

CALL TO ORDER - A Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on January 31, 2022, in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Bartus called the special call meeting to order at noon.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL - There were present:

Councilmember Steve Cook

Councilmember Gonzalez

Vice Mayor Dr. Daniel Zieg

Mayor John Bartus, comprising a quorum

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

Attorney, Steve Williams

Planning Director Brian Shea

Utilities Director Dan Saus

Fire Chief John Johnson

Public Information Officer Sara Matthis

Monroe County Sherriff Office Captain Don Hiller

Bartus asked the Council what procedure they would like to follow. Cook asked if the Council could speak first. Cook commented that 648 voters cast a ballot for Del Gaizo but 2,000 did not vote for Del Gaizo, and some things did not sit right with him. In his opinion, there had been suggestions of impropriety and he informed Del Gaizo he would not vote for her in this process and asked Del Gaizo to campaign for the position.

Jody Del Gaizo aka Lynny Thompson – addressed Councilmember Cook explaining that although this was awkward, she understood where he was coming from, as she had heard rumors as well, but times that by three. Del Gaizo explained she was a fifty-year resident of Marathon and graduated from Marathon High School and attended Florida Keys Community College, she was a self-claimed workaholic, a successful businessperson, and commented on her leadership skills and her follow thru.

Robyn Still commented that she devoted her adult life to public service and appreciated the Council's time.

Zieg questioned what Cook was talking about regarding impropriety. Cook explained he kept hearing that the Council already selected a candidate. Zieg explained that the Council had been in a stalemate, so that could not be true.

Cook commented that it doesn't matter how many years someone has been living in Marathon, and Robyn Still has been his obvious choice and the perfect choice.

Bartus commented that both applicants are wonderful people.

Citizen Comments

Ingrid Tyree – explained she did not have a problem with either candidate, but Del Gaizo had not been in politics in the fifty years she had lived here, and Still is vested in the City.

Diane Scott – commented this is a small town and we should not be here today and suggested the Mayor should be the one to choose who the next Councilmember should be, and she does not trust drawing straws.

Roll Called for Lynny Thompson Del Gaizo:

Councilmember Cook	No
Councilmember Gonzalez	Yes
Vice Mayor Zieg	Yes
Mayor Bartus	No

Roll Called for Robyn Still:

Councilmember Cook	Yes
Councilmember Gonzalez	No
Vice Mayor Zieg	No
Mayor Bartus	Yes

Williams explained the law allows us to pull names from a hat, flip a coin, use bingo balls – any method where there is no opportunity for skill and no bias in the outcome; where it is truly a 50-50 chance and referenced a recent example in Chiefland Florida where the tie in the election was resolved by drawing straws.

Cook questioned the consequences of violating the charter by not choosing anyone and let the electors decide in November. Williams explained the consequences of violating the charter would be referred to the City Manager, the Council's employee. Williams explained if the Council violated the charter, how would he argue anyone else should follow our charter.

City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
January 31, 2022 12:00 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Zieg moved to flip a coin.

SECOND: Gonzalez

Vote of the Motion:

Yes: Zieg, Gonzalez, Cook, Bartus

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

Wendy Bonilla supplied a Navy coin to flip. The Council decided the side that had a trident would be "heads". Captain Hiller tossed the coin and after some confusion, it was declared that Still had won the toss.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Bartus adjourned the meeting at 12:33 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of January 31, 2022.


Diane Clavier, City Clerk


Date