

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 8, 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: Alan L. Gabriel

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
Alan L. Gabriel, City Attorney
Tracy Frazzano, Police Chief
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director
Justin Martin, Public Works Director
Jeff Poteet, Water & Sewer General Manager
Kelli DeFedericis, Floodplain Coordinator
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

Led by Chair Grifoni.

5. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Councilor Folley, seconded by Councilor Blonna, 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 23-3107](#) Approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024

Councilor Blonna requested that the Motion captured in the Meeting Minutes on Agenda Item 12b. (Update on City Project Proposals for TDC Grant Funding) at the March 18, 2024 City Council Meeting be reviewed for accuracy.

Given the need to review the video record from the March 18, 2024 City Council Meeting, a Motion to reschedule the approval of the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024 to the Council's next meeting was advanced.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, seconded by Councilor Folley, that the City Council Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2024 be rescheduled for approval at the

Council's April 22, 2024 Meeting. 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 the Consent Agenda

MOTION by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, seconded by Councilor Folley, that the Consent 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

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

- a. [ID 24-3524](#) Resolution - Appointing Mr. Michael Cory to the Beautification Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- b. [ID 24-3530](#) Resolution - Appointing Ms. Maureen L. Craig to the Audit Advisory Committee - Joan Taylor, City Clerk
- c. [ID 24-3533](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Hole Montes, a Bowman Company, for the Professional Engineering Services, Surveying, Bidding, and Limited Construction Administration Services for the Yellowbird and Echo Circle Drainage Improvements in the Amount of \$69,400, Using City of Marco Island Contract #2023-009 for Professional Services - Justin Martin, P.E., Director, Public Works
- d. [ID 24-3540](#) Authorize the City Manager to Issue a Purchase Order to Titan Concrete & Utilities, Inc., for the Removal and Replacement of an Outfall Pipe at 827 Chestnut Court in the Amount of \$80,605.73, Using the City Public Infrastructure Construction Services Contract 2023-029 - Justin Martin, P.E., Director of Public Works

8. Proclamations and Presentations

- a. [ID 23-3300](#) Employee Service Awards - Sandra Moore - 20 years

City Manager McNeas recognized and brought forward Ms. Sandra Moore of the City's Finance Department to receive her 20 year appreciation of service recognition and pin as presented by City Council Chair Jared Grifoni. Ms. Moore received a warm round of applause from all present.

- b. [ID 23-3303](#) Employee of the Quarter

Mr. Mario Blanco of the City's Information Technology Department was honored as the City's "Employee of the Quarter" for the January - March quarter of 2024. He received a warm round of applause from all present.

- c. [ID 24-3451](#) Presentation - United Soccer League Naples (USL Naples) - Roberto Moreno, CEO of USL Naples Franchise

Mr. Roberto Moreno, CEO of the recently-announced United Soccer League - Naples professional team, shared a brief video and introduction on the team's facilities and plans in anticipation of its inaugural season beginning in March, 2025.

- d. [ID 24-3521](#) Presentation - Recognizing Tree Donors for Ten-Thousand Trees in Ten Years - David Leaser, Chair, Beautification Advisory Committee

Mr. David Leaser, Chair of the City's Beautification Advisory Committee, shared a presentation that summarized the Ten Thousand Tree program. He recognized and thanked the 13 donors who sponsored the purchase and planting of trees through the first quarter of 2024 under the Ten Thousand Trees in Ten Years pilot program on Marco Island. Council members thanked Mr. David Leaser and the Beautification Committee for their efforts.

Information regarding donation opportunities in support of this effort may be accessed through the Collier Community Foundation at TenThousandTrees.org.

- e. [ID 24-3544](#) Presentation - Community Rating System - Kelli DeFedericis, CFM, Floodplain Coordinator, Community Affairs / Building Services

City Floodplain Coordinator Kelli DeFedericis provided an overview and evaluation of the City's participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) voluntary Community Rating System (CRS) Program that encourages local communities to adopt and implement floodplain management activities that exceed minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards.

Recognizing instances where some individual property owners are not receiving the expected benefits from the program since FEMA's implementation of its Risk Rating 2.0 initiative, the Council requested that City Attorney Alan Gabriel investigate potential actions to address this issue and return with recommendations for Council and City action.

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

Ms. Jeanne Held (Copeland Dr.) requested that the Council consider pursuing a public ballot initiative approving and earmarking the use of City funds to support the purchase of vacant residential lots that are home to the Island's gopher tortoise population for preservation purposes. [Editorial Note: see additional Council discussion of this topic under Agenda Item 14 - Council Communications and Future Agenda]

Mr. Ken Honecker (Dorando Ct.) requested that the repaving of Dorando Ct. and five other streets that were included under the City's Septic Tank Replacement Program (STRP) District 1 be earmarked for completion in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget. He also requested that the Council consider the implications of the State of Florida November 2024 recreational marijuana ballot initiative on: 1) the City's current ordinance providing for medical marijuana dispensary facilities, and; 2) the potential incoming flow of purchasers to the Island should the Statewide initiative receive the required votes to become State law.

10. Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing

None.

11. Ordinances

A. Public Hearings

- [ID 24-3532](#) Ordinance - Second Reading - Land Development Code Amendment (LDCA 23-000393) Request to Amendment

Section 30-224, C-3 Conditional Uses, to Allow for Personal Use Vehicle Storage - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director, Community Affairs/Growth Management

City Clerk Joan Taylor read Ordinance 24-11 into the record by title only.

City Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith briefly reminded the Council of its past action unanimously approving this Ordinance on its First Reading on March 18, 2024.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Councilor Palumbo, seconded by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, that Ordinance 24-11 - Land Development Code Amendment (LDCA 23-000393) Requesting to Amend Section 30-224, C-3 Conditional Uses, to Allow for Personal Use Vehicle Storage, be Approved on Second 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

B. First Readings

None.

12. Resolutions & City Council Items

[ID 24-3542](#) Urban County Cooperation Agreement - Daniel J. Smith, AICP, Director, Community Affairs/Growth Management

City Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith briefly highlighted the opportunities afforded under the proposed Urban County Cooperation Agreement, and he introduced Ms. Kristi Sonntag, Director of Community and Human Services for Collier County, to further explain the program and address questions from members of the Council. Councilors requested Ms. Sonntag, to provide them with the latest Census Tract Area for Marco Island.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Vice-Chair Brechnitz, seconded by Councilor Blonna, that: 1) Authorization for the City Manager to Issue a Letter of Interest by April 15, 2024 to Collier County and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Indicating the City's Interest in Participating in the County's FY 2025 - 2027 Re-qualification for HUD "Urban County" Status, and; 2) Directing the City Attorney to Review and Provide Recommendations on the Proposed Urban County Cooperation Agreement Between Marco Island and Collier County for Review by the Council Prior to the County's May 15, 2024 Submission Deadline, 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

13. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

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

14. Council Communications & Future Agenda

Chair Grifoni shared highlights from the Fifth Edition of Heartland Forward's Annual Report on America's Most Dynamic Metros 2023 which, for the fifth consecutive year, ranks the Naples/Marco Island metropolitan area as among the best of 382 metro areas surveyed for economic dynamism. He asked that City Manager McNees forward copies of the report to his colleague Councilors.

Councilor Palumbo remarked on the exceptionally busy Pre-Easter Visitation Season on Marco Island, and complimented the City's leadership, community, and public safety team on their collective success in managing the increased traffic and visitor presence on the Island.

Councilor Blonna called attention to a recent email received by the Council regarding waterway navigation issues in the Big Marco/Capri Pass area. Vice-Chair Brechnitz indicated that he intended to raise this concern at the Collier County Coastal Advisory Committee meeting on April 11, 2024.

Councilor Folley engaged the Council in a brief discussion of the requested ballot initiative raised by Ms. Jeanne Held during the Citizens' Comments portion of the Agenda (Agenda Item 9). Later, during the City Manager's Report (Agenda Item 16), Councilor Folley proposed that the Council schedule an "in-the-shade" union negotiation strategy closed session prior to the Council's regularly-scheduled City Council Meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024.

Councilor Irwin shared her perspective on re-imagining the nature and role of parks and public spaces in communicating a community's values as informed by her experience and engagement with for-profit and non-profit leaders who have guided other cities in this effort.

At Chair Grifoni's request, Vice-Chair Brechnitz provided an update on the status of the efforts of the Marco Island Community Parks Foundation.

[ID 23-3108](#) Future Agenda Items

The Council requested that City Attorney Alan Gabriel bring forward recommendations for potential City action on the identified FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) concerns to a future meeting of the City Council (see Agenda Item 8e.)

15. Council Reports

None.

16. City Manager's Report

City Manager McNees raised the following for the Council's awareness and consideration:

- 1) this year's notable increase in public and private programming and event activities at Veterans' Community Park;
- 2) a delay in the planned presentation of Marco Island's two FY 2025 requests for Tourist Development Council funding at the upcoming April 11, 2024 Coastal Advisory Committee meeting [Editorial Note: these two FY 2025 requests were approved by the Council at its March 18, 2024 meeting (Agenda Item 12b.);
- 3) notification by a City Police Employee Union representative that the Union will be prepared to propose a negotiation timetable to the City later in April or early May (Note: Councilor Folley proposed that the Council schedule an "in-the-shade" union negotiation strategy session prior to the Council's regularly-scheduled City Council Meeting on Monday, April 22, 2024), and;
- 4) his debrief on the results and next steps following his participation in the day-and-a-half training opportunity at the Pentagon in Washington D.C. under the City County Senior Fellowship Program

17. City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Alan Gabriel advised the Council that Attorney David Tolces will be participating in the Council's May 3, 2024 meeting on his behalf.

18. Departmental Reports

[ID 23-3109](#) Monthly Departmental Reports

No comments or questions were raised regarding the City's Monthly Department Reports.

19. Citizens' Comments

No members of the public 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 7:39 P.M.

Jared Grifoni, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist