

Ms. Elena McFann (Eubanks Ct.), Vice-Chair of the City of Marco Island Audit Advisory Committee, commended Ms. McDermott's engagement and transparency with the Committee in developing this First Quarter, 2026 report, and she similarly recognized and thanked several Marco Island citizens who provided valuable input and feedback.

Chair Palumbo received Council consensus to direct the City Staff to prepare a proposal on the cost and timetable to execute a district-by-district review of the current financial status of the homeowner STRP (Septic Tank Replacement Program) agreements that were executed beginning in 2006. This item was asked to be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

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

Mr. Dan Davies (Jamaica Ct.) shared the genesis of his proposal during 2024 - 2025 to engage in a public-private partnership arrangement with the City to improve the Island's inland waterway water quality by dredging the canals and creating mini-island wildlife habitats.

Ms. Julia Brenner (Wayne Ave.) complimented the Council's renewed spirit of collaboration, and she communicated her anticipation for Councilor Gray's proposed modifications to the City's existing noise ordinance.

Ms. Victoria Myers (Bluebonnet Ct.) complimented the Marco Island Fire Rescue Department's free CPR training course. She also, as a member of the City of Marco Island Beautification Advisory Committee, highlighted the changes to the Committee's annual Marco In Bloom contest, and she invited all residents and business owners to identify and nominate candidate properties.

Mr. David Cadwell (Marco Villas Dr.) expressed his appreciation for the pickleball noise mitigation recommendations discussed at the Council's February 9, 2026 Workshop. Though well-intended, he proposed that the Council pursue an Island-wide solution through the implementation of a new zoning and land use classification for outdoor athletic facilities that provide for pickleball play. He cited the existence of national land use standards that can be modeled by the City of Marco Island.

Mr. David Boggs (Delbrook Way) addressed various criticisms, voiced online, regarding onshore shark fishing, and he shared his insights on shark attacks in Collier County, as well as the permitting and licensing requirements currently governing onshore shark fishing in the State of Florida.

Mr. Joseph Oliverio (Caxambas Ct.) updated the Council and the public on Marco Island Youth Baseball LLC's successful identification of an alternative funding source to address the irrigation of the playing field on the grounds of Tommie Barfield Elementary School. He thanked the Council for its willingness to have this issue placed on its Agenda for this meeting.

[Editorial Note: Refer to the Minutes for Agenda Items 5 (Approval of the Agenda) and Item 15b (Discussion and Possible Action - Regarding the City Entering into an Agreement with the Marco Island Youth Baseball, Inc. Nonprofit)]

Mr. Ken Honecker (Dorando Ct.) shared his concerns regarding the Council's decision to conduct its search for a permanent City Manager via an internally-managed candidate solicitation process. He also encouraged the Council to prioritize its efforts to identify alternative sources of revenue in the event that the State of Florida enacts legislation to eliminate, or significantly reduce, ad valorem property taxes.

Mr. Honecker shared the approach that the City Council used to fund infrastructure projects when he served on the Council from 2012 - 2016. He also shared his understandings regarding the STRP (Septic Tank Replacement Project) terms for fund re-investment.

(THE MEETING WENT INTO RECESS AT 9:01 P.M. IT IS NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT SIX OF THE SEVEN COUNCILORS WERE PRESENT WHEN THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 9:07 P.M. COUNCILOR BRECHNITZ RETURNED TO THE DIAS AT 9:09 P.M.)

10. City Manager's Report

[ID 25-4973](#) City Manager's Report

Attachments: [Status Report of 2026 Council Goals](#)

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius encouraged the Council to review the 2026 City Council Priorities Status Report that was included with the evening's Agenda.

Ms. Lucius also advised the Council that:

- 1) the Council's 3/9/26 Workshop was removed from the Council's calendar;
- 2) the Council's 4/13/26 Workshop will focus on the AWT (Advanced Water Treatment) findings and report from Black & Veatch, and;
- 3) the Council's 5/11/26 Workshop will confirm the Council's budget priorities for the 2027 Fiscal Year

Ms. Lucius also provided response and clarification on several statements and concerns offered by members of the public during Public Comment (Agenda Item 9).

