

City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
April 25, 2023 5:30 pm City Council Workshop Minutes

CALL TO ORDER - A Workshop of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on April 25, 2023 in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL - There were present:

Councilmember Landry

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Smith

Vice Mayor Still

Mayor 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

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Parks & Rec Director, Paul Davis

Public Works Director, Carlos Solis

Building Official, Gerard Roussin

Code Director, Ted Lozier

Monroe County Sherriff's Office Lt. Donny Barrios

Beautification Standards Discussion

Shea provided a staff report which included landscape standards, planting requirements, right-of-way and median standards, art in public places, design districts, street furniture, lighting standards and the vacant building registry.

Garrett explained the current landscape ordinance that is in place and the possibility of revising it to incorporate new requirements.

Shea asked Council if they want staff to pursue updating the draft landscape ordinance.

Council gave a head nod.

Shea asked Council if they want to incorporate art in public places into the budget and spoke on the grant requirements for murals and sculptures.

Council gave a head nod to incorporate art in public places into the budget.

Shea spoke on the possibility of updating the design standard guidelines.

Council discussion.

Garrett provided examples of design standard restrictions that are currently in place.

Shea spoke on the topic of street furniture and provided examples of other municipalities' choices. He emphasized the importance of spacing out the benches throughout the city and making sure they are uncomfortable to discourage public sleeping.

Shea spoke on lighting standards and noted the current standards in place are specific to the commercial properties.

Matlock commented he would like to prohibit motion sensor lighting on vacation rental properties.

Gonzalez agreed with Matlock and added the possibility of a curfew for outdoor lighting in general.

Shea asked for direction from Council regarding whether or not the City should allow a discount for permitting fees to recipients of the Chamber of Commerce Beautification Grant.

Gonzalez was in favor of the discount and Smith and Matlock were against it.

Shea explained the vacant building registry process to Council.

Still was in support of the registry and Matlock and Smith agreed only to only a voluntary registration.

Citizens Comments

Diane Scott spoke on the condition of the landscaping on Sombrero Boulevard and expressed the need for cleanup in that area. She spoke in favor of using the old Kmart building as a future recreation center.

Shea announced the City applied for a car charging station grant and suggested adding stations at the Community Park and City Hall if awarded.

Matlock asked how the payment for use of the stations would be collected.

Shea explained there would be payment meters at the car charging stations.

Boat Ramp and Beach Parking Update

Solis provided a staff report, highlighting the parking meter software glitches that have been resolved. He spoke on citizen registration issues and explained how the parking meter database and camera system function. He explained that if a vehicle tag is registered outside of the City of Marathon it does not qualify for free parking and launching services.

Williams also explained the registration process in detail to Council.

Smith noted the residents are confused about the registration process and asked to see the projected revenue from the parking and launch fees. He also asked what the revenue will be budgeted for.

Council Discussion.

Garrett commented that the parking and boat launch ordinance should be updated to include the citation amounts.

Still commented that the signage at the boat ramps should be updated.

Citizens Comments

Diane Scott spoke on the boat ramp and launch fee revenue and suggested giving the proceeds back to the citizens.

Vacation Rental Discussion

Lozier explained the need for more enforcement of the rules in place for vacation rental properties. He reported city employee Darlene Pointer has recently been transferred into the Code

City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
April 25, 2023 5:30 pm City Council Workshop Minutes

Department and a new officer will start in the coming weeks. He suggested adding night and weekend working hours to the Code Department. He reported on the revenue collected from code violations and spoke on the areas in the city that have high code case rates such as Sombrero Beach Road.

Gonzalez commented he supports the Code Department working on weekends and complimented the Code Officers for their hard work and explained the trash can rules and violation process.

Matlock asked if there is an after-hours cell phone number designated for noise complaints.

Garrett replied there is not currently an after-hours cell phone, but staff can set up one if needed.

Council Discussion about vacation rental signage.

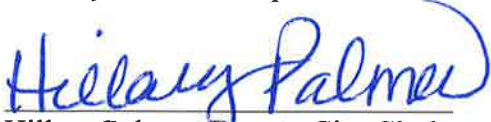
The Council agreed to change the regularly scheduled workshop time hours to 5:30pm.

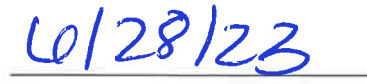
Gonzalez thanked the staff and public for their participation.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Gonzalez adjourned the workshop at 5:56pm pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of April 25, 2023.


Hillary Palmer, Deputy City Clerk


Date