City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
August 11, 2026 5:30 pm City Council Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – A City Council Meeting of the City of Marathon, Florida was held on August 11, 2026, in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL - There were present:

Councilmember Landry

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Still

Vice Mayor Struyf

Mayor Del Gaizo, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Attorney/Interim City Manager, Steve Williams

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Senior Planner, Dan Gilizio

Building Official, Gerard Roussin

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

HR Director, Evie Engelmeyer

It Director, Henry Kokenzie

Code Director, Ted Lozier

City Engineer, Carlos Solis

Public Works Director, Paul Bartnik

Parks Director, Scott Williamson

Deputy Utilities Director, Libby Soldano

MCSO Capt. Derek Paul

Approval Of Agenda and Consent Agenda

MOTION: Still moved to approve the agenda
SECOND: Matlock

With no objection from the members of the Council, Mayor DelGaizo declared the agenda approved as amended.

City Council Items

***A.** Approval of Minutes
*** B.** Non-Profit Grant Awards
C. Fair Insurance Rates for Monroe (FAIR) (Mayor Del Gaizo) – Mel Montagne, President of FIRM gave an update on the challenges of insurance rate increases informing everyone of FIRM 's recent accomplishments. Montagne reported that Citizens' 2026 rates will include a 5.7% decrease for Monroe County wind-only homeowners policies and a 6.3% decrease for wind-only condo policies. Montagne asked the city to fix roof-permit language that is causing Citizens to not renew policies when roof documentation doesn't meet its standards. Citizens requires proof of full roof replacement, but some Marathon permits don't clearly reflect the work performed. He urged clearer, consistent permit language. Montagne informed everyone there would be an August 25th town hall meeting in Marathon at the Monroe County Government center with a community forum from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

D. City Manager Discussion (Councilmember Landry) – the Council backed Steve Williams after a months-long search, saying he had grown into the role despite not seeking it. Landry explained that this leaves the city with another problem that Williams couldn't permanently serve as both city manager and attorney. Still asked that the City move forward, we need to come together as a council and not be indecisive. Williams said he would ask Assistant City Attorney Alli Heller if she'd consider taking over his legal duties, as she is very competent and added that the city could again use the Vernis & Bowling firm to review the contract as well.

The Mayor called for speakers.

Wendy Bonilla asked questions relating to the salary of the Attorney and City Manager.

Armand Messina – commented that the reason we became a city is to clean up the building department. Attorneys look at things in black and white, and we need this.

Bettye Chaplin – commented that she had been listening to all of the concerns and the Council is the common denominator. There are a lot of reasons we incorporated, and we need someone to fight for us, we are on the right track.

The Council asked that Williams bring forward a contract at the September 8th meeting and have either the outside law firm or Heller review it. Still commented that there would be negotiations and we will have a contract that is in the City's best interest.

City Manager Report

* **A.** MCSO Marathon Substation Report
* **B.** Grants Report
* **C.** Public Works Report
* **D.** Park and Recreation Report
* **E.** Engineering Report
* **F.** Marina Report
* **G.** Code Report
* **H.** Wastewater Utilities Report
* **I.** Building Report
* **J.** Marathon Fire Rescue Report
* **K.** Florida Commerce ACSC Administration Permit Contact Line (Informational)

L. Deep Well Update – Traffic/Funding – Steve Suggs with APEX provided a PowerPoint and explained the City of Marathon is implementing a regional deep injection well system to replace shallow-well effluent disposal, as required by a federal Consent Decree following the Maui Supreme Court decision. The project spans five phases, is currently in mixed stages of construction and design, and carries a total program cost of about $70 million. Deep-well disposal must begin by December 31, 2028. Suggs also provided the construction status by phases and explained the facilities plan amendment which updates the original plan with refined engineering, permitting and updated cost details. Suggs explained that the funding sources included state appropriations, water quality restoration funding, SRF (State Revolving Fund) low-cost loan and a temporary line of credit.

Citizens' comments:

Diego Cordova – explained his concerns about the lack of parking at the Harbor Drive boat ramp.