No other members of the public came forward to offer comment.

11. City Attorney's Report

[ID 25-4903](#) City Attorney's Report

Attachments: [City Attorney Report](#)

City Attorney Alan Gabriel addressed a question from a Councilor Gray regarding the "Live Local Proposal - 2330 San Marco Rd." item noted on his City Attorney Report.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

12. Departmental Reports

[ID 25-4904](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

Attachments: [Finance](#)
[Community Affairs](#)
[Fire Rescue](#)

Councilor Schwan requested additional information from City of Marco Island Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith about the Teen Bike Program planning meeting noted in his Departmental Report (page one, 11th item under "Department Highlights").

Chair Palumbo requested that City of Marco Island Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith provide the Council with an analysis of the net expense (or net revenue) generated by the weekly Farmers' Market activity.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

13. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

14. Ordinances

None.

Motion To Extend The Meeting

MOTION by Vice-Chair Champagne, seconded by Councilor Brechnitz, to extend the City Council Meeting to conclude no later than 9:55 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Councilor Brechnitz, Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

15. Resolutions & City Council Items

- a. [ID 26-5167](#) City Manager Performance Evaluation. - Diana Snover, Director, Human Resources

Attachments: [City Manager Performance Evaluation](#)

City of Marco Island Human Resources Director Diana Snover reviewed the structure and content of the proposed City Manager Performance Evaluation, and she addressed several questions raised by members of the Council.

Interim City Manager, Casey Lucius elevated a concern regarding timing of her public, 6 months evaluation coinciding with the City Manager Candidate Interview process. Council discussed the postponement of her 6 month evaluation given Florida Sunshine Laws do not permit a closed session for evaluations.

Public Comment

Ms. Teri Sommerfeld (San Marco Rd.) shared her perspective on the quantifiable measures that are available to better assess the performance of the City Manager, and she questioned the value of conducting a six-month review of the Interim City Manager as the search for a permanent City Manager is undertaken.

Upon receiving individual Councilor and citizen input, Chair Palumbo:

1) requested, and received, Vice-Chair Champagne's agreement to work with Ms. Snover in drafting a revised City Manager Performance Evaluation document for the Council's review, and;

2) obtained unanimous Council consensus to postpone the Interim City Manager's six-month performance review

- b. [ID 26-5164](#) Discussion and Possible Action - Regarding the City Entering into an Agreement with the Marco Island Youth Baseball, Inc. Nonprofit to Reflect Responsibility for Water Usage, Casey Lucius, Ph.D., Interim City Manager

Attachments: [Agreement Between MIYB and CCPS \(FINAL 5.14.2025\)](#)
[Utility Bond Covenant Restrictions](#)

This item was removed from the Agenda during the Council's Approval of the Agenda (Agenda Item 5).

- c. [ID 26-5169](#) Approval of Purchase Order to Enterprise Fleet Management Inc. in the Amount of \$566,682. - Joe Parrilli, Manager, Fleet and Facilities

Attachments: [Enterprise Fleet Management Document](#)
[Enterprise Fleet Contract](#)

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius briefly reviewed the Council's approval of the contract with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. at its July 21, 2025 meeting (Agenda Item 15a), and she noted this purchase order approval as the final step in implementing the Agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Henry, seconded by Councilor Schwan, that authorization for the Interim City Manager to issue a purchase order to Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc. in the amount of \$566,682.00, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Councilor Brechnitz, Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

16. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

7a. [ID 26-5151](#) Resolution - Approving Appointment to the Waterways Advisory Committee by Councilor Goehler - Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Attachments: [RESOLUTION 26-09](#)
[Rick Woodworth Application](#)

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Resolution 26-09 into the record by title only.

Councilor Henry outlined her rationale for requesting that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda for further Council discussion.

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

- 1) Mr. Ralph Rohena (Begonia Ct.)
- 2) Ms. Teri Sommerfeld (San Marco Rd.)

MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Councilor Goehler, that Resolution 26-09 - Approving the Appointment to the Waterways Advisory Committee by Councilor Goehler, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

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

No: 1 - Councilor Henry

Motion To Extend The Meeting

MOTION by Vice-Chair Champagne, seconded by Councilor Brechnitz, to extend the City Council Meeting to conclude no later than 10:25 P.M. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL VOTE:

Yes: 7 - Councilor Brechnitz, Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

17. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Councilor Gray called attention to an out-of-state airport that has taken steps to eliminate nighttime light pollution, and he suggested that a similar review and modification of conditions on Marco Island could benefit the Island's residents and wildlife.

Councilor Gray proposed that the Council and City Staff engage in future dialogue regarding the long-term direction and plan for the Tigertail/Sand Dollar Island ecosystem restoration project.

Councilor Gray advised the Council and the Island's residents that the phrase "Residents First" has been trademarked in the State of Florida.

Councilor Gray questioned if the City could structure the millage rate so that a "carve out" budget, dedicated to infrastructure could be developed, without impacting the spending cap. He introduced this concept in response to his concern of the City having to bear the interest expense when procuring long-term debt (i.e. capital bond) funding.

City Attorney Alan Gabriel advised the Council that an action to establish this "carve out" would require an amendment to the City's Charter.

Councilor Goehler complimented City Finance Director Carol McDermott on her First Quarter, 2026 Financial Update report. She also recognized and thanked the citizens who contributed their insights and perspectives to help inform Ms. McDermott's analysis.

Councilor Goehler thanked Marco Island Police Chief Tracy Frazzano for the ability to participate in a recent "Police Patrol Ride Along" with an officer on the City's police force.

Councilor Henry encouraged all present to view and support the Marco Island Noontime Rotary's Flag Display at the intersection of San Marco Rd. and Sandhill Street.

Councilor Henry also encouraged all residents: 1) to attend the March 2, 2026 Shark Fishing Awareness Session being conducted by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC); 2) to read Mr. Chris Ricci's three-part column in the Coastal Breeze News on navigating the various roles and responsibilities of governing bodies affecting residents and their property improvement projects on Marco Island, and; 3) to attend the Marco Island Kiwanis Car Show on Saturday, February 21, 2026 at Veterans Community Park.

Councilor Schwan reiterated her comments during Council Communications at the Council's February 2, 2026 meeting regarding the City's lack of legal authority to "ban" the use of rodenticides on Marco Island. She shared several visuals of social media posts by a Connecticut Chapter of the Friends of Animals international advocacy group and others regarding this topic.

Councilor Brechnitz proposed that the Council to put its energy and resources toward encouraging the Collier County Board of Commissioners to seek voter approval to implement a permanent 1% sales tax increase, rather than a Marco Island-specific bond referendum, to help fund the Island's infrastructure improvement needs.

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius noted that the Council's final decision on the funding approach to address the Island's infrastructure improvement needs was already on the Council's meeting agenda for March 2, 2026.

Vice-Chair Champagne expressed his belief that the overall infrastructure improvement need for the Island could total approximately \$100 million. He reiterated his support for an approximate \$60 million bond issue at this time, and he shared his expectation of the likely average monthly increase to individual property owner tax bills should a \$60 million bond issue, or an equivalent millage increase, be approved and implemented.

Chair Palumbo expressed his appreciation to The Family Church of Marco Island for its hosting of a luncheon for City of Marco Island employees on February 17, 2026.

Chair Palumbo congratulated Councilor Schwan on her recent appointment as Vice-Chair of the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Chair Palumbo expressed his desire to have a review of the City's Land Development Code and indicated his intention to bring this forward at another Council meeting.

[ID 25-4905](#) Future Agenda Items

Attachments: [Future Agenda](#)

The Council requested that a review and decision on the expected cost and timetable to execute an

up-to-date financial assessment of the homeowner STRP (Septic Tank Replacement Program) agreements be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

18. Council Reports

None.

19. Citizens' Comments

Mr. Elliott Mascoop (6th Ave.) shared his experience with excessive neighborhood noise, and he indicated his support for a review and modification of the City's existing noise ordinance.

20. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Palumbo adjourned the meeting at 10:23 P.M.

Darrin Palumbo, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist