

**CALL TO ORDER** – A City Council Meeting of the City of Marathon, Florida was held on May 12, 2026, in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember Landry

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Still

Vice Mayor Struyf

Mayor Del Gaizo, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Attorney, Steve Williams

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Building Official, Gerard Roussin

HR Director, Evie Engelmeyer

Public Works Director, Paul Bartnik

Grants Coordinator, Maria Covelli

Code Director, Ted Lozier

City Engineer, Carlos Solis

MCSO Capt. Derek Paul

**Approval Of Agenda and Consent Agenda**

**MOTION:** Still moved to approve the agenda as revised

**SECOND:** Matlock

With no objection from the members of the Council, Mayor DelGaizo declared the agenda approved as amended.

## City Council Items

**\*A.** Approval of Minutes

**B.** Guidance Care Clinic 53<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary/ Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation – Maureen Dunleavy, Regional Sr. VP with the Guidance/Care Center and her colleagues accepted the proclamation, thanked the City, and explained their mission to reduce the stigma of mental health issues.

**\*C. Informational Reminder** - Keys 100 Race May 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:15 am set up, 9:00 am the 50-mile race will start. 100-mile running timing station until close at 11:00 pm. Please drive carefully.

**D.** Golf Course Discussion (Matlock) Matlock commented he wanted to hear from speakers.

David Perry – Commented that the current owners have owned the property for 12 years and there is no berm, just landscaping, many mangroves have been cut, and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) was told to stay off the property. Perry informed everyone there have been 14 violations from South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and they received a final noncompliance notice.

Dustin Huff – also complained of years of inactivity and course deterioration.

Gerard Rousin – explained the development agreement was still in place, they have had extensions, but the permit remains active until October of 2026. Rousin commented that the berm on the front side does the same job as a silt fence along Manor Lane. Matlock questioned that for a long time there was not a silt fence and the mangrove cutting and the over digging the lake is a concern. Williams commented that everything now is temporary, if they do not meet the plans, there will be no Certificate of Occupancy (CO), it is private property.

Huff commented that twelve years later, concrete is getting dumped, etc. and questioned how they find out what happened as they are at a dead end with SFWMD and DEP. Shea explained with DEP, they have one active permit, and a revision to connect the golf course to wastewater.

Mike Aranda commented that he previously sued the golf course and the City and read a text message from March 11<sup>th</sup> where there was a private meeting while at the Florida Keys Days. Williams commented that there were no private meetings. Still commented that we all had meetings, including other cities and counties.

**E.** Draft Budget Meeting Calendar – Johnson reviewed the meetings in July and September.

**\*F.** Approval of the October 22, 2026 1:00 pm Marathon High School Homecoming Parade

**G.** City Manager, PIO, and Fire Discussion (Landry) – Landry asked for the process of hiring a City Manager. Williams informed everyone there were 63 applicants and the committee has started the ranking process Landry asked if the Council should discuss closing the applications. Council decided to leave the applications open until mid-June. Williams informed everyone the new PIO would be starting on Monday, and his name is Chris Seymour, he is a part-time, in-house PIO. Williams informed everyone that Shana Rogers is the interim fire chief, and the search for a new chief has not begun.

The Mayor called for speakers.

James Muro – Muro stated that the facts were being ignored and the City never revised the press release of the after-hours event. Muro stated that at 6:27 pm he was in City Hall, and he called in the accident that occurred around 6:45 pm. Muro explained the timeline that the next day, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:53 am he advised HR and on the 24<sup>th</sup> he was placed on administrative leave and terminated on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Muro informed everyone he was never asked any questions, and Muro stated he complied with the drug testing policy as there are no 24-hour testing facilities. Muro stated he did not have his due process and would like to continue on administrative leave and for the Council to look at the facts.

Trace Goodwin spoke in favor of giving the Chief his job back.

Carlos Ornelas – spoke in favor of Muro and stated if he was not hired back, he was concerned about the direction of the department.

Joe Forcine spoke in favor of Muro, stating he was very organized, structured and a kind, giving person as asked for an opportunity to give him another chance.

Wendy Bonilla – provided a packet of information which included Muro's resume, the accident report, etc. and stated the some of the Council was on a witch hunt, but one of the Councilmembers told several fire fighters they would rehire the chief.

