

**CALL TO ORDER** - A Special Call Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on March 31, 2025, in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Landry called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember Del Gaizo

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Still

Vice Mayor Smith

Mayor Landry, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

City Attorney, Steve Williams

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

MCSO Captain Derek Paul

**Approval Of Agenda and Consent Agenda**

**MOTION:** Smith moved to approve the agenda.

**SECOND:** Still

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

**Discussion regarding** whether the City should continue in its part of the adopted Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) known as the “Middle Keys Health Care Municipal Services Taxing Unit” (City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 28, Article 1)

Drew Grossman, CEO for Baptist Hospital spoke about the services the hospital offered and spoke about the difficulties in recruitment and retaining specialty health services.

City of Marathon  
City Council Action Minutes  
March 31, 5:30 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

Pattie Bolland presented financial information and explained there were 12,865 patient cases since 2020 at a cost of 14.2 million and the hospital was reimbursed 13.5 million and \$728,409 is still on the books as accounts receivable. There is 1.5 million left to get to the maximum. For the income, Bolland reported that as of FY2017, operations were at 25.4 million, 13.4 million for the hospital and 38.9 million from operations, lost 12.3 million and capital investments at 59 million for a net total not recouped 31 million net investment.

The Mayor Called for speakers.

Richard Moretti – spoke for the MSTU

Janice Roehl Anderson – spoke for the MSTU

Mary Stella – spoke against the MSTU, she was previously for it, but we have met our goals.

Mike Leonard spoke for the MSTU and stated the hospital was an ethical organization.

Jim Rifkin spoke for the MSTU and explained that 60 million cannot be funded through the MSTU and will have to be bonded.

Alexander Palma – spoke against the MSTU, as it was supposed to be annually reviewed.

Pat Biagi questioned that the hospital was still not profitable and how long before they are paid off. Biagi commented that we do not have doctors, and a lot are traveling doctors and nurses, and the costs for testing are awful.

Diane Scott spoke against the tax and asked the Council to choose option 1.

Andrew George – spoke against the additional tax and commented that we do not have a general practitioner on staff, in 2019 Fisherman's promised to be a full-service hospital; there are no pediatric or woman's care offered. George commented his girlfriend had to go to Key West Hospital by ambulance and they put her on the one not covered by her insurance.

George Neugent spoke in support of the hospital, saying it was an asset and costs households less than \$100 a year for services.

Dion Watson – commented that they were initially in support of the hospital, however they cannot do tests there or have a doctor there, they send everyone to Miami. In Marathon it costs \$3,500 for an MRI and in Homestead, it is less than \$1,000. We have a MASH unit, the second you walk through the door, they want payment.

Jane Packard spoke in support of the hospital and thanked the Council and the Hospital and stated it was about honoring a commitment.

Debra Struyf – spoke against the tax and commented that the hospital also has a commitment to the community to have doctors.

Matlock commented that the hospital was not meeting their end of the deal and wished his experience were better. Matlock commented that no one would speak with him about his issues until he was on the Council. Matlock commented that the hospital was far in the black and he hears horror stories, and we are building more and staffing less. We were to review this every year to see if we wanted to continue.

Stil commented that there were some very valid points made but at the end of the day we are still in the middle of the agreement. It would be wonderful to be fully staffed.

Del Gaizo thanked the hospital and the community for stepping up to the plate, it is the principal and the community has spoken.

Smith commented that he spoke with many community members, and they recognize the value in having a hospital. Baptist accelerated the timeline and built the hospital; we have to honor our commitment, but he was not in favor of overfunding and Key Colony made the same recommendation in continuing the MSTU to satisfy but not exceed the remaining commitment.

Landry commented that we did not go to a hospital to see a doctor since he could remember. Landry explained his mother-in-law has been battling a disease for twenty years and the hospital stabilized her, and trauma star took her to Jackson which saved her life, we are very lucky to have our hospital. Landry commented that both he and Matlock campaigned on either side of this, and we were both elected.

Matlock explained Fisherman's is a critical care hospital, not a full-service hospital and we are spending other people's money. Matlock also mentioned that we were promised a full-service hospital, and he has had five phone calls, three text messages and 18 email messages that were all against the tax and not one for the tax.

Landry commented that he has had to search people out and someone who has four different types of cancer wants the hospital.

Matlock explained the hospital will not go away; they will be here regardless of the MSTU tax.

