

**CALL TO ORDER** - A Special Call Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on July 22, 2025 in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Landry called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember Del Gaizo

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Still

Vice Mayor Smith (Via Zoom)

Mayor Landry, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

City Attorney, Steve Williams

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Park and Recreation Director, Scott Williamson

Deputy Utilities Director, Libby Soldano

Public Information Officer, Carlos Garcia

Fire Rescue Chief Muro

MCSO Captain Derek Paul

**MOTION:** Still moved to allow Vice Mayor Smith to attend the meeting via Zoom  
**SECOND:** Matlock

With no objection from the members of the Council, the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Mayor Landry called a five-minute recess at 5:35 so that the staff could troubleshoot why the Vice Mayor could not be heard or hear the meeting.

Mayor Landry called the meeting back to order at 5:43 pm.

### **General Fund Budget Discussion**

Jennifer Johnson, Finance Director – Johnson explained the preliminary millage rate would be the highest rate the City could charge for FY25, and once the preliminary millage rate is set, it can only be decreased from that point. Johnson reported that the proposed millage rate is 2.2235 mills which is the same millage rate that the City charged for FY25, this rate is a 7.77 percent increase above the roll back rate of 2.0631 mills and would require a majority vote to pass. Johnson reminded everyone that the Florida Save Our Homes Act limits the annual value increase of homesteaded property to 3% each year. Johnson explained the General Fund is significantly supported by our ad-valorem revenues. This millage rate will generate about \$11M of revenue for our general fund.

Overall, the General Fund revenues are budgeted for approximately \$23.3M while the budgeted expenditure is at \$25.7M, a \$2.4M spending deficit. The FY26 Proposed General Fund Budgeted Expenditures includes the following notable increases from the prior year:

#### **Overall**

- Increase of 20% to the health benefit budget line items for all employees
- cost of living, and merit adjustments

#### **Fire Department**

- contractual increases for union employees
- five additional full-time positions
- change in health benefit plan
- new training programs

#### **General Services**

- Staffing transfers
- Increased professional services expenditures

#### **Parks & Rec**

- moved three full-time and 1 part-time maintenance positions to Public Works
- Increased special events and small tools

Public Works

- Added five full-time and 1 part-time maintenance positions (2 new, 3.5 from parks)
- Increased annual transfer to support the street maintenance special revenue fund activities.
- Staffing transfers to General Services

Johnson reported that if the budget goes as planned that would leave the City at 9/30/2026 with 6 days more than our 12-month targeted fund balance. The unassigned fund balance is used for items such as emergencies, unforeseen items, and settlements.

Still asked the Council to consider a five percent COLA for employees as the vendors have had increases and utilities, rents, and groceries have increased. Johnson responded that in June the CPA was at 3.1 percent. The difference between 2.2 percent and five percent would be \$30.90 on a million-dollar home. Johnson explained that last year the Council added half of a percent over the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale CPA.

Matlock questioned how many positions were for vacation rentals. Johnson commented that the new inspector position could be a hundred percent toward vacation rentals.

Smith commented that he would like to take a look at what we have done in the last three years for staff increases. We have to be fair we have not been losing employees, and we need to tighten belts rather than spending other people's money. Matlock agreed that the budget needed to be tightened. Landry commented that we have to be careful we are not leaving next year's budget where we have no room to work .

**A. Resolution 2025-71, Determining The Proposed Millage Rate, And The Current Year Rolled-Back Rate, And The Date, Time And Place For The First And Second Budget Public Hearings As Required By Law; Directing The Finance Director To File Said Resolution With The Property Appraiser Of Monroe County Pursuant To The Requirements Of Florida Statutes And The Rules And Regulations Of The Department Of Revenue Of The State Of Florida; And Providing For An Effective Date**

Johnson read the resolution and section one of the resolution into the record.

**Section 1.** The proposed millage is declared to be 2.3434 mills, which is \$2.3434 per \$1,000.00 of assessed property within the City of Marathon, Florida. The proposed millage is 13.59% greater than the rolled back rate.

The Mayor opened public comment, hearing none, closed public comments.

**MOTION:** Landry moved to set the millage at 2.3434  
**SECOND:** Still

**Vote of the Motion:**

City of Marathon  
City Council Action Minutes  
July 22, 2025 5:30 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

AYES: Landry, Still, Smith  
NOES: Matlock, DelGaizo  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

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

**Council Comments**


Still commented that the City will be hosting a food truck Jamboree in the park behind City Hall on August 27<sup>th</sup> and asked for head nods to hold the event on City property. The Council gave head nods for approval. Landry thanked Carlos Garcia, the PIO, for his work towards transparency.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Landry adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of July 22, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Clavier, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date