

CALL TO ORDER - A Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on July 8, 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

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Park and Recreation Director, Scott Williamson

Deputy Utilities Director, Libby Soldano

Senior Planner, Dan Gulizio

Public Information Officer, Carlos Garcia

Fire Rescue Chief Muro

MCSO Lt. Elmore

Approval Of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Resolutions 2025-69 and 2025-70 were added to the agenda by Garrett. Smith added a discussion regarding building department fees.

MOTION: Smith moved to approve the agenda as amended.

SECOND: Matlock

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

City Council Items

***A.** Approval of Minutes

B. Pinning Ceremony (Fire Fighters David Conde, Alejandro Ortega, and Promotion from Fire Fighter to Lieutenant Isabella Sanchez) The clerk swore in firefighters Conde and Ortega. Chief Murro spoke of the significance of the oath and David Conde's father, Delvis Conde pinned his badge on him. Alejandro Ortega's mother pinned his badge on him. Murro explained Ms. Sanchez was being promoted to the rank of lieutenant and provided a background of her previous positions and she scored highest on the drivers, engineers, and lieutenant testing.

C. Florida Hero Andrew Heise (Councilmember Still) – Still explained if not for the quick action of Marathon based FWC biologist Andrew Heise, the man bitten and dragged under the water by a crocodile would not be alive today. Heise applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding, knowledge he learned from being a Boy Scout. Heise along with 62 other Floridians received a Florida Hero award from the Governor, and Still wanted to also acknowledge his accomplishment of courageously saving a life.

D. November 11, 2025 Meeting Date Change to November 12th – the Council gave a head nod of approval to change the date of the meeting due to the Veteran's Day holiday.

E. Building Department Fees Discussion (Vice Mayor Smith) – Smith explained he spoke with both Shea and Bradley regarding amending the fees for the annual registration fees and plan review. Smith asked if the Council would support bringing back a revised fee schedule at the next regular meeting.

City Manager Report

* **A.** MCSO Marathon Substation Report

* **B.** Grants Update

* **C.** Public Works Report

* **D.** Park and Recreation Report

* **E.** Marathon Fire Rescue Report

* **F.** Marina Report

* **G.** Code Report

* **H.** Wastewater Utilities Report

* **I.** Building Report

J. Recognition of Alex Rickert's completion of all 26.2 miles at the 129th Boston Marathon as he raised funds to combat cancer with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Garrett explained that in a brief period of time, Rickert's efforts and commitment to running the marathon raised \$19,200 to help combat cancer.

Resolutions for Adoption

***A. Resolution 2025-63,** Accepting The Ranking And Recommendation Of The Auditor Selection Committee Regarding Selection Of An Auditor To Conduct The Annual Financial Audit Required By State Law; Authorizing The City Manager To Negotiate And Enter Into An Agreement With The Selected Auditing Firm; And Providing For An Effective Date.

***B. Resolution 2025-64** Accepting the Ranking and Recommendation of the City's Evaluation Team of the Emergency Management Consulting Services RFP; Authorizing The City Manager And City Attorney To Negotiate And Execute A Contract With The Top Ranked Firm of Early Alert, Inc.; And providing for an Effective Date.

***C. Resolution 2025-65,** Approving A Ninth Amendment To The Lease Agreement No. 4547 With The Board Of Trustees Of The Internal Improvement Trust Fund Of The State Of Florida For The Management Of Properties With The City Of Marathon Purchased For The Purpose Of Conservation; Authorizing The Mayor To Execute The Amendment To The Agreement; And Providing An Effective Date

***D. Resolution 2025-66,** Amending A Grant Agreement With The Florida Department Of Environmental Protection For the City of Marathon LPA0273 Stormwater Injection Well Project; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Grant Amendment On Behalf Of The City; And Providing For An Effective Date

***E. Resolution 2025-67** Accepting The Responsible Bid And Approving A Contract Between The City And LPS Contracting In An Amount Not To Exceed \$553,582.20 For The Re-Development Of The Marina Piers At The Seven Mile Marina Property; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Contract And Appropriate Funds On Behalf Of The City; And Providing For An Effective Date

***F. Resolution 2025-68,** Waiving The City's Competitive Bidding Procedures And Approving A Purchase Of A 27 HP, Grundfos Submersible Pump By FJ Nugent., In An Amount Of \$132,793; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute Purchase Orders, Appropriate Funds On Behalf Of The City; And Providing For An Effective Date

G. Resolution 2025-69 Approving An Interlocal Agreement Between The City Of Marathon And Monroe County For The Reimbursement From Boating Improvement Funds For Recreational Boating Related Projects Within The City Of Marathon; Authorizing The Mayor To Execute The Interlocal Agreement On Behalf Of The City; And Providing For An Effective Date

Garrett explained the Boating Improvement Fund and the grant process and informed everyone that the funding received would go towards the installation of channel navigation markers.

The Mayor called for speakers, hearing none, closed public comments.

MOTION: Matlock moved to accept and approve the Resolution as written.

SECOND: Smith

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

H. Resolution 2025-70 Approving The Second Amendment To The Amendment To The State Wastewater Funding Agreement With Monroe County, Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, Key Largo Wastewater Treatment District, The Village Of Islamorada And The Cities Of Key Colony Beach, And Key West Dated February 20, 2013 (City Of Marathon Resolution 2013-23) And With The Addition Herein, Of The City Of Layton; Authorizing The Mayor To Execute The Interlocal Agreement On Behalf Of The City; And Providing For An Effective Date

Garrett gave the history of the state funding for wastewater and explained the funds were split between Key Largo Wastewater District, the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority, the municipalities, and Monroe County. Garrett explained he would like the Council to approve so that everyone can budget for their projects.

The Mayor called for speakers, hearing none, closed public comments.

