

**CALL TO ORDER** - A Workshop of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on January 27, 2026, in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Del Gaizo called the workshop to order at 5:30 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember Landry

Councilmember Still

Vice Mayor Struyf

Mayor Del Gaizo, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

City Attorney, Steve Williams

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

Building Official Gerard Roussin

Carlos Garcia, PIO

**Open Forum – bring your concerns, questions, and suggestions regarding any City matter**

The Council asked the PIO to explain how to sign up for the newsletter. Garcia also mentioned the City's other social media channels of Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Nextdoor.

Speakers:

Mary Ackroyd, Key Colony Beach -spoke about there being too much policing and against Boader Patrol and raids stating she does not feel safe.

Laurie Swanson, Key Colony Beach – spoke about an immigrant being detained, she was recording and when the officer asked for her license she would not provide it, so he detained her.

Sandra Van Dusen, Marathon - commented about the hate in Marathon and the United States in the past year.

City of Marathon  
City Council Workshop Minutes  
January 27, 2026 5:30 pm City Council Workshop Minutes

In response to the cheers after each speaker, Williams read from Resolution 2017-21 and explained that demonstrations in support or opposition to a speaker or idea such as clapping, cheering, booing, hissing, etc.. are not permitted in Council Chambers.

Fred Swanson, Key Colony Beach – commented he was ashamed of the situation in the country and spoke against ICE and asked the Council to have a resolution for no masks for ICE agents and to stop abducting people.

Peter Levasseur, Marathon – spoke regarding the ugly buildings in the City and no architectural oversight via an architectural review board.

Isave Valdes, Marathon – asked the Council to take a public stance against ICE and create a policy that people are treated with respect.

Diane Scott, Marathon commented that the police treat Black people worse such as tasing without probable cause.

Kristin Battista-Fraze, Big Pine Key – asked the Council to create a resolution protecting the constitutional rights of American citizens. Battista-Fraze commented that the masked agents were specifically targeting people with brown skin and asked that the resolution give immigrants their due process and ban masks.

Barb Haag-Heitman, Key Colony Beach – commented she has been participating in the ICE protest and informed everyone that according to CNN the Border Patrol has been collecting information on protesters.

Brandon Manzier, Marathon – commented on the amount of debris on the bike path and suggested maintenance on the bike path markings as they are faded and educating people where they can safely cross US1.

Mike Aranda, Marathon – spoke briefly about noise reduction of air conditioners and ways to hid them as well as application reviews and recommended the person in charge of reviewing the application not be the person to whom the appeal goes.

Barbara Herrington-Clemens, Marathon – spoke about traffic issues, especially Sombrero Blvd. speeding.

Debbie Hickey, Marathon – asked about an update on the golf course project if the plans have changed – Roussin explained the plans have not changed.

Diane Scott, Marathon - spoke about her nuisance neighbor and the utility candy cane issues.

Brewster Rhoads, Big Pine Key – spoke about his concerns with ICE at the national and local level.

Peter Levasseur, Marathon - questioned if there was any interest in an architectural review board. Struyf commented that the City has a duty to care about the character of the community. Garrett commented that he felt a review board was not a bad idea.

Reit Steinmetz, Marathon – spoke about bike safety on Aviation Blvd. and stop signs Landry commented that education is a big part. Struyf questioned Garrett about the plans for stop signs and Garrett responded that DOT takes a while, we could look at their five-year plan.

Kristin Battista-Fraze, Big Pine Key questioned what the process is to discuss policies, and she would like to see a resolution of values.

Mike Aranda, Marathon – asked if we could just put the stop signs back. Garrett informed him it is FDOT right of way.

Diane Culver, Marathon – commented that when we see our fellow citizens being targeted, they need to know we have their back. Culver spoke about the February 3<sup>rd</sup> immigration status date for Hatians.

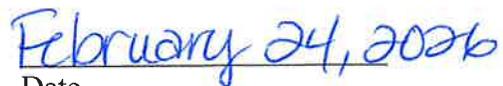
Mayor Del Gaizo commented that the Council does care, this affects everyone, we are going to Tallahassee next week, and our problems are the same everywhere. Struyf commented that we have our hands tied to a point, we are having an open conversation, people see both sides. Struyf suggested bringing solutions, and although we may have different opinions, we are willing to listen. Still reiterated that all of the Council is willing to listen even if we have different opinions. Landry commented that we have an open-door policy, we do not have offices here, but our phone numbers and email addresses can be found on the City’s website. Del Gaizo suggested signing up for the City’s newsletter to find out what is going on in the City.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Del Gaizo adjourned the workshop at 6:43 pm.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the City Council workshop of January 27, 2026.

  
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Diane Clavier, City Clerk

  
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Date