

COUNCIL AGENDA STATEMENT



Meeting Date: August 8, 2023
To: Honorable Mayor & Members of the City Council
From: Dan Saus, Utilities Director
Through: George Garrett, City Manager

Agenda Item: **Resolution 2023-68**, Impose And Provide For Collection Of Wastewater Special Assessments For Service Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 And 7 (Including The Supplemental Assessment Program) For Fiscal Year Commencing October 1, 2023; Approving The Assessment Roll; Providing For Collection Of The Assessments; And Providing For An Effective Date.

BACKGROUND & JUSTIFICATION:

These resolutions will continue the City’s assessment programs for construction of the wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Annually, Government Services Group (GSG) updates the assessment rolls and submits to the Monroe County tax collector on behalf of the City.

The assessment for the Supplemental Assessment is \$566 (\$462/EDU+\$104/Connection). The assessments for Service Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are \$508 (\$415/EDU+\$93/Connection). The supplemental assessment program includes properties that were missed on the initial assessment programs.

The annual public hearing has been advertised to take place at this City Council meeting, August 8, 2023. The public hearing allows property owners an opportunity to address the City Council about the assessment program. Following approval by the Council, the assessment rolls will be delivered to the Monroe County Tax Collector for the 2023 taxable year as a non-ad valorem assessment.

CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST:

	Yes	No
1. Comprehensive Plan	<u>X</u>	___
2. Other – 2010 Sewer Mandate	<u>X</u>	___
3. Not applicable	___	___

FISCAL NOTE:

The resolutions will allow the City to collect non-ad valorem assessments through the tax collector.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval of Resolutions

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-68

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT FACILITIES WITHIN SERVICE AREAS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & SUPPLEMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AREA IN THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA; IMPOSING THE ANNUAL WASTEWATER SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2023; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF THE ASSESSMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Marathon, Florida (the “City”), has enacted Article IV of Chapter 24 of the Marathon City Code (the “Code”), to provide for the creation of assessment areas and authorize the imposition of special assessments to fund the construction of local improvements to serve the property located therein; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of a Wastewater Service Assessment for wastewater collection and treatment services, facilities and programs is an equitable and efficient method of allocating and apportioning Wastewater Costs among parcels of Assessable Property located in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted Resolution 2008-96, (the “SA 4 & 6 Initial Assessment Resolution”), creating Service Areas 4 & 6 and describing the method of assessing the cost of Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities against the real property specially benefited thereby, and directing preparation of the tentative Assessment Roll and provision of the notices required by the Code; and

WHEREAS, after hearing comments and receiving objections of all interested parties at a duly noticed public hearing the City adopted Resolution 2008-107 imposing an Assessment Program to fund the Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities against the properties located in Service Areas 4 & 6, confirming their creation, approving the Assessment Roll and providing for the collection of the assessments within Service Areas 4 & 6 (the “SA 4 & 6 Final Assessment Resolution”); and

WHEREAS, the City adopted Resolution 2009-66, (the “SA 1, 3, 5 & 7 Initial Assessment Resolution”), creating Service Areas 1, 3, 5, & 7 and describing the method of assessing the cost of Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities against the real property specially benefited thereby, and directing preparation of the tentative Assessment Roll and provision of the notices required by the Code; and

WHEREAS, after hearing comments and receiving objections of all interested parties at a duly noticed public hearing the City adopted Resolution 2009-90, imposing an Assessment Program to fund the Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities against the properties

located in Service Areas 1, 3, 5, & 7, confirming their creation, approving the Assessment Roll and providing for the collection of the assessments within Service Areas 1, 3, 5, & 7 (the “SA 1, 3, 5, & 7 Final Assessment Resolution”); and

WHEREAS, the City adopted Resolution 2011-49, the Initial Assessment Resolution for the Supplemental Assessment Program (the “Initial Assessment Resolution”), creating the Supplemental Assessment Program Area and describing the method of assessing the cost of Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities against the real property specially benefited thereby, and directing preparation of the tentative Assessment Roll and provision of the notices required by the Code; and

WHEREAS, after hearing comments and receiving objections of all interested parties at a duly noticed public hearing the City adopted Resolution 2011-59 imposing a Supplemental Assessment Program to fund the Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities against the properties located in the Supplemental Assessment Program Area, confirming its creation, approving the Assessment Roll and providing for the collection of the assessments within the Supplemental Assessment Program area (the “Final Assessment Resolution”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Code, the City is required to adopt an Annual Assessment Resolution for each fiscal year to approve the assessment rolls for such fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution shall serve as the Annual Assessment Resolution for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, and the properties in Service Areas, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, & Supplemental Assessment Program will be subject to the previously established special assessment amounts for the Assessment Programs; and

