

CALL TO ORDER - A Workshop of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on June 23, 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 via Zoom

Councilmember Still

Vice Mayor Struyf

Mayor Del Gaizo, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Attorney/Interim City Manager, Steve Williams

Deputy City Clerk, Mariah Muino

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Grants Coordinator, Maria Covelli

MCSO Capt. Derek Paul

Non-Profit Presentations – Representatives from local non-profit organizations presented funding requests and provided information regarding their programs, community impact, and prior funding history.

Speakers:

Special Olympics – Providing year-round sports training, athletic competition, and inclusive recreational opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Representative Ruth Coleman requested funding for Unified Champion Sports programs that support active athletes. Also noted the organization previously received approximately \$3,600 in funding.

Autism Society of the Keys – Supporting individuals with autism and their families through advocacy, education, resources, and community programs throughout the Florida Keys.

Representative Jill Campbell requested funding for sensory boxes and related resources and how the organization has previously received funding on two occasions.

Womankind – Providing women's health services, cancer screenings, wellness programs, and healthcare access for uninsured and underinsured women.

Representative Cali Roberts requested support for the Women's Wellness Fund serving uninsured and underinsured individuals and noted the organization has previously received City funding.

Wesley House Family Services – Offering family support services, youth programs, emergency assistance, foster care services, and family stabilization resources.

Representative Grace Epperly requested funding for the Family Stability Program, which assists families with groceries, gas, and essential needs. Also noted the organization has not received prior City grant funding.

Hammock House (St. Columba) – Providing educational, mentoring, after-school, and summer enrichment opportunities for local youth.

Representative Reverend Deb requested funding for after-school and summer camp programs and noted the organization has previously received City funding.

Domestic Abuse Shelter – Providing emergency shelter, counseling, advocacy, and support services for survivors of domestic violence and abuse.

Representative Sheryl Schwab requested assistance for shelter operations and rebuilding efforts. Discussed participant assistance services provided by the organization and noted that the organization has previously received funding from the city.

United Way – Supporting community programs through grant funding, volunteer initiatives, and services addressing health, education, and financial stability.

Representative Tiffany Pellicier requested operational funding for the VITA Program, which provides free tax preparation services. Mayor Del Gaizo thanked the organization for the previous grants awarded to the city for the splashpad and skate park.

Salvation Army – Providing emergency assistance, food, disaster relief, utility assistance, and support services for individuals and families in need.

Representative Loretta Geotis requested funding for the Social Services Program that provides assistance with basic needs. Also noted that the organization previously received City funding.

Conch Republic Marine Army – Organizing marine debris removal projects and environmental clean-up efforts throughout the Florida Keys.

Representative Capt. Scat Fisher requested funding for marine debris removal efforts. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Literacy Volunteers – Offering adult literacy, English language instruction, and educational support to improve reading and communication skills.

Representative Mary Casanova requested funding to support literacy services for individuals reading and writing below grade level. Also noted that the organization previously received funding.

Keys AHEC – Improving access to healthcare through medical, dental, and health education programs for underserved residents.

Representative Michael Cunningham requested funding for the Medical and Dental Team Program. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Save-A-Turtle – Providing sea turtle education, conservation awareness, and environmental stewardship programs.

Representative Jen DeMaria requested assistance to support organizational operations and programming.

Middle Keys Sailing – Teaching sailing, boating safety, and water-based educational programs for youth and adults.

Representative Carol Shattuck requested funding to complete a floating dock project. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Education Coalition for Monroe County – Delivering prevention education, youth development programs, and support services for at-risk students.

Representative Christina Belotti requested funding for the Champion for Change program and prevention education initiatives. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Habitat for Humanity of the Middle Keys – Building and preserving affordable housing opportunities for local workforce families.

Representative Chris Todd Young requested funding for blower door testing and mitigation-related projects. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Community Co-op Preschool – Providing early childhood education and developmental learning opportunities for young children.

Representative Brandi Jones requested funding for after-school programming, water sensory equipment, and classroom improvements. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Marathon Recreation Center – Offering youth recreation, sports programs, after-school activities, and summer camps.

Representative Diane Culver requested support for after-school and summer programs. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Florida Keys SPCA – Providing animal shelter services, pet adoption, animal welfare programs, and spay/neuter initiatives.

Representative Tara Vickrey requested funding for the Spay and Neuter Program. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Good Health Clinic – Delivering free and low-cost healthcare services to uninsured and underserved residents of Monroe County.

Representative Lindsay Fast requested organizational funding support. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Peyton's Promise Sanctuary – Animal rescue, rehabilitation, and educational programs promoting compassion and responsible pet ownership.

Representative Kristina Porter requested funding for the Paws for Compassion Program focused on animal welfare and compassion education. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Grace Jones Community Program – Providing food assistance, backpack programs, and support services for children and families facing food insecurity.

Representatives Ivana Micovic and Chad Tate requested funding for food and backpack programs that provide food assistance to children. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Marathon Memorial Foundation – provides educational scholarships to students pursuing higher education, vocational training, and career development opportunities.

Representative Wendy Bonilla requested scholarship funding support. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Marathon Elks Lodge – Community service projects, charitable giving, youth programs, and food assistance efforts.

Representative Wendy Bonilla requested funding to assist with a food distribution program and requested approximately \$5,000.

Monroe County Education Foundation – Supporting educational achievement through scholarships, mentoring, and the Take Stock in Children program.

Representative Chuck Licis-Masson requested scholarship funding for the Take Stock in Children program.

Crane Point – Environmental education, cultural preservation, historical exhibits, and natural resource conservation.

Representative Charlotte Quinn requested funding for educational programming.

Marathon Wild Bird Center – Rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing injured and orphaned wild birds while providing wildlife education.

Representative Kelly Grinter requested funding to assist with food costs for birds in rehabilitation. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Last Resort Ministry – Assisting homeless individuals, struggling families, children, and single-parent households through outreach and support services.

Representative Gary Roberts requested funding to support Marathon's homeless population, children, and single-parent households. Also noted the organization has not received prior City funding.

KAIR – Providing emergency financial assistance, food, housing support, and crisis intervention services to Keys residents.

Representative Ryan Elwell requested funding to assist local families in Marathon. Also noted that the organization has previously received funding.

Independence Cay – Providing supportive housing and recovery-focused services for individuals overcoming substance abuse and life challenges.

Representative Ryan Elwell requested funding to support facility operations and services.

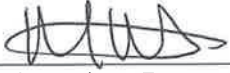
Diane Scott - Spoke regarding the allocation of City funding to non-profit organizations. Expressed the opinion that City funds should prioritize programs that are offered free of charge and spoke on the importance of supporting organizations that provide food and shelter assistance.

Mayor Del Gaizo gave recognition of the partnerships and cooperation among local non-profit organizations. Still gave recognition and expressed appreciation for the extensive community services provided by the organizations and also thanked staff for organizing these grants. Struyf thanked staff and all participants for their efforts in organizing and participating in the workshop. Landry expressed how amazing it is to see the organizations come out and be able to hear from all of them.

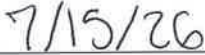
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Del Gaizo adjourned the workshop at 7:10 pm.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the City Council workshop of June 23, 2026.



Mariah Muino, Deputy City Clerk



Date