

CALL TO ORDER - A Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on January 24, 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

Monroe County Sherriff Office Captain Don Hiller

Monroe County Sherriff Office Lieutenant Mark Jones

Approval of Agenda & Consent Agenda

MOTION: Gonzalez moved to approve the agenda.

SECOND: Cook

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

Garrett explained the Council had 30 days to fill the position, Garrett stated he emailed a suggested process in which the Council would allow all the candidates to speak, in alphabetical order providing their background and reasons for applying. Garrett questioned if the Council wanted to hear the late candidate. Garrett explained the nominee process and informed everyone nominations are not votes. Cook recommended doing exactly what was suggested. Zieg suggested to whittle down the list first and suggested having a single nominee per Councilmember. Gonzalez commented he wanted to hear from all

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the applicants and provide two nominations. Gonzalez explained when you run for office, if you are one minute late, you are out of luck with the supervisor of elections, as they will not accept.

MOTION: Gonzalez moved to remove Kevin Mccauley from consideration because of tardiness.

SECOND: Zieg

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

Wendy Bonilla – gave background and reasons why she should be appointed to the City Council.

Eric Buhyoff – gave his background and explained he had no conflicts and explained he thought the government should not be involved in affordable housing, should not have a public information officer or a swimming pool. Buhyoff commented on vacation rentals as well, the trash and noise and enforcement.

Jody Del Gaizo aka Lynny Thompson – explained she had become very involved and learned a lot along the way when she ran for the City Council seat. Thompson remarked she received 30 percent of the votes and votes do count.

Kristina Helms – was not present

John Lefner – was not present

Michael Leonard – was not present

Jeff Pinkus – explained his past involvement and experience. Pinkus remarked the learning experience begins when you are on the Council.

Jerry Rojas commented that his rent was raised 60 percent, he is going through the same issues as others, and has trouble hiring and retaining employees. Rojas withdrew himself from consideration.

Mark Senmartin – explained he would be the best as he is an experienced Councilmember.

Robyn Still – explained she was invested in the City and County, she has her own home and business and spent her adult life in public service and planned on running for City Council.

Richard Tamborrino – explained his knowledge and personal traits would make him a great choice for City Council.

Alexander Taylor – was not present

Citizen Comments

Roger Hall – spoke regarding his building permit. Bartus asked that he get with staff as that is not part of this discussion today.

Diane Scott - suggested the Council pick someone who has already been on the Council such as Jeff Pinkus or Mark Senmartin.

Zieg commented that he thought this would have been settled at the last Council meeting, 60 days after the election. Zieg commented that he had received emails, and spoke to applicants, many times hearing the same two statements that the person wanted to run in November of 2021 but didn't and that the person plans to run in November of 2022. Zieg explained it is simple, the reason we are all sitting here is the same. We campaigned until election day, then the voters decided. There is only one applicant who campaigned and that was rated third by nearly 700 voters in a two-seat race. Zieg explained if a persons long standing issues had become public a few weeks earlier, we would not be here today. Zieg asked that the nearly 700 voters' choice be respected rather than the four of us choosing someone, we can't tell them their votes do not count, but our four votes do.

Gonzalez thanked all the applicants and explained the last several weeks have been amazing. Gonzalez thanked all the citizens who wanted to be part of the process. Gonzalez explained an edge is earned by commitment.

Cook commented that we had a recent election and the people spoke. Cook disagreed with Gonzalez and Zieg. Cook commented that he voted for Del Gaizo in the last election, but the voters wanted someone new.

Bartus thanked everyone who applied and urged everyone that if they did not make it, to please run in November.

The Councilmembers nominated the following applicants: Wendy Bonilla, Jody Del Gaizo aka Lynny Thompson, Jeff Pinkus, and Robyn Still.

Roll Called for Wendy Bonilla:

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

Roll Called for Lynny Thompson Del Gaizo:

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

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Williams explained a majority vote was needed.

Roll Called for Jeff Pinkus:

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

Roll Called for Robyn Still:

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

Del Gaizo/Thompson addressed the Council again explaining she would be honored to serve on the Council, she loves the community, and she learned a lot when she ran for office, she grew up in Marathon, she has great ideas and is a team player and has her own mind and makes her own decisions.

Still addressed the Council again and spoke of her character, commitment and she has spoken with some of the department heads at the City.

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

Zieg commented that we cannot tell almost 700 voters we don't care what you want; we need to respect the will of the voters, we have one candidate that campaigned. Everyone should run in November.

Cook disagreed.

Bartus commented that we are in a position only a few councilmembers have been in in the past.

Bartus called for a five-minute recess at 1:00 pm and called the meeting back to order at 1:06 pm.

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The candidates were asked if they would like to do a coin toss. Both candidates declined.

Bartus questioned if there were any other possible ways to resolve the stalemate and asked the Council to consider a coin toss.

MOTION: Cook moved to flip a coin.

SECOND: Bartus

Vote on the Motion:

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

MOTION: Bartus moved to continue this discussion at a special call meeting on January 31st at noon to consider the two candidates.

SECOND: Gonzalez

Vote on the Motion:

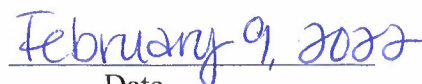
Councilmember Cook	Yes
Councilmember Gonzalez	Yes
Vice Mayor Zieg	Yes
Mayor Bartus	Yes

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Bartus adjourned the meeting at 1:12 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of January 24, 2022.


Diane Clavier, City Clerk


Date