City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
September 16, 2025 5:30 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER - A Special Call Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on September 16, 2025 in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Del Gaizo called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL - There were present:

Councilmember

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Still

Vice Mayor Struyf was absent.

Mayor DelGaizo, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:
City Manager/City Attorney, Steve Williams

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

Deputy Utilities Director, Libby Soldano

Code Director, Ted Lozier

Marina Director, Sean Cannon

Park and Recreation Director, Scott Williamson

Building Official, Gerard Roussin

Senior Planner, Dan Gulizio

Marina Director, Sean Cannon

Public Works Manager, Paul Bartnik

City Engineer, Carlos Solis

Fire Rescue Chief Rogers

PIO, Chris Seymour

Grant Coordinator, Maria Covelli

MCSO Capt. Derek Paul

Approval Of Agenda and Consent Agenda

MOTION: Landry moved to approve the agenda
SECOND: Still

With no objection from the members of the Council, Mayor Del Gaizo declared the agenda approved by unanimous consent.

First Public hearing to adopt tentative budget and millage rate

Johnson explained the proposed tax rate of 2.3231 mills, which is 18.82% above the roll back rate of 1.9552 mills. Johnson gave an example of a home in the City of Marathon the tax bill portion on a $700,000 home would be $1,626.17, an increase of $182 from the previous year. Johnson reported the General Fund is significantly supported by our ad-valorem revenues and this millage rate will generate about $12.2M of revenues for our general fund. Johnson explained the FY27 tentative budgeted expenditures includes the following notable increases from the prior year:

Overall cost of living increases, merit adjustments, and increases for bargaining unit members

Parks & Rec increased maintenance of structures and grounds as well as increased utility costs

Public Works - Additional of ½ FTE position for the Public Works/Street Maintenance Manager position and increased annual transfer to support the Street Maintenance Fund operations

At this millage rate the City would be using approximately $1.9M of the general fund reserves. If the general fund budget goes as planned that would leave the City at 9/30/2027 with 21 days less than our 12-month targeted fund balance in the general fund (-$1,550,146). The unassigned fund balance is used for items such as emergencies, unforeseen items, and settlements.

Johnson also briefed the Council on the special revenue funds, capital projects fund, debt service fund, and enterprise funds. Johnson explained the Affordable Housing fund includes $400,000 of appropriations to continue the first-time home buyer loan program. Johnson explained the Building, Marina and Utility Funds are budgeting to continue the existing level of services the City currently provides. Johnson reported the Wastewater Fund includes approximately $52M of debt proceeds to offset the construction of the new deep well, the SA6 Flood Wall, and SA5 Tank and Membrane Upgrade projects. Johnson informed everyone the Street Maintenance Fund includes a new ½ FTE for the Street Maintenance/Public Works Manager position, and 1 new FTE employee for taking on the additional landscaping responsibilities along the US1 corridor. Johnson explained the Capital Infrastructure budget included appropriations for:

- $500,000 for the AV equipment upgrade to Council Chambers
- $1.3M for 7 Mile Marina Improvements
- $2.1M for Quay improvements
- Community Park – splash pad, concession stand and restrooms, lighting upgrades, replacement of baseball field fencing and netting

- $7.5M for Road, Bridge, Path, and Lighting Improvements
- As well as transfers to the General, Vehicle Replacement, Debt Service and Stormwater Fund

The overall tentative FY27 budget including all City funds is $202,260,044

The Mayor called for speakers.

Sheryl Swab, the outgoing CEO of the Domestic Abuse Shelter thanked the council for their past support and invited everyone to a meet and greet next Tuesday at the Marathon Community Theatre for the incoming CEO, Jackie Curl.

Johnson read Resolution 2026-89 into the record.

A Resolution Of The City Of Marathon, Florida, Adopting The Tentative Millage Rate And Levy Of Ad Valorem Taxes For The City Of Marathon, Florida For Fiscal Year 2026-2027; And Providing For An Effective Date

Johnson read section two of the resolution into the record.

Section 2. The FY 2026-2027 tentative millage rate for the City is 2.3231 mills, which is $2.3231 for each thousand dollars of taxable assessed property value; and the tentative millage rate is greater than the rolled-back rate of 1.9552 mills by 18.82%.

Matlock informed everyone he would like to reduce a few things in the budget. Johnson and Williams suggested that the Council send their recommendations over the next week.

Still commented that we needed to stick with the 3.8% COLA. Williams explained the merit would not be across the board. Landry commented that a few years ago, we decided to use the June numbers. Still asked what the difference would be between 3.8 vs. 3.4 percent. Johnson replied $20,330 overall and the June COLA would likely be more.

Johnson and Williams explained the uncertainty of Amendment 3 and the exemptions.

Del Gaizo asked about the splash pad donation. Matlock commented that it takes staff to maintain what we have which is more than we had a few years ago; the skate park, splash pad, Saltys, etc.

Matlock questioned where the Key Colony Fire Service increase brings us. Johnson responded 18 days short vs. 21 days with a spending deficit of approximately two million. Johnson replied staff has shaved $25,000 off the budget so far.

MOTION: Still moved to approve Resolution 2026-89, with the tentative millage rate of 2.3231
SECOND: Matlock for discussion

Vote of the Motion:

Yes: Still, DelGaizo
No: Landry, Matlock
Absent: Struyf
Abstain: None

Vote on the Motion: 2 Yes, 2 No, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain

The motion failed.

Williams reminded the Council that there is not an election this year, there are no protesters here and bills go up in the City too. Landry commented that we did not increase boat ramps and parking fees. Williams commented that the Council is free to do so.

MOTION: Still moved to reconsider Resolution 2026-89, at the same millage rate of 2.3231
SECOND: Matlock for discussion

Matlock commented that we can still change the rate to lower, but not higher.

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

Vote on the Motion: 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain

Johnson read Resolution 2026-90 into the record.

A Resolution Of City Of Marathon, Florida, Adopting The Tentative Budget For Fiscal Year 2026-2027; And Providing For An Effective Date

Johnson reported the tentative budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 at $ 202,260,044.

Landry asked everyone to find some places to reduce the budget.

MOTION: Still moved to approve Resolution 2026-90
SECOND: Matlock

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

Vote on the Motion: 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent, 0 Abstain

- **Resolution 2026-91,** Approving Adoption of Deep Injection Well Facilities Plan Amendment No. 1, and Authorization for FDEP SRF Submission to The State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP); And Providing For An Effective Date

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Landry adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of September 16, 2026.

Diane Clavier
Diane Clavier, City Clerk

10/14/2026
Date