Williams informed everyone that the City received a tort claims notice yesterday and it would not be in the City's best interest to discuss the matter at this time. Williams informed everyone he spoke with the two fire shifts so far. Matlock asked if the firefighters were fully aware of everything. Williams stated not even close. Williams stated the City Council does not get to dictate who gets fired, they have no say. Williams stated the union does have protections, and no one will lose their job tomorrow.

Still informed everyone of the penalties in accordance with the charter for the Council telling the City Manager to fire or not fire someone. Williams referenced FS 112.317 regarding penalties. Struyf explained the Council's limitations.

Randy Mearns – gave his background as part of the first city council and commented that there were holes in the story, and it is not crystal clear. Mearns felt the Chief was getting a raw deal.

Diane Scott – commented that people are quick to jump to conclusions and asked that an investigation be completed.

**Citizens' comments:**

Richard McClain – complained that the marina only offers the one-year discount if you sign a one-year contract.

Diane Scott – commented that the top law enforcement does not do a good job and she reported him to the State Ethics Commission.

Still commented that the firefighters were appreciated and that she was very proud of the department. Del Gaizo commented that the department has been well trained and she is not worried. Struyf commented that she likes the Chief and Fire Rescue has saved her life twice. The City Council cannot do anything, and policies need to be followed equally.

### **City Manager Report**

- \* **A.** MCSO Marathon Substation Report
- \* **B.** Grants Update
- \* **C.** Public Works Report
- \* **D.** Park and Recreation Report
- \* **E.** Engineering Report
- \* **F.** Marina Report
- \* **G.** Code Report
- \* **H.** Wastewater Utilities Report
- \* **I.** Building Report
- \* **J.** Marathon Fire Rescue Report
- \* **K.** Florida Commerce ACSC Administration Permit Contact Line (Informational)
- L.** Non-Profit Grant Funding Discussion – Williams commented that we are hesitant to hand out grants when we don't know how much we will have next year, we are not being slow intentionally. Landry commented that he would like to spend \$100,000.

Diane Culver – informed the Council the Marathon Recreation Center and all youth/children services are not included in County funding.

The Council gave a head nod to more forward with the grant requests and funding, and to have the nonprofits speak at the June workshop.

**M.** Roadway Vulnerability Study Presentation - Erin Deady, Greg Corning and Melisa Henriquez Valencia all provided a PowerPoint presentation on the background on the program, project approach, and status, explaining how they identified the vulnerable areas and their scoring system. They provided an adaptation plan and anticipated costs of an average of \$17.6 million per mile which does not include annual operation and maintenance. There are approximately 45 miles and 3,168 residential units that would be impacted. They also gave policy and implementation recommendations and provided a website of [www.keysroadsplan.com](http://www.keysroadsplan.com) for interactive maps, elevations, and neighborhood area recommendations.

**N.** Agenda Deadlines Discussion – Williams and the Clerk explained the agenda deadline was Monday morning the week before the meeting, for City Staff it was Friday noon the week before the meeting.

### **Resolutions For Adoption**

**A. Resolution 2026-41, Adopting The City Of Marathon Watershed Management Plan; Providing For An Effective Date.**

Erin Deady provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Watershed Master Plan and explained there were only six communities in Florida with a CRS class 4 or better, Monroe County being one of them. Deady explained without adopting this plan, a community cannot improve more than a class 5 and not receive more NFIP premium discounts. In 2018 the City secured a class 6 rating which affords us a 20 percent discount annually on flood insurance. The plan must be every five years to maintain the CRS credit.

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

**MOTION:** Matlock moved to approve

**SECOND:** Still

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Matlock, Still, Landry, Struyf, Del Gaizo

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

**B. Resolution 2026-42 Approving Change Order #4 Either Option 1 In The Amount Of \$57,038.16 Or Option 2 In The Amount Of \$266,225.88 For The Marathon Sombrero Blvd Drainage Improvements Project; Authorizing The City Manager To Sign The Work Directive Change And To Expend Budgeted Funds; And Providing An Effective Date.**

Steve Suggs with Weiler Engineering outlined the two options. Suggs also explained that everything was included in the original bid, but they were tasked with lowering the bid amount and took out the leveling portion of the bid along with a few other items.

**MOTION:** Struyf moved to approve option #2 minus \$2940.21 for the pipe stand

**SECOND:** Matlock

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Struyf, Matlock, Still, Landry, Del Gaizo

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

**C. Resolution 2026-43, Amending The Base Impact Fee Schedule Adopted By Resolution 2006-198, Pursuant To Chapter 111 Article 2 Entitled "Impact Fees" Of The Land Development Regulations (LDRs); And Providing For An Effective Date**

Joe Williams with Raffellis explained the City has had impact fees in place since 206, both fees are \$2.24 and \$2 a square foot.

