

City of Marathon  
City Council Action Minutes  
September 21, 2023 5:05 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER** - A Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on September 12, 2023 in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember Landry

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Smith

Vice Mayor Still

Mayor Gonzalez, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

City Attorney, Steve Williams

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Public Works Director, Carlos Solis

Parks & Rec Director, Paul Davis

Deputy Utilities Director, Libby Soldano

Building Official, Gerard Roussin

Code Director, Ted Lozier

Marina Director, Sean Cannon

Grants Coordinator, Maria Covelli

HR Director, Diana Naylor

Monroe County Sherriff's Officer

Fire Rescue Chief Johnson, Via Zoom

Mayor Gonzalez recognized former City of Marathon Councilmember John Bartus and Former Monroe County Commissioner George Neugent.

### **Approval Of Agenda And Consent Agenda**

Still added that the week of October 16-20 is Be Like Mike Week, and there will be many opportunities to volunteer. Landry added Harbor and Quay Boat Ramp Discussion. Garrett added Resolution 2023-98 to the agenda.

**MOTION:** Still moved to approve the agenda as amended

**SECOND:** Landry

With no objection from the members of Council, Mayor Gonzalez declared the motion approved by unanimous consent.

### **Final Public Hearing to Adopt the Final Budget and Millage Rate**

**A. Resolution 2023-91, Adopting The Final Millage Rate and Levy Of Ad Valorem Taxes For The City Of Marathon of Monroe County, Florida For The Fiscal Year 2023-2024; and Providing For An Effective Date.**

Johnson explained the millage rate is 2.447 mills which is equal to the roll back rate. Johnson explained the General fund is significantly supported by our ad-valorem revenues and this millage rate will generate about 9.8 million of revenues for the general fund explained Johnson. Johnson informed everyone of the additional positions for Code, Fire, Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments as well as increased insurance premiums and communication costs. Johnson explained the capital infrastructure plan, which includes \$565,000 for City Hall improvements, \$1.5 million for the 7-Mile Marina, \$600,000 for the 7-Mile Park improvements, \$560,000 for Ocean Front Park improvements, \$3,187,773 for road and bridge improvements, \$400,000 for new fire hydrants, \$2.582 million for the Quay property as well as transfers to the General, Vehicle Replacement, Debt Service and Stormwater funds. The overall tentative FY2024 budget including all city funds is \$107,349,361.

The Mayor called for speakers.

Brian Schmitt – Congratulated the Council on getting to rollback and mentioned that Marathon was the only jurisdiction to receive rollback and the City has the greater percentage of affordable housing and this is all possible because of staff.

Geoge Neugent – Commented that he was proud of what the City had achieved and paying staff what they need to be paid. Neugent commented that the City has done a fantastic job on affordable housing and the new construction on US1, the Quay entrance and at the other end the 7-mile Marina as well as 33<sup>rd</sup> Street project.

John Bartus – Congratulated the City on rollback and a great staff and that hopefully adopting the scenarios that give the most reward to staff and retaining staff.

Gonzalez explained we started at 9.0 CPI based on the April numbers then they trended down to 6.9 and last week trended up to 7.8. We decided when it went down, we would look at it again. Any raise we give tonight would not be unjust to our taxpayers.

Matlock agreed with the raises the entire time, and suggested people making under \$50,000 or \$60,000 should get a 10 -12 percent raise. Matlock also commented that we are adding three vacation rental positions, we could increase license fees and do away with the second-year discount.

Smith commented that adjustments to salaries were made in the middle of the year. Smith informed everyone that the national COLA for government workers was 5.5 percent. Smith said he spoke with a lot of business members who were floored at the increase, the cost of living is expensive, but it is not just our employees, just the salary increase alone is \$200 per resident, and suggested looking at a tiered system.

Landry expressed his concerns with top tier and lower tier employees, most people live on a budget, the COLA is to maintain buying power and stated we did not want to lose employees.

Still commented that on CBS news in Miami they stated that rent was up 15 percent and that was in Miami. We need to take care of the employees and show up for them.

Matlock commented that more people are leaving town because of rent hikes on the lower end tier, the fair thing to do is to bring the lower end up, we lose more people on this end.

Smith commented that housing and food are included in the COLA number, he has asked for HR reports and that is the only department not reporting. We have 38 days over a year in reserves.

**MOTION:** Gonzalez moved that based on our current COLA of 7.8% taking into consideration adding 2% to make it 9.8 % total and on top of that a \$1,500 merit at the discretion of the supervisor.

**SECOND:** Still

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Gonzalez, Still  
No: Matlock, Smith, Landry  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

**Vote on the Motion:** 2 Yes, 3 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

**MOTION:** Smith moved to use a 5.5% COLA plus a \$5,000 merit for top performers.

**SECOND:** Matlock

**Vote of the Motion:**

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Yes: Smith, Matlock  
No: Landry, Still, Gonzalez  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

**Vote on the Motion:** 2 Yes, 3 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

**MOTION:** Still moved for a COLA at 7% plus 2% plus a \$1,500 merit.  
**SECOND:** Gonzalez

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Still, Gonzalez, Matlock, Landry  
No: Smith  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

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

Johnson read Section 2 of the Resolution which states: The FY 2023-2024 final millage rate for the City of Marathon is 2.4477 mills, which is \$2.4477 for each thousand dollars of taxable assessed property value; and the final millage rate is equal the rolled-back rate of 2.4477 mills.

**MOTION:** Smith moved to approve Resolution 2023-91  
**SECOND:** Landry

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Smith, Landry, Matlock, Still, Gonzalez  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

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

**B. Resolution 2023-92,** Adopting The Final Budget For Fiscal Year 2023-2024; Authorizing The Expenditure Of Funds Established By The Budget; And Providing For An Effective Date.