John Callion – asked the Council to restore the parking at the boat ramp at Harbor Drive.

Diane Scott – commented that the City should have their own Sherriff's office.

Bettye Chaplin – expressed her concerns regarding the FDOT approved deceleration lane by Vacca Cut bridge, she felt it was dangerous and was prepared to go to the Governor about it.

Ordinances For First Public Hearing:

A. Ordinance 2026-23, Modifying Section 32-2 Of The City Code Of Ordinances, 'Regulation Of Wrecker Operators Who Provide Towing And Storage Services At The Request Of Law Enforcement Officers; Providing For Incorporation Into The Code Of Ordinances; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Struyf abstained and left the dais.

Shea explained the small changes to the ordinance; removing the additional inspections, fees, and notifications, and adopts the standards set forth in Florida Statutes. The ordinance still maintains stricter standards to ensure that towed vehicles are still stored at sites within the City of Marathon.

Clavier informed everyone that no one was signed up to speak.

MOTION: Matlock moved to approve Ordinance 2026-23
SECOND: Still

Vote of the Motion:
Yes: Matlock, Still, Landry, Del Gaizo
No: None
Absent: None
Abstain: Struyf
Vote on the Motion: 4 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent, 1 Abstain

Ordinance 2026-24, Amending Chapter 15 Fire Prevention, Article 1 "In General", Amending Section 15-6 Entitled "Chickees And Tikis," Amending Section 15-7 Entitled "Penalty," Amending Sections 15-8 Through 15-26 Entitled "Reserved;" Of The City Of Marathon Code Of Ordinances; Providing For Severability; Providing For The Repeal Of Conflicting Provisions; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Shea explained the proposed ordinance amends the Fire Prevention code in the code of ordinances to adopt language consistent with House Bill 929 as adopted into Chapter 2026-55 of the laws of Florida. The purpose of the amendment is to codify consistent language for tikis and chickees based upon the amendments to State law.

Clavier informed everyone that no one was signed up to speak.

MOTION: Matlock moved to approve Ordinance 2026-24
SECOND: Still

Vote of the Motion:
Yes: Matlock, Still, Landry, Struyf, Del Gaizo
No: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
Vote on the Motion: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

Resolutions For Adoption

***A. Resolution 2026-70,** Authorizing A "Sole-Source" Purchase Pursuant To The City's Purchasing Policies And Procedures And Approving The Purchase From Airvac For Spare Vacuum

Collection System Packages, In An Amount Not To Exceed $147,909.60; Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into Agreements In Connection Therewith, Appropriating And Expending Budgeted Funds; And Providing For An Effective Date

***B. Resolution 2026-71,** Approving A Distribution Right-Of-Way Easement Between The City of Marathon And The Florida Keys Electric Cooperative On Property Having Real Estate Number 00103350-000400, On Property Known As Community Park, Providing For Severability, Providing For An Effective Date

C. Resolution 2026-72, Impose And Provide For Collection Of Wastewater Special Assessments For Service Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 And 7 (Including The Supplemental Assessment Program) For Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2026; Approving The Assessment Roll; Providing For Collection Of The Assessments; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Williams explained the resolution conditions of the City's assessment programs for the construction of wastewater collection and treatment facilities.

Clavier informed everyone that no one was signed up to speak.

MOTION: Still moved to approve Resolution 2026-72
SECOND: Landry

Vote of the Motion:
Yes: Still, Landry, Matlock, Struyf, Del Gaizo
No: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
Vote on the Motion: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

D. Resolution 2026-73, Imposing The Annual Stormwater Utility Special Assessments For Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2026; Approving The Assessment Roll; Providing For Collection Of The Assessments; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Williams explained it is the same concept for Stormwater assessments as the previous resolution.

Clavier informed everyone that no one was signed up to speak.

MOTION: Still moved to approve Resolution 2026-73
SECOND: Struyf

Vote of the Motion:
Yes: Still, Struyf, Landry, Matlock, Del Gaizo
No: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

Vote on the Motion: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

***E. Resolution 2026-74,** Approving An Interlocal Agreement Between Monroe County, City Of Key West, Islamorada, Village Of Islands, City Of Key Colony Beach, City Of Layton, The Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, And Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District Regarding Florida Keys Stewardship Act (FKSA) Funding Dispersals When New Funding Is Provided Through The FKSA, And Providing For An Effective Date.

