

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Call Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on July 19, 2021 at the Marathon Council Chambers Marathon, Florida, Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL - There were present:

Councilmember John Bartus

Councilmember Steve Cook

Vice Mayor Mark Senmartin

Absent Councilmember Dr. Daniel Zieg

Mayor Luis Gonzalez, comprising a quorum

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

Deputy City Clerk, Hillary Palmer

City Attorney, Steve Williams

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Gonzalez thanked staff for holding the meeting and mentioned the Planning Commission Meeting will take place directly following at 5:30pm. The Mayor encouraged everyone to participate in the peaceful protest after the meeting outside at City Hall.

John Dick, Monroe County School Board Chairman gave a speech stating he is embarrassed by the slow and weak response for the fight for freedom in Cuba. He thanked Council for the meeting and resolution and spoke against socialism/communism in America. He spoke for the freedoms in democracy in America and spoke on his personal history in the United States Army and fighting for rights and freedom. He supported Cuba in the quest for their freedom.

Gonzalez recognized Sheriff Rick Ramsay in the audience.

Michelle Coldiron, Monroe County Mayor spoke in support of Cuba's freedom. She spoke in favor of the Cuban population in Marathon and the Florida Keys. She stated the Keys should stand together in

support of Cuba's quest for freedom and liberties. She stated Monroe County Commissioners will pass a resolution in support of Cubans and support the freed and liberty quest for Cuba.

Rick Ramsay, Monroe County Sheriff thanked everyone for having him. He stated is proud the City is taking a stance in support of Cuba. He explained it is important to send messages to Cuba that we support their freedoms. He spoke on the willingness of Cubans to sacrifice their life for freedom. He supports peaceful protests for Cuba and the movement for a better life and non-communist Country.

Council Comments

Bartus spoke for rights to peacefully protest and read a excerpt from the Declaration of Independence in reference to the situation in Cuba. He spoke on the poor living conditions in Cuba and encouraged the public to write to the members of congress, etc. in Washington to support Cuba's quest for freedom.

Senmartin spoke on the good family values of Cubans and supported the Cuban quest for freedom. He also encouraged the citizens to reach out to elected officials in Washington for support.

Gonzalez spoke on the pain and suffering the Cubans are going through and have gone through the past sixty two years. He spoke on the sacrifice the Cubans have made for freedom. He thanked fellow City Councilmembers and community leaders for their support. He called for his son Joey Gonzalez to read a statement into the record in Spanish.

Joey Gonzalez read a statement into the record in Spanish.

Palmer read the resolution into the record.

Resolution 2021-55, A Resolution of City of Marathon, Florida, In Support Of Peaceful Protests For Democracy And Liberty In Cuba; And Providing For An Effective Date.

MOTION: Bartus moved to approve Resolution 2021-55.

SECOND: Senmartin

Vote of the Motion:

Yes: Bartus, Senmartin, Cook, Gonzalez

No: None

Absent: Zieg

Abstain: None

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

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM by unanimous consent.

City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
July 19, 2021 City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the Special Call Council meeting of July 19, 2021.


Hillary Palmer, Deputy City Clerk


Date