

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Call Virtual Zoom Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on September 22, 2020, Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL - There were present:

Councilmember John Bartus

Councilmember Mark Senmartin

Councilmember Dr. Daniel Zieg

Vice Mayor Luis Gonzalez

Mayor Steve Cook, comprising a quorum

Also in attendance were:

City Manager, Charles Lindsey

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

Planning Director, George Garrett

Fire Chief John Johnson

Public Works Director, Carlos Solis

Attorney Steve Williams

Code Compliance Director, Doug Lewis

Parks and Recreation Director, Paul Davis

Marina Director, Sean Cannon

Utilities Director, Dan Saus

Cody Ward, Paralegal

Mayor Cook read the call-in instructions for public comments. And asked for a moment of silence for Former Associate Justice Ruth Ginsburg.

Approval of Agenda - Lindsey removed Resolution 2020-71 from the agenda.

MOTION: Zieg moved to approve the agenda as amended.

SECOND: Bartus

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

Resolution 2020-69, Adopting The Final Millage Rate and Levy Of Ad Valorem Taxes For The City Of Marathon of Monroe County, Florida For The Fiscal Year 2020-21; and Providing For An Effective Date.

Mayor Cook called for public comments; hearing none, closed public comments.

MOTION: Zieg moved to approve Resolution 2020-69

SECOND: Gonzalez

Vote on the Motion

Yes: Zieg, Gonzalez, Senmartin, Bartus, Cook

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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

Resolution 2020-70, Adopting The Final Budget For Fiscal Year 2020-2021; Authorizing The Expenditure Of Funds Established By The Budget; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Mayor Cook called for public comments; hearing none, closed public comments.

MOTION: Gonzalez moved to approve Resolution 2020-70

SECOND: Bartus

Senmartin explained there were a few numbers he did not understand and felt the numbers should be higher, such as public works equipment. Johnson and Solis explained the equipment costs would come out of the Street Maintenance Fund. Senmartin commented that the City could employ its own mechanic or two mechanics to save money since we have the Public Works Building. Solis explained we have a full-time routine maintenance in house, and the in-house person is working on a certification to work on the ambulances. Senmartin questioned why some merit raises were a higher percentage. Lindsey explained that the raises were based on merit evaluations and others are increases due to the disparities and a wage study. Lindsey gave an example of the permit techs needed to be increased and those positions are difficult to fill. Senmartin

commented that the budget for IT does not cover what needs to be done. Senmartin stated he was not happy with the IT provider and we were hit with ransomware. Lindsey explained we have even stronger security now, and there was nothing our contractors could have done to stop it from happening, we are as good as we can be. Senmartin suggested a shade session to discuss how to prevent this in the future. Senmartin also mentioned that the TV channel broadcast has nothing on it. Lindsey informed everyone there was funding in the budget for a part time person

Vote on the Motion

Yes: Gonzalez, Bartus, Senmartin, Zieg, Cook

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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

Five Year Capital Improvement Program – Lindsey commented that the Council was provided with the list of improvements, and there is nothing the Council needs to vote on tonight. Johnson explained it is a pay as you go plan, and explained the long list of unfunded projects which included the following: permanent debris site, Fire station 16 on the South end of town, 33rd Street multi use facility and rec center, Community park improvements: Skate Park rebuild, Concession stand window modification, phase 3 – 69 parking spaces. Also bike trail and boardwalk at the salt ponds, board walk/observation platform/kayak docs/docks at Tropical Blvd., Coco Plum Beach, Boot Key Acquisition, Boot Key improvements (kayak dock, etc.), Fire Rescue boat, Swimming Pool/Splash Pad.

Gonzalez suggested moving things around at the Park to accommodate a splash pad.

Lindsey explained the challenge of prioritizing with limited funds, the nice to haves get overshadowed by needs such as a permanent debris site. Lindsey also mentioned the skate park was a challenge as it always needs repairs and explained the ways the City funds for future projects. Lindsey explained we need to know where we would put a splash pad first and the second part is the recurring maintenance.

Senmartin suggested to ask staff where to put the splash pad and then decide to move forward or not. The only option to fund seems to be a loan, and interest rates are low now.

Zieg suggested to consider approaching the Dolphin Research Center to help us sponsor our residents for an annual pass at their splash pad would be less expensive. Cook commented on the conversation last year of subsidizing Crane Point Hammock as they were interested in having a splash pad. Garrett informed everyone Crane Hammock has been dealing with the Covid situation and trying to stay afloat, but they are still interested. Bartus commented that he knew Charlotte Quinn was still interested, and in need of funds and he would like the splash pad elevated on the list closer to the top. Lindsey suggested that staff would identify a location and put out to RFP and he would

bring it back before Council with the understanding that we have no funding. He would look at Community and Rotary Parks.

MOTION: Senmartin moved to direct staff to identify a location, costs, and loan information for a splash pad.

SECOND: Gonzalez

Vote on the Motion

Yes: Senmartin, Gonzalez, Bartus, Zieg, Cook

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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

Johnson commented that capital infrastructure sales tax took a huge hit and loans affect our bonds, we must have a revenue stream for.

Lindsey asked for any other projects the Council wanted on the list.

Cook suggested boat ramp properties and everyone agreed. Senmartin commented that FKEC was putting in a ramp and suggested a partnership.

Davis suggested a work area and storage for workshops and golfcarts.

Bartus suggested when redoing the skate park, use concrete.

Solis suggested an additional ocean side boat ramp and having a metal building in the park for storage/work area and a debris site needs to be a priority. Saus echoed thoughts on another boat ramp.

Citizen Comments:

Chelsie Lyons – commented she felt a splash pad should be a priority, families are leaving because there are not enough amenities in town.

Laura Chapman Taylor – commented that a splash pad is needed and wanted.

Natalie Campbell – spoke for a splash pad.

Council Comments:

Bartus thanked staff, department heads, finance director and manager.

Senmartin thanked Lindsey, Johnson, staff and stated he wanted to make sure we have the tools needed to succeed.

City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
September 22, 2020 5:05 pm City Council Budget Meeting Minutes

Zieg thanked Lindsey and staff, especially Johnson for all her hard work.

Gonzalez thanked Lindsey, Johnson, and department heads.

Cook welcomed Steve Williams as our legal counsel and thanked staff, MCSO, Marathon Fire Rescue, FWC, USCG, Governor DeSantis, Lindsey and Johnson.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Cook adjourned the meeting at 6:12 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the Council special call budget meeting of September 22, 2020

Diane Clavier
Diane Clavier, City Clerk

10/14/2020
Date