Council Comments:

Landry thanked FIRM for all of their work and thanked Jennifer Johnson.

Still reminded everyone that school was starting and to watch out for buses, wished the students and teachers luck and thanked Steve Williams.

Struyf thanked staff and appreciated Williams stepping up to the position of City Manager. Struyf thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Del Gaizo urged the residents to reach out to the Council with questions, the Council wants to hear from you. Del Gaizo reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Del Gaizo adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm with unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the City Council meeting of August 10, 2026.

Diane Clavier
Diane Clavier, City Clerk

9/9/2026
Date

FORM 8B MEMORANDUM OF VOTING CONFLICT FOR COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME	NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE
Struyf Debra	Marathon City Council
MAILING ADDRESS 2021 Dolphin Drive	THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF: ☑ CITY ☐ COUNTY ☐ OTHER LOCAL AGENCY
CITY: Marathon — COUNTY: Monroe	NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION: City of Marathon FL
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED August 11, 2026	MY POSITION IS ☑ ELECTIVE ☐ APPOINTIVE

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

This form is for use by any person serving at the county, city, or other local level of government on an appointed or elected board, council, commission, authority, or committee. It applies to members of advisory and non-advisory bodies who are presented with a voting conflict of interest under Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

Your responsibilities under the law when faced with voting on a measure in which you have a conflict of interest will vary greatly depending on whether you hold an elective or appointive position. For this reason, please pay close attention to the instructions on this form before completing and filing the form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

A person holding elective or appointive county, municipal, or other local public office MUST ABSTAIN from voting on a measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss. Each elected or appointed local officer also MUST ABSTAIN from knowingly voting on a measure which would inure to the special gain or loss of a principal (other than a government agency) by whom he or she is retained (including the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of a principal by which he or she is retained); to the special private gain or loss of a relative; or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. Commissioners of community redevelopment agencies (CRAs) under Sec. 163.356 or 163.357, F.S., and officers of independent special tax districts elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not prohibited from voting in that capacity.

For purposes of this law, a "relative" includes only the officer's father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. A "business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the officer as a partner, joint venturer, coowner of property, or corporate shareholder (where the shares of the corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange).

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ELECTED OFFICERS:

In addition to abstaining from voting in the situations described above, you must disclose the conflict:

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN by publicly stating to the assembly the nature of your interest in the measure on which you are abstaining from voting; *and*

WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OCCURS by completing and filing this form with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who should incorporate the form in the minutes.

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APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Although you must abstain from voting in the situations described above, you are not prohibited by Section 112.3143 from otherwise participating in these matters. However, you must disclose the nature of the conflict before making any attempt to influence the decision, whether orally or in writing and whether made by you or at your direction.

IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN:

- You must complete and file this form (before making any attempt to influence the decision) with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who will incorporate the form in the minutes. (Continued on page 2)

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, Vice Mayor Struyf, hereby disclose that on August 11, 20 26:

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one or more)

X inured to my special private gain or loss;

___ inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____;

___ inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, _____;

___ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, by whom I am retained; or

___ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which is the parent subsidiary, or sibling organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

Ordinance 2026-23, Modifying Section 32-2 Of The City Code Of Ordinances, 'Regulation Of Wrecker Operators Who Provide Towing And Storage Services At The Request Of Law Enforcement Officers; Providing For Incorporation Into The Code Of Ordinances; And Providing For An Effective Date.

I am the President of Paradise Towing Inc. in Marathon.

If disclosure of specific information would violate confidentiality or privilege pursuant to law or rules governing attorneys, a public officer, who is also an attorney, may comply with the disclosure requirements of this section by disclosing the nature of the interest in such a way as to provide the public with notice of the conflict.

Aug. 11, 2026
Date Filed

Signature

NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED $10,000.