

CALL TO ORDER - A Special Call Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on July 21, 2026 in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor 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 Still

Councilmember Landry

Councilmember Matlock

Vice Mayor Struyf

Mayor Del Gaizo, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Attorney/Interim City Manager, Steve Williams

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Deputy City Manager, Brian Bradley

Planning Director, Brian Shea

Senior Planner, Dan Gulizio

Park and Recreation Director, Scott Williamson

Engineer, Carlos Solis

Code Director, Theodore Lozier

MCSO Captain Derek Paul

Approval of agenda

Landry added a discussion regarding the next steps and setting a meeting next Tuesday to discuss those next steps after the City Manager candidate interviews.

Williams explained that John Dick requested to serve alcohol at the large Tiki Hut behind city hall on August 8th from 10:00 am until noon. The Council gave a head nod of approval.

MOTION: Landry moved to approve the agenda as amended
SECOND: Struyf

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

General Fund Budget Discussion

Resolution 2026-69, 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

Jennifer Johnson, Finance Director – Johnson explained the preliminary millage rate would be the highest rate the City could charge for FY27, and once the preliminary millage rate is set, it can only be decreased from that point. Johnson explained that current proposed millage rate is 2.3231 mills which would require a unanimous vote to pass at the final hearing.

Johnson reported that the General Fund is significantly supported by our ad-valorem revenues and this millage rate will generate about \$12.2 million of revenue for our general fund. Overall, the General Fund revenues are budgeted for approximately \$24 million while the budgeted expenditures are at \$26 million; a \$2 million spending deficit

Johnson reported that the FY27 Proposed General Fund Budgeted Expenditures include the following notable increases from the prior year:

Overall

- Increase of 10% to the health benefit budget line items for all employees
- cost of living based on the April 2026 Miami/Ft Lauderdale rate, this will be adjusted to the June 2026 rate, and merit adjustments

Fire Department

- increased personnel costs

IT

- increased professional service and equipment maintenance items
- moved the PIO position from General Services to IT

Parks & Rec

- Increased maintenance, utilities, small tools, and special events

Public Works

- Added ½ of an FTE for a Public Works/ Street Maintenance Manager

- Increased annual transfer to support the street maintenance special revenue fund activities.

Planning

- We will need to add in \$65,000 for an appeal of the FEMA flood maps.

Johnson reported that if the budget goes as planned that would leave the City at 9/30/2026 with \$24.4 million in unassigned fund balance. The unassigned fund balance is used for items such as emergencies, unforeseen items, and settlements and that would leave the City with a little bit of wiggle room of just shy of our twelve months of reserves.

Management met with the Department Heads and identified approximately \$244,000 in reductions. Those reductions are as follows:

- Code Department \$44,700
 - o Decreased OT, uniforms, small tools, training, repairs & maintenance for equipment and property abatement expenses
- Nearshore waters \$80,000
 - o Decreased expenditures for capital outlay for buildings and improvements
- Parks & Rec \$19,750
 - o Decreased travel, professional services, city celebration, and training expenditures
- IT \$99,000
 - o Decreased web site upgrades and equipment expenditures

Struyf asked if there were two or three new positions in the budget. Johnson replied that one is a parks and recreation manager and there is a half position between public works and half street maintenance but tonight is only the general fund budget which street maintenance is not part of the general fund is a property tax and fifty percent of the revenue comes from ad valorem taxes. Johnson explained if the Council wanted to keep the same millage, we would have to cut 1.37 million. Williams informed everyone of the 67 Counties in Florida, Monroe County has one of the lowest tax rates and we are lower, we have slashed a quarter of a million dollars already. Williams explained that we will need to go through the process next year to show on paper a ten percent cut, but it may be mandated at a later time to cut the ten percent. Still commented we need to set the millage and look at cuts before the next two meetings in September. Williams explained we cannot tell what the impacts will be in the future years and urged the Council to use caution; we have two months to trim. Matlock commented we will come back to try to tighten the budget.

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

MOTION: Still moved to approve Resolution 2026-69 at the millage rate of 2.3231

SECOND: Matlock

Johnson read sections one of the resolution into the record.

City of Marathon
City Council Action Minutes
July 21, 2026 5:30 pm City Council Special Call Meeting Minutes

Section 1. The proposed millage is declared to be 2.3231 mills, which is \$2.3231 per \$1,000.00 of assessed property within the City of Marathon, Florida. The proposed millage is 18.82% greater than the rolled back rate.

Vote of the Motion:

AYES: Still, Matlock, Landry, Del Gaizo

NOES: Struyf

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

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

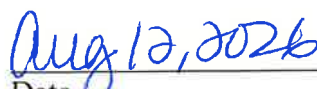
Special Call Meeting Discussion – Landry explained he would like to discuss and possibly come to a conclusion to offer a contract or the next steps. Struyf explained she would make no promises to make a decision. Still commented she would like to discuss the next steps. Struyf commented she was very happy with the projects being finished and the direction the City is headed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Landry adjourned the meeting at 6:11 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of July 21, 2026.


Diane Clavier, City Clerk


Date