**MOTION:** Still moved to approve

**SECOND:** Struyf

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Still, Struyf, Landry, Matlock, Del Gaizo

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

**\*D. Resolution 2026-44**, Requesting The Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Land Authority To Allocate Funding In The Amount Of Up To \$4,000,000 For The Purpose Of Construction Costs For Up To Twelve Units For Keys Health + Housing (Formerly AH Monroe) Authorizing The City Manager To Execute Necessary Documents, Upon Consent Of The City Attorney; Providing For An Effective Date.

**E. Resolution 2026-45**, Approving a Design Build Contract with Platform Group, LLC via a Piggy-Back Contract From National Buyers Group SAM.gov ID # CWFYU2TZ1LD3 For A New Splash Pad in the Amount Not To Exceed \$700,000.00; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute A Contract And Expend and Appropriate Funds In The Amount Of \$965,800.00; And Providing For An Effective Date.

Solis explained there were typos in the previous version of the Resolution and agenda statement and that there was a \$500 thousand grant and he would request a bond and there would be a maintenance building over the equipment. Landry questioned when the project would be completed and Solis responded that once the skate park is completed we would begin the project, most likely the end of June.

**MOTION:** Still moved to approve Resolution 2026-45 as amended

**SECOND:** Struyf

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Still, Struyf, Landry, Matlock, Del Gaizo

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

**\*F. Resolution 2026-46**, Approval Of A Landscape Maintenance Agreement With FDOT For The Maintenance Of The Newly Installed Beautification Landscaping Within The City Of Marathon; Authorizing The City Manager To Execute The Agreement; And Providing For An Effective Date.

**Ordinances for Final Public Hearing and Enactment:**

**A. Ordinance 2025-08**, Amending The City’s Comprehensive Plan, Amending Policy 1-4.1.2 “Specific Standards And Requirements For Workforce-Affordable Housing”; Providing For Severability; Providing For The Repeal Of Conflicting Provisions; Providing For The Transmittal Of This Ordinance To Florida Commerce; And Providing For An Effective Date Upon The Approval Of This Ordinance By Florida Commerce.

**B. Ordinance 2025-09**, Amending Chapter 104, Article 1 “General Provisions” By Amending Section 104.02.1 “Affordable -- Early Evacuation Residential Unit” To Address Government Agency Management; Providing For The Repeal Of All Ordinances Or Parts Thereof Found To Be In Conflict; Providing For Severability; Providing For The Transmittal Of This Ordinance To Florida Commerce After Final Adoption By The City Council; Providing For Inclusion In The Code Of Ordinances And Providing For An Effective Date.

Shea explained both ordinances and that essentially, they are adding caveat language that would amend the City of Marathon Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Regulations in order to recognize that a government agency or public housing authority may act as management of an early evacuation unit project, and by virtue would not need onsite management. The Council discussed that they do like onsite management with the exception of Landry.

**MOTION:** Matlock moved to **deny** Ordinance 2026-08

**SECOND:** Struyf

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Matlock, Struyf, Still, Del Gaizo

No: Landry

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**Vote on the Motion:** 4 Yes, 1 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

**MOTION:** Matlock moved to **deny** Ordinance 2026-09

**SECOND:** Still

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Matlock, Still, Struyf, Del Gaizo

No: Landry

Absent: None

Abstain: None

**Vote on the Motion:** 4 Yes, 1 No, 0 Absent, 0 Abstain

**Council Comments:**

Still reminded everyone that May 10-16 was Law Enforcement Week and May 15<sup>th</sup> was Peace Officer Memorial Day. Still thanked staff and commented it was a pleasure to serve with the Council.

Landry reminded everyone of upcoming events such as Havanna Nights on June 13<sup>th</sup> and on May 29<sup>th</sup> school is out. Landry reminded everyone that the City would be hosting a summer camp again this year, there are a few slots left. Landry thanked the staff.

Struyf thanked the staff.

Matlock thanked the staff

Del Gaizo thanked the staff and everyone who came to the meeting and mentioned that work does go on behind the scenes and asked that the rumors stop.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Del Gaizo adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm with unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the City Council meeting of May 12, 2026.

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Diane Clavier, City Clerk

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Date