DelGaizo questioned why we do not have care for women? Drew Grossman responded that they could not find anyone to hire that wanted to live in the Keys.

**Option 1. Resolution 2025-32,** A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Marathon, Florida Directing Staff To Draft And Advertise An Ordinance Withdrawing From And The Abandoning Its Inclusion In The Middle Keys Health Care Municipal Taxing Unit (Chapter 28, Article 1, Section 28-3 Of The City's Code Of Ordinances) For Review At The Next Possible City Council Meeting; And Providing For An Effective Date

**Option 2. Resolution 2035-33,** A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Marathon, Florida Indicating To The Monroe County Board Of County Commissioners (BOCC) Its Intent To Continue Participation In The Middle Keys Health Care Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) ONLY If The Current Millage Rate Is Reset By The BOCC At A Level That Will Generate The Necessary Revenue To Satisfy, But Not Exceed, The Remaining Financial Commitment Under The MSTU Agreement (\$15 Million); And Providing That The Final Millage Rate Shall Be Determined Based On The Assessed Property Values Provided By The Property Appraiser's Office In July 2025; And Providing For The Transmittal Of This Resolution To Appropriate Members Of Monroe County Staff, And Providing For An Effective Date.

**MOTION:** Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-33

**SECOND:** Still

**Vote of the Motion:**

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

**Vote on the Motion:** 3 Yes, 2 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Landry adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm with unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the Special Call City Council meeting of March 31, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Clavier, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**CALL TO ORDER** - A Town Hall Workshop of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on April 22, 2025, in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Landry called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember Del Gaizo

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Still, attending via Zoom

Vice Mayor Smith

Mayor Landry, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

City Attorney, Steve Williams

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Deputy Utilities Director, Libby Soldano

Fire Chief James Muro

Code Director, Ted Lozier

Grants Coordinator, Maria Covelli

Park and Recreation Director, Scott Williamson

MCSO Captain Derek Paul

**MOTION:** Smith moved to allow Councilmember Still to attend via Zoom

**SECOND:** Matlock

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

### **Non-Profit Funding Request Presentations**

Heart of the Keys Rec Association/Marathon Rec Center – Diane Culver thanked the Council for their support and gave an overview of what the funds are needed for.

Special Olympics Florida – Ruth Coleman gave a background on the program expansion and goals and introduced Lilian who explained how the funding helps them implement youth inclusiveness and Cindy who was an athlete in the special Olympics .

Autism Society of the Keys – Jill Campbell explained one in thirty-one children are diagnosed every year and explained how the funding is used, for example sensory boxes, etc.

Marathon Yacht Club Educational Foundation – Carol Shaddock with Mid Keys Sailing explained the funds would be used to teach children how to sail, about the environment, they have a summer camp and need a metal boat rack.

Crane Point – Charlotte Quinn explained last year 54 children were able to go to camp because of the funding provided.

Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys- Chris Todd Young explained the costs to build have gone up as well as insurance and funds are also needed to help with first last and security payments. Todd-Young explained an ADA elevator was purchased last year with the funding provided by the City.

The Salvation Army – Loretta Geotis explained what the funding would be used for, such as rental assistance and utility disconnects

United Way of Colier and the Keys – Loretta Geotis explained the volunteer tax preparation program and explained funding would be used for recruiting volunteers to prepare tax returns as well as IRS training.

Marathon Wild Bird Center – Kelly Grinter explained funding was needed to feed the birds; last year \$15,000 was used to purchase fish to feed the 798 patients last year. Grinter also informed the Council her water bill was \$1,000 a month.

Keys AHEC Health Centers – Michael Cunningham provided a video regarding dental care for children.

Conch Republic Marine Army – Board member Brian Thieliicke explained 275 tons of garbage was taken out of the Keys as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. Thieliicke also mentioned that they do take kids and adults out if they help clean up.

City of Marathon  
City Council Action Minutes  
April 22, 5:30 pm City Council Town Hall Workshop Meeting Minutes

Zonta Club of Marathon – Patricia Biasi explained funds were needed to help pay for medical co-pays, eye exams and glasses, transportation costs, food for Marathon High School children food bank and scholarships.

Grace Jones Community Center – John Hunt explained the daycare food program and funds needed to purchase breakfast, lunch, a snack and to purchase food for the backpack program so the children have food for the weekend.

Womankind Marathon – Callie Robers explained that Womankind provides family planning services and gynecological prenatal care with staffing being the biggest expense.

Education Coalition for Monroe County – Patricia Biagi read a statement from the Belotti's explaining how funds would be used to support needs of students such as sports equipment, toiletries, food, and clothing.

Keys Area Interdenominational Resources (KAIR) – Marge Roberts explained that KAIR assists locals over obstacles by providing funds for medical care, car repairs, utilities, food, and rent. Last year KAIR helped 112 families with rent and 69 families with utility bills and 600,000 pounds of food was distributed.

Independence Cay – Marge Roberts explained Independence Cay offers transitional housing for up to 18 men and operates a soup kitchen and offers showers and laundry.

Domestic Abuse Shelter – Sherri Swab explained the Domestic Abuse shelter was the only certified abuse shelter in the County. After Irma, the cost estimates to build a new shelter was over eight million, so a five-bedroom home was purchased instead. Any funding received would help with renovations for the home.

Marathon Premier Sailfish Tournament – Mark Busch provided a video and commented that funds would help to build inclusion events.

Sea Camp Marine Science Education – Judy Gregoire explained the camp and education they provide to children.

Florida Keys Watercolor Society – explained funding would help promote water base painting and scholarships, outreach program of eight new events and advertising.

St. Columba Episcopal Church/Hammock House – Rev. McConaughy explained free childcare and afterschool care as well as a summer camp with breakfast, lunch and snacks are provided with funding.

Presents in Paradise – Coby Taylor explained that funding helps 800 children keys wide and 530 in Marathon to have Christmas presents.

FIRM – Mel Montagne explained the work FIRM does to help with insurance rates and that carve outs have been made for residents for Habitat for Humanity.

Good Health Clinic – Kate Banic explained this was the first time asking for funding for their free clinic open since 2018 in Marathon one day a week.

Marathon Community Theatre – Lisa Campenelli explained funding was needed to expand the children's art program and scholarships.

Pay It Forward/Marathon Memorial Foundation – Wendy Bonilla explained she was able to provide \$36,000 in scholarships last year.

Literacy Volunteers – Mary Casanova explained funding would go towards materials such as paper, paper, etc. and training volunteers.

Marathon Coop Preschool – Brandi Jordan explained they have 74 children enrolled and 47 are subsidized. The Coop provides afterschool care, field trips, transportation, water bottle station, ping pong, basketball, and art supplies. Funding is needed for pallets of mulch to cover the holes from iguanas, tarps for shade and misting fans.

Kreative Kids – Maria Vaillant explained funding would fix the fencing damaged by the iguanas, equipment, and staff.

Key Colony Beach Association - Rich Vieth explained they have an open application process to request donations at [www.kcbca.org](http://www.kcbca.org) to request donations and the cut off is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor called a recess at 7:06 and brought the town hall discussion back to order at 7:15.

#### **Town Hall discussion – Bring Your Concerns with Proposed Solutions (Landry)**

Diane Scott – asked the Council to put the bus stop back where it was and to make it nice. Scott also asked the Council to have the sheriff investigate her complaints.

Brian Shea read a press release regarding the bus stop improvement plan where Monroe County is asking for the public's input on the development of their Bus Stop Improvement Plan (BSIP) via a survey [monroecountybsip.com](http://monroecountybsip.com)

Gisselle Van Der Waal – spoke regarding her concerns of the health and safety of the dogs that use the dog park and commented that she thought the irrigation system was not properly working and suggested installing a backup hose.

Maria Covelli informed everyone she submitted a grant application to put in a shade structure and artificial turf. Covelli commented that the irrigation does work. Van Der Waal commented that irrigation is only using four zones out of the six and there is an invasive species in the lawn.



Landry asked for additional speakers.

Landry informed everyone that the City has sixteen months of reserves and is in good shape financially.

Diane Culver – commented that after hearing the non-profit presentations, she just wanted to point out that many of the programs are reactive and it starts with the children, and our community has done amazing things.

Bettye Chaplin – explained her appreciation knowing there is a surplus, there are many wealthy people in our community, some people need to knock on doors, they do not need the funds from the City, things can get out of hand. Chaplin also stated we have a great Sheriff's office.

Landry gave a shout out to Alex Richart who ran the Boston Marathon to raise money for cancer and reminded everyone of the Marathon Dolphins baseball game this Monday at 7 pm.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Landry adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm with unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the City Council Town Hall Workshop of April 22, 2025.

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Diane Clavier, City Clerk

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Date