

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Special Call Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on September 9, 2021 in the City Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Gonzalez called the Meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

A tribute to Mike Forster was read by John Bartus

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember John Bartus

Councilmember Steve Cook

Councilmember Dr. Daniel Zieg

Vice Mayor Mark Senmartin attended electronically.

Mayor Luis Gonzalez, comprising a quorum

Also in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Attorney, Steve Williams

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

Public Works Director, Carlos Solis

**MOTION:** Cook moved to accept Senmartin's attendance and participation via Zoom

**SECOND:** Bartus

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

Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** Bartus moved to approve the agenda

**SECOND:** Zieg

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

**Resolution 2021-68**, Adopting The Tentative Millage Rate and Levy Of Ad Valorem Taxes For The City Of Marathon, Florida For The Fiscal Year 2021-22; and Providing For An Effective Date.

The Clerk read into the record: **Section 2.** The FY 2021-2022 tentative millage rate for the City is 2.77 mills, which is \$2.77 for each thousand dollars of taxable assessed property value; and the tentative millage rate is greater than the rolled-back rate of 2.4712 mills by 12.9%.

Jennifer Johnson explained the tentative millage rate that we are seeking approval of is for 2.77 mills. The tentative rate is 12.09% higher than our roll-back rate of 2.4712 mills. This millage rate will generate about \$8.3M of revenues for our general fund. Johnson informed everyone the proposed FY22 budget includes appropriations for staff merit raises, employee benefit insurance increases, increased IT subscriptions, security surveillance at various park locations and increased professional services.

Johnson advised that overall, the FY22 general fund revenues and expenditures are projected to be approximately \$15.1M for a balanced budget with a planned use of mitigation reserves for landscaping projects of approximately \$390,000, and an increase in the unreserved fund balance of approximately \$312,000. Johnson informed everyone we are projected to end the year with \$13.3M, or 10.53 months in reserves. This is 44 days short of our 12-month reserve target in the General Fund, but is greater than our reserves prior to Hurricane Irma.

Johnson conveyed the following to the Council:

Special Revenue Funds & Enterprise Funds

- The Building, Street Maintenance, Marina and Utilities Funds are budgeting to continue the existing level of services the City currently provides.
- \$200,000 of appropriations in the affordable housing fund to continue to the first-time home buyer loan program.
- Approximately \$1.3M for the debt service fund for payments on the City's TD bank bond & the final payment on the Quay property purchase.
- \$5,000,000 for the home buyback program funded by a CDBG grant.

The Capital Infrastructure budget included appropriations for;

- Bridge Improvements at 117<sup>th</sup> st, 116<sup>th</sup> st, 112<sup>th</sup> st and Coco Plum Playground Equipment at Rotary Park
- Sunshades and Playground Equipment at Community Park
- Fitness court at Community Park
- Amphitheater Rehabilitation at Community Park
- Community Park Office and equipment storage facility
- A Restroom Facility at the Quay property, partially funded by a TDC grant

- Continued annual transfers to the General Fund, vehicle replacement reserves and Stormwater fund
- 1<sup>st</sup> of 30 annual maintenance payments for the old 7 mile bridge project.

The Stormwater Utility will utilize the stewardship funding, for canal & culvert restoration work.

Notable capital projects in the Wastewater Utility include;

- SA 3 to SA4 re-pump and force main or digester/SBR conversion project
- SA6 Dewatering Project - funded by a Stewardship grant
- Over \$6M in various mitigation projects funded by a CDBG-DR grant

Bartus thanked Johnson for doing such a great job and reminded everyone that infrastructure projects are funded by sales tax revenues, and the City is maintaining the same level of service and building our reserves.

Zieg thanked Johnson for working so hard and commented that the cost of gas and lumber has gone up along with other goods and services. Zieg asked Johnson the rates of other Florida Cities. Johnson commented that Ft. Lauderdale was at 8 mills, Key Largo was at 3 mills.

Senmartin thanked Johnson and stated he was good with 2.77 mills.

Cook thanked Johnson and recalled that four years ago plus ten days the six months of reserves we had were depleted due to Irma's destruction.

Gonzales commented that Johnson did an outstanding job, and he was fully in support of building our reserves but if there was anything that could make a difference, to please take another look at the budget.

**MOTION:** Zieg moved to approve Resolution 2021-68

**SECOND:** Bartus

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

**Vote on the Motion**

Yes: Bartus, Zieg, Cook, Senmartin, Gonzalez

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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

**Resolution 2021-69** Adopting The Tentative Budget For Fiscal Year 2021-2022; and Providing For An Effective Date.

The clerk read into the record:

**WHEREAS**, the City has set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the tentative operating budget for FY 2021-2022 in the amount of \$99,471,586.00.

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

**MOTION:** Bartus, moved to approve Resolution 2021-69

**SECOND:** Zieg

**Vote on the Motion**

Yes: Bartus, Zieg, Cook, Senmartin, Gonzalez

No: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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

**Council Comments:**

Cook thanked staff, Jennifer Johnson, MCSO, MFR, FWC, and USCG and thanked everyone who has kept us safe for the last twenty years.

Zieg echoed Cook's comments and commented that this Saturday would be the twenty year anniversary of 9/11 and don't ever forget.

Senmartin thanked Jennifer Johnson

Bartus echoed the comments and reminded everyone of the ceremony at the fire department beginning at 8 am. Bartus wished God speed to Mike Forster


Gonzalez thanked Johnson and staff and invited everyone to the 9/11 ceremony and reminded everyone to practice social distancing and safety from Covid.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 5:28 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the Council special call budget meeting of September 9, 2021

  
Diane Clavier, City Clerk

  
Date