

**CALL TO ORDER** - A Special Call Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on September 16, 2025 in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Landry called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember DelGaizo

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

Deputy Utilities Director, Libby Soldano

Code Director, Ted Lozier

Marina Director, Sean Cannon

Park and Recreation Director, Scott Williamson

Senior Planner, Dan Gulizio

Marina Director, Sean Cannon

Public Works Manager, Paul Bartnik

City Engineer, Carlos Solis

Public Information Officer, Carlos Garcia

Information Technology Director, Hank Kokenzie

Fire Rescue Chief Muro

MCSO Capt. Derek Paul

## **Approval Of Agenda**

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

## **First Public hearing to adopt tentative budget and millage rate**

Johnson provided a PowerPoint presentation of the general fund budget overview. Johnson explained the proposed tax rate of 2.2235 mills, which is equivalent to \$2.2235 per \$1,000 of taxable value. Johnson gave a four-year comparison on the increases in taxable values from the prior years. Johnson informed everyone that the current year's general fund budgeted revenues were \$23,519,635, a \$1,428,821 net increase to the general fund budgeted revenues due to taxes, licenses and permits, charges for services, fines and forfeits and a decrease from transfers in from other sources and intergovernmental revenues. Johnson explained the general fund expenditures, currently at almost \$25 million. The \$2,474,572 net increase being primarily due to staffing and benefit changes and professional service and contract cost increases. Johnson also briefed the Council on the building fund, capital infrastructure street maintenance, impact fee, restoration, debt service, marina enterprise, 7b mile marina, stormwater utility, wastewater utility, and affordable housing funds.

The Mayor called for speakers.

Greg Robinson – explained some of his areas of concern: Debt service (deep well financing), reserve drawdown, plans for continual draw down such as SRF or other alternatives, COLA increases, administration salaries and benefits, such as a twenty percent of his salary for retirement for the City Manager, affordable housing, four million in the fund, is it not being used?

Mike Millard – spoke regarding the general contracted services, he would like to know the details of who and what they are; seven million in park and recreation projects seems to be an extremely high amount. Another concern is a twenty five percent in retirement for fire/EMS.

Daniel Samess – spoke about utilizing reserves to temporarily bring the milage down.

Diane Scott – suggested to take funding away from the police and suggested helping people with kids with their rent using the affordable housing fund.

Landry explained the deep well five-year plan and the funding of the project which is under a federal judge's consent order.

Matlock made a few suggestions on cutting costs, such as projects being over engineered, vehicle purchases and asked if we were tracking maintenance issues on vehicles. Garrett explained that the City was tracking costs for vehicle maintenance with software and maintenance is being completed in one in house location. Matlock questioned if the City Manager contingency could be kept at \$15,000 and drop the uniform budget to \$500. Matlock also asked that the non for profit be dropped to a lower number and the Council settled on \$100,000 with FIRM being separated; not included in the amount. Matlock questioned when we bid out the vacuum pits and suggested there may be a way to save some money within house or bidding a certain

amount out. Smith agreed as we are spending a lot of money on overtime pay and questioned where we could be more efficient. Matlock questioned if we needed three state lobbyists. Johnson explained the contracts were split between the general fund and wastewater. Matlock also questioned travel expenses for the Council and if it was necessary to go to Washington. Smith commented on the historical figures, paying out of reserves as we should not be taxing the residents three times for money we did not spend, projects we did not complete, we have the ability to meet rollback. Johnson explained that we had a lot of vacant positions that are no longer vacant. Smith commented that we can afford to use some of the reserves. Landry reiterated that the reserves goal is twelve months. Matlock questioned if one department purchased a vehicle, could it be transferred to another department. Garrett explained vehicles are traded back and forth all of the time. Smith commented that we have forty million in reserves, the interest number is significant. Johnson commented that the checking account is over four percent, and there are governmental limitations. DelGaizo suggested leaving it up to the department heads to take three percent off of their budgets, as we are all asked to scale back.

Johnson read Resolution 2025-88 into the record.

A Resolution Of The City Of Marathon, Florida, Adopting The Tentative Millage Rate And Levy Of Ad Valorem Taxes For The City Of Marathon, Florida For Fiscal Year 2025-2026; And Providing For An Effective Date

Johnson read section two of the resolution into the record.

**Section 2.** The FY 2025-2026 tentative millage rate for the City is 2.0631 mills, which is \$2.0631 for each thousand dollars of taxable assessed property value; and the tentative millage rate is equal to the rolled-back rate.

**MOTION:** Smith moved to approve Resolution 2025-88, with the tentative millage rate of 2.0631  
**SECOND:** Matlock

**Vote of the Motion:**

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

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

Johnson read Resolution 2025-89 into the record.

A Resolution Of City Of Marathon, Florida, Adopting The Tentative Budget For Fiscal Year 2025-2026; And Providing For An Effective Date

Johnson reported the tentative budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 at \$144,676,201.00

City of Marathon  
City Council Action Minutes  
September 16, 2025 5:30 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** Still moved to approve Resolution 2025-89  
**SECOND:** Smith

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Still, Smith, Matlock, DelGaizo, Landry  
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 Landry adjourned the meeting at 6:56 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of September 16, 2025



Diane Clavier, City Clerk



Date