**MOTION:** Smith moved to approve Resolution 2023-92  
**SECOND:** Landry

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Smith, Landry, Matlock, Still, Gonzalez  
No: None

Absent: None  
Abstain: None

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

### **Resolutions For Adoption**

**\*A. Resolution 2023-87**, Waiving the City’s Purchasing Policies and Approving The Purchase And Installation Of Security Equipment From Essential Net Solutions For Community Park In An Amount Not To Exceed \$41,456.85; Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into An Agreement In Connection Therewith, Expending Budgeted Funds; And Providing For An Effective Date. **(Pulled from 9/12 Agenda)**

**\*B. Resolution 2023-93**, Approving Change Order #3 To The Contract With Reynolds Construction In An Amount Not To Exceed \$10,536.38 For The WWTP 7 For Installing A Privacy Fence On The Elevated Slab, Including A Time Change For The Substantial Completion For The Project For WWTP 5; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Contract And Appropriate Budgeted Funds On Behalf Of The City; And Providing For An Effective Date.

**\*C. Resolution 2023-94**, Accepting The Responsible Proposal And Approving A Contract Under Our Continuous Service Contract With Chris Tel Construction. In An Amount Not To Exceed \$47,864.00 For Pre-Construction Services For The Quay Restroom; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Contract And Expend Budgeted Funds On Behalf Of The City; And Providing For An Effective Date.

**D. Resolution 2023-95**, Ratifying The Collective Bargaining Agreement Between The City Of Marathon Florida And The Professional Firefighters of Marathon, International Association Of Firefighters Local 4396, Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Agreement On Behalf Of The City; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Garrett explained the modifications and that any changes would require the agreement to come back to the Council for a super majority vote. Williams commented that it was a pleasure to work with the fire fighters and we were able to clean some things up, the Chief was instrumental in completing the agreement.

Firefighter Goodwin – thanked the Council and commented that the raises were needed and will help us keep people in the department.

The Council thanked the Fire Department for all that they do.

**MOTION:** Still moved approval of Resolution 2023-95  
**SECOND:** Gonzalez

**Vote of the Motion:**  
Yes: Still, Gonzalez, Landry, Matlock, Smith

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No: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

**E. Resolution 2023-96**, Declaring The Intention Of The City to Consider Adoption Of An Ordinance Amending the City’s Land Development Regulations Relating to Chapter 102, Article 13, Conditional Use Permits, Section 102.74 “Application Process,” Chapter 103, Article 3, Table 103.15.1, “Uses By Zoning District,” Chapter 104, Article 1, Section 104.51.1 Titled “Single-Family Dwellings (7 Bedrooms or More),” And Chapter 110, Article 3; Declaring Zoning In Progress For A Period of Three Hundred And Sixty-Five Days Or Until The Adoption Of An Ordinance, Whichever Shall Occur First; Directing The Planning Department To Study And Recommend Amendments To The City’s Land Development Regulations Related to Large Single Family Home Residential Developments; Providing For Public Notice Of Zoning In Progress And Required Compliance; Providing That From The Date Of Adoption Of This Resolution And During The Pendency Of Consideration Of Such Ordinance By The City, The City Will Not Process Or Approve Development Applications Related To Large Single Family Home Residential Developments; Providing For Severability; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Williams explained that as requested at the last meeting we are bringing this forward.

**MOTION:** Landry moved approval of Resolution 2023-96  
**SECOND:** Smith

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Landry, Smith, Matlock, Still, Gonzalez  
No: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None

**\*F. Resolution 2023-97**, Expressing Opposition To Consolidation Of Judicial Circuits, Specifically The Consolidation Of The 16th And 11th Circuits; And Providing For An Effective Date

**G. Resolution 2023-98**, Approving The Inventory Of City Owned Real Property That May Be Appropriate For Affordable Housing; Pursuant To 166.0451, F.S.; And Directing Staff To Post The List On The City Website.

Shea explained there was a typo and the last five properties on the list would come off the list.

**MOTION:** Smith, moved approval of Resolution 2023-98 as modified  
**SECOND:** Landry

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Smith, Landry, Matlock, Still, Gonzalez  
No: None  
Absent: None

Abstain: None

**7. List of Contract Agreements**

Garrett explained how we procure projects and we have adopted our own policies and procedures. The larger projects have a staff review committee and some contracts we can extend. Smith thanked Garrett for the list. Matlock commented that he was going to take Resolution 2023-87 off consent because this purchase was already approved without going out to bid. Garrett explained it was an error and we are correcting it.

**8. Legislative Priorities**

Garrett explained he would be bringing back a fully edited version of his memorandum and will fill in details as time goes on. Garrett explained we have two state lobbyists and a federal lobbyist, and he is looking into bringing on Southern Group as well as we are facing serious insurance burdens. Garrett gave an overview of federal and state initiatives.

**9. Harbor Boat Ramp and Quay (Landry)**

Landry suggested putting another boat ramp on the Quay property. Matlock agreed that we could make the ramp way more efficient and was in favor of looking at a new layout. Gonzalez asked that staff research adding an additional ramp and look at the different options that may work. Garrett informed everyone he did a graphic that may work, and B & A engineers are looking into it. We are already looking at it, we have \$800,000 plus in grants and we would run the possibility of losing those grants. Smith asked to make sure the new bathroom would not get in the way of anything, and he would like to see another ramp on the ocean side. Landry commented that the issue is boat ramp to launch quickly.

The council thanked Johnson and the staff.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of September 21, 2023

  
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Diane Clavier, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date