WHEREAS, as required by the Code the Assessment Roll has been filed with the office of the City Manager, and a notice of public hearing has been published; the proof of publication being attached hereto as Exhibit “A.”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the Code, the SA 4 & 6 Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions, Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions, the SA 1, 3, 5, & 7 Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions & Supplemental Assessment Resolutions, Section 166.021 and 166.041, *Florida Statutes*, and other applicable provisions of law.

Section 2. This Resolution is the Annual Assessment Resolution as defined in the Code. All capitalized terms in this Resolution shall have the meanings defined in the Code, and the SA 4 & 6 Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions, the Little Venice Service Area Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions, the SA 1, 3, 5 & 7 Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions & Supplemental Assessment Resolutions.

Section 3. (A) The Tax Parcels described in the updated Assessment Roll are hereby found to be specially benefited by construction of the Wastewater Improvements in the

amount of the maximum annual Assessment set forth in the Assessment Roll. The methodology for computing annual Assessments described in the SA 4 & 6 Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions, Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions, the SA 1, 3, 5 & 7 Initial and Final Assessment Resolutions & Supplemental Assessment Resolutions, as amended, is hereby approved. The updated Assessment Roll includes additional EDUs assessed against various properties pursuant to a written agreement between the City and the property owners.

(B) For the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, Annual Assessments computed in the manner described in the SA 4 & 6 Initial Assessment Resolution and SA 1, 3, 5 & 7 Initial Assessment Resolution, as amended, are hereby levied and re-imposed on all Tax Parcels described in the Assessment Roll at a maximum annual rate of \$415.00 per EDU, and a maximum annual rate of \$93.00 per Connection for a period not to exceed 20 years, commencing in November 2008 for Service Areas 4 & 6 and November 2009 for Service Areas 1, 3, 5, & 7. For the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023,

(C) For the Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 2023, Annual Assessments computed in the manner described in the Supplemental Initial Assessment Resolution, as amended, are hereby levied and re-imposed on all Tax Parcels described in the Assessment Roll.

Section 4. The Assessment Roll for Service Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, Supplemental Assessment Resolutions currently on file with the City Manager and incorporated herein by reference is hereby approved.

Section 5. (A) The Assessments shall constitute a lien against assessed property equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, counties, district or municipal taxes and other non-ad valorem assessments. Except as otherwise provided by law, such lien shall be superior in dignity to other liens, titles, and claims, until paid. The lien shall be deemed perfected upon adoption by the Council of the Annual Assessment Resolution and shall attach to the property included on the Assessment Roll as of the prior January 1, the lien date for ad valorem taxes.

(B) As to any Tax Parcel that is acquired by a public entity through condemnation, negotiated sale or otherwise prior to adoption of the next Annual Assessment Resolution, the Adjusted Prepayment Amount shall constitute a lien against assessed property equal in rank and dignity with the liens of all state, county, district or municipal taxes and other non-ad valorem assessments. Except as otherwise provided by law, such lien shall be superior in dignity to all other titles and claims, until paid. The lien shall be deemed perfected upon adoption by the Council Annual Assessment Resolution and shall attach to the property included on the Assessment upon adoption of the Annual Assessment Resolution.

Section 6. The Assessments shall be collected pursuant to the Uniform Assessment Collection Act. Upon adoption of the Annual Assessment Resolution for each Fiscal Year, the City Manager shall cause the certification and delivery of the Assessment Roll to the Tax Collector by September 15, in the manner prescribed by the Uniform Assessment Collection Act.

Section 7. If any clause, section, or other part or application of this Resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or application, it shall affect the validity of the remaining portions or application of this Resolution.