MOTION: Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-70.

SECOND: Still

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

Citizen Comments - none

Council Comments

Matlock commented that there were no injuries on July 4th.

DelGaizo – commented that people came from all over to celebrate the holiday in Marathon and Marathon does the best job and everyone one involved with the fireworks and the parade did a fantastic job.

Still commented that at this meeting we were able to celebrate these individuals and that says a lot about our community. Still thanked the staff and stated it was a pleasure to serve with this Council.

Smith commented that we live in a great community, July 4th was a great celebration. Smith reminded everyone to practice kindness and safety during the mini lobster season and stated it was a pleasure to serve with this Council.

Landry informed everyone that on August 2nd Kirk of the Keys would be holding a free family fun fest from 10 am until 2:00 pm with food, school supply giveaways, animal encounters, bounce house

and smoothies. Landry thanked staff, Randy Mearns, and the Rotary Club for the July 4th event. Landry reminded everyone of the July 22nd budget meeting. Landry also mentioned a backpack giveaway on Sunday July 27th at 5800 Overseas Hwy.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Landry adjourned the meeting at 6:10 pm with unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the Special Call City Council meeting of July 8, 2025.

Diane Clavier, City Clerk

Date

CALL TO ORDER - A Special Call Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on July 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

Vice Mayor Smith (Via Zoom)

Mayor Landry, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

City Attorney, Steve Williams

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Park and Recreation Director, Scott Williamson

Deputy Utilities Director, Libby Soldano

Public Information Officer, Carlos Garcia

Fire Rescue Chief Muro

MCSO Captain Derek Paul

MOTION: Still moved to allow Vice Mayor Smith to attend the meeting via Zoom
SECOND: Matlock

With no objection from the members of the Council, the motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Mayor Landry called a five-minute recess at 5:35 so that the staff could troubleshoot why the Vice Mayor could not be heard or hear the meeting.

Mayor Landry called the meeting back to order at 5:43 pm.

General Fund Budget Discussion

Jennifer Johnson, Finance Director – Johnson explained the preliminary millage rate would be the highest rate the City could charge for FY25, and once the preliminary millage rate is set, it can only be decreased from that point. Johnson reported that the proposed millage rate is 2.2235 mills which is the same millage rate that the City charged for FY25, this rate is a 7.77 percent increase above the roll back rate of 2.0631 mills and would require a majority vote to pass. Johnson reminded everyone that the Florida Save Our Homes Act limits the annual value increase of homesteaded property to 3% each year. Johnson explained the General Fund is significantly supported by our ad-valorem revenues. This millage rate will generate about \$11M of revenue for our general fund.

Overall, the General Fund revenues are budgeted for approximately \$23.3M while the budgeted expenditure is at \$25.7M, a \$2.4M spending deficit. The FY26 Proposed General Fund Budgeted Expenditures includes the following notable increases from the prior year:

Overall

- Increase of 20% to the health benefit budget line items for all employees
- cost of living, and merit adjustments

Fire Department

- contractual increases for union employees
- five additional full-time positions
- change in health benefit plan
- new training programs

General Services

- Staffing transfers
- Increased professional services expenditures

Parks & Rec

- moved three full-time and 1 part-time maintenance positions to Public Works
- Increased special events and small tools

Public Works

- Added five full-time and 1 part-time maintenance positions (2 new, 3.5 from parks)
- Increased annual transfer to support the street maintenance special revenue fund activities.
- Staffing transfers to General Services

Johnson reported that if the budget goes as planned that would leave the City at 9/30/2026 with 6 days more than our 12-month targeted fund balance. The unassigned fund balance is used for items such as emergencies, unforeseen items, and settlements.

Still asked the Council to consider a five percent COLA for employees as the vendors have had increases and utilities, rents, and groceries have increased. Johnson responded that in June the CPA was at 3.1 percent. The difference between 2.2 percent and five percent would be \$30.90 on a million-dollar home. Johnson explained that last year the Council added half of a percent over the Miami/Ft. Lauderdale CPA.

Matlock questioned how many positions were for vacation rentals. Johnson commented that the new inspector position could be a hundred percent toward vacation rentals.

Smith commented that he would like to take a look at what we have done in the last three years for staff increases. We have to be fair we have not been losing employees, and we need to tighten belts rather than spending other people's money. Matlock agreed that the budget needed to be tightened. Landry commented that we have to be careful we are not leaving next year's budget where we have no room to work .

A. Resolution 2025-71, Determining The Proposed Millage Rate, And The Current Year Rolled-Back Rate, And The Date, Time And Place For The First And Second Budget Public Hearings As Required By Law; Directing The Finance Director To File Said Resolution With The Property Appraiser Of Monroe County Pursuant To The Requirements Of Florida Statutes And The Rules And Regulations Of The Department Of Revenue Of The State Of Florida; And Providing For An Effective Date

Johnson read the resolution and section one of the resolution into the record.

Section 1. The proposed millage is declared to be 2.3434 mills, which is \$2.3434 per \$1,000.00 of assessed property within the City of Marathon, Florida. The proposed millage is 13.59% greater than the rolled back rate.

The Mayor opened public comment, hearing none, closed public comments.

MOTION: Landry moved to set the millage at 2.3434
SECOND: Still

Vote of the Motion:

City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
July 22, 2025 5:30 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

AYES: Landry, Still, Smith
NOES: Matlock, DelGaizo
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

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

Council Comments

Still commented that the City will be hosting a food truck Jamboree in the park behind City Hall on August 27th and asked for head nods to hold the event on City property. The Council gave head nods for approval. Landry thanked Carlos Garcia, the PIO, for his work towards transparency.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Landry adjourned the meeting at 6:04 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of July 22, 2025.

Diane Clavier, City Clerk

Date