

City of Marathon
City Council Special Call Action Minutes
April 25, 2024 8:00 am City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER - A Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on April 25, 2024 in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Still called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL - There were present:

Councilmember Gonzalez

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Smith

Vice-Mayor Landry

Mayor Still, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Attorney, Steve Williams

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Building Official, Gerard Roussin

Garrett explained he needed to also add an approval to expend funds that just came up yesterday, originally the invoice was split between products and services, it is a \$45,610 invoice to replace the sign at the park, it is appropriate and in the budget.

MOTION: Smith moved approval of the \$45,610 invoice from Marathon Electric.

SECOND: Landry

Vote of the Motion:

Yes: Smith, Landry, Gonzalez, Matlock, Still

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

Discussion regarding Authorizing The Closure Of The 33rd Street Boat Ramp For The Days Of The Days Of The 7 Mile Grand Prix, April 27 And 28, 2024 And In Addition, Authorizing The Use Of The City's 7 Mile Marina and Quay Boat Ramp Property During The Same Period.

Garrett explained in this permit process we are asking for a road closure and we need to inform all parties that may be affected as well as utilizing the 7 mile marina. People may need to get to the Marathon Yacht Club, Recreation Center, and school. We spoke with the school, and they are entirely okay with it as they will utilize 35th Street. Williams explained the issue is timing, and the Council just approved the 7 Mile Bridge Run for 2025 on April 9th.

Randy Mearns, Course Marshal for the race, explained he is a volunteer doing this and last year did not get a permit and did not know it was needed until Lorie Mullins contacted him. The closure is not a hard closure, if someone needs to get to the yacht club, school, etc., they will not be denied access, we just need room for the boats. Mearns informed everyone we can learn from our mistakes and make it better next year. Mearns also explained that we get comp rooms from the hotels and if we cannot get support from the resort community, we will not be able to come back.

Rodrick Cox, Race Director voiced his appreciation to the City and explained that as for the soft closure on the road, we are willing to take responsibility and do whatever we need to do.

Still questioned Cox if they made a profit which he responded no. Still explained her concerns and explained she was upset that our City Manager had to reach out to the school, and it is not our event. Still explained the Council has been put in a horrible situation, but we do not want to hurt our law and fire personnel as well as servers, etc. as they count on this funding.

Matlock questioned what time the school dance was, and Mearns responded 7:00 pm and the closure ends at 5:00 pm Saturday, so it should not affect the dance. Mearns apologized that he forgot to check with the school.

Landry questioned if a permit was issued last year. Mearns stated no, but someone did tell me it needed to be on an agenda.

Still commented that she would like the Harbor Drive boat ramp to be off limits because last year the boats were going in at all hours and it is a neighborhood ramp. Mearns commented that this will be mentioned at the drivers meeting not to use that ramp.

Mayor Still called for speakers.

Diane Scott – commented that rules are rules, there should be no excuses, they should be penalized, and you should make them pay for Park and Recreation Summer camp, so it is free for all of the kids.

Gonzalez commented we have heard from everyone; in the future we will have everything correct moving forward and they have made it clear that they will not let this happen again. This is the third

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big event that has not been timely, they pay the City nothing and cause issues. Moving forward, we should have a daily penalty.

Matlock agreed, but on this event, we all know Mearns, it was not intentional or arrogant on his part and we love the races.

Smith commented that internally, we need to re-evaluate. Smith commented that he would like to see timelines and a paper trail, we may need to move our timeline up. Smith asked for the last three packages and questioned if we document our process as it would be fair to look at ourselves as well.

Landry commented that moving forward, lets look internally and figure a way to help applicants as we can.

Still commented that she appreciated Mearns and Cox being here and we can talk about penalties as time goes on.

MOTION: Gonzalez moved to allow the closure of 33rd Street and authorize use of the 7-mile marina property.

SECOND: Matlock

Matlock questioned if the Quay boat ramp would be too far away instead of 33rd Street. Mearns answered no, but it became problematic, and the Sherriff's office did not want a backup on US1.

Vote of the Motion:

Yes: Gonzalez, Matlock, Smith, Landry, Still
No: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

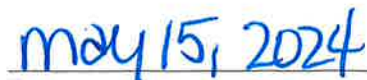
Vote on the Motion: 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Still adjourned the meeting at 8:39 am by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the City Council meeting of April 25, 2024


Diane Clavier, City Clerk


Date