Section 8. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 8th DAY OF AUGUST, 2023.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA

Luis Gonzalez, Mayor

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

(SEAL)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE
AND RELIANCE OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:**

Steve Williams, City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A"
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

THE CITIZEN

KEY WEST

The Florida Keys Only Daily Newspaper, Est. 1876
PO Box 1800, Key West FL 33041
P: (305) 292-7777 ext. 219 F: (305) 295-8025
legals@keysnews.com

CITY OF MARATHON
9805 OVERSEAS HWY
MARATHON FL 33050-3339

Account: 420015

Ticket: 3897129

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF MONROE

[legal.text]

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared

_____Melinda Prescott_____, who on oath says that he or she is

The legal advertising representative of the Key West Citizen, a five day newspaper published in Key West, in Monroe County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement, being a legal notice in the matter of _____ was published in said newspaper in the issues of:

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Affiant further says that the Key West Citizen is a newspaper published in Key West, in said Monroe County, Florida and that the said newspapers has heretofore been continuously published in said Monroe County, Florida Tuesday thru Saturday weekly, and has been entered as periodicals matter at the post office in Key West, in said Monroe County, Florida, for a period of 1 year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he or she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

Melinda Prescott
(Signature of Affiant)

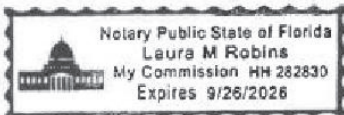
Affirmed and subscribed before me this 17th day of July 2023

Laura M Robins
(Notary Public Signature)

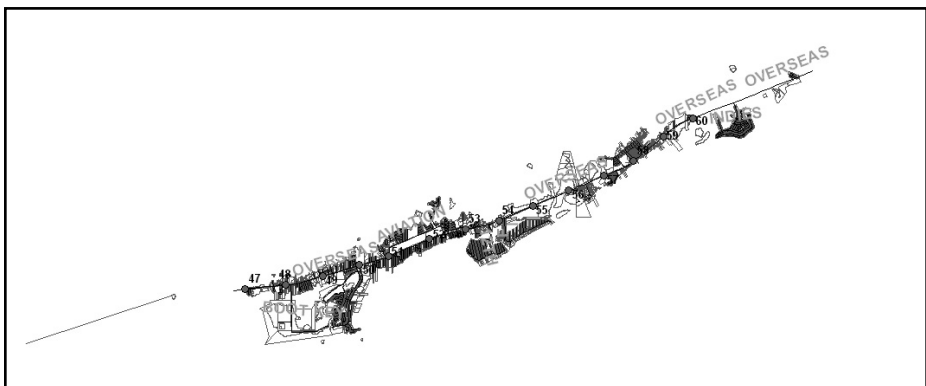
_____Laura M Robins_____
(Notary Public Printed Name)

My commission expires _____9/26/2026_____

Personally Known Produced Identification _____
Type of Identification Produced _____ (Notary Seal)_____



NOTICE OF HEARING TO IMPOSE AND PROVIDE FOR COLLECTION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR SERVICE AREAS 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 AND 7 (Including the Supplemental Assessment Program)



Notice is hereby given that the City of Marathon, Florida, will conduct a public hearing to receive public comment on the existing wastewater assessments against certain parcels of property located in the City and approve the special assessment roll for service areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (including the Supplemental Assessment Program). The hearing will be held at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, on August 8, 2023 at the City of Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida for the purpose of receiving public comment on the assessments and their collection on the tax bill. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this proceeding, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the City at (305) 289-4130, at least five days prior to the public hearing. All affected property owners have a right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections with the City within 20 days of this notice. If a person wishes to appeal any decision made by the City Council with respect to any matter considered at the hearing, such person will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be made.

The Assessments were originally imposed in 2008, 2009, and 2011 to fund construction of wastewater collection and treatment facilities. The assessment for each parcel of property is based, in part, on the number of equivalent dwelling units attributable to such parcel, and, in part, on the number of connections attributable to such parcel. Unless prepaid, the annual assessment will include your share of the principal, interest and collection cost. The maximum annual assessment is estimated to be \$415 per EDU and \$93 per Connection for Service Areas 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. A more specific description is set forth in the Initial Assessment Resolution adopted by the City Council on June 24, 2008 and June 9, 2009. Copies of the Initial Assessment Resolution, the plans and specifications for the wastewater collection and treatment facilities, and the preliminary Assessment Roll are available for inspection at the offices of the City Manager, located at 9805 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida.

The assessments will be collected on the ad valorem tax bill, as authorized by Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes. Failure to pay the assessments will cause a tax certificate to be issued against the property which may result in a loss of title. The City Council intends to collect the assessments in not to exceed twenty (20) annual assessments, the first of which was included on the ad valorem tax bill mailed in November 2009. Future annual assessments may be prepaid at the option of the property owner.

If you have any questions, please contact the Wastewater Utility at (305) 289-5005.

CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA