

## **For Immediate Release:**

### **City Council moves deep well project forward**

**MARATHON, FL (June 11, 2026)** -- The Marathon City Council met on Tuesday, June 9, and moved quickly through a light agenda that included approving a \$7.625 million construction contract for the deep injection well project and waiving certain city parking and boat ramp fees for military veterans.

Council members awarded the contract to Accurate Drilling Systems, from six competitive bids received, for work on Phases 2 and 3B Force Main of the project.

In announcing the selection, Steve Suggs with Weiler Engineering acknowledged some traffic concerns could arise, especially in the Grassy Key area.

“This is going to be the worst traffic one,” Suggs told the council, noting there are only two lanes in that area. “That being said, we are anticipating a lane shift ... We do think we have enough room up there that we should be able to keep both lanes open.”

Council member Kenny Matlock quickly added, “I think we need to make that happen. We’ve got to add some dirt to the shoulder and put some cheap pavement down.”

“We all know that’s a main artery,” Matlock said. “It can’t be a ‘whoopsie, we messed up, deal with it for three months’.”

Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo raised questions about extra lighting in the area, and Suggs said he would bring up the concern with the contractor.

The project is a major component of Marathon's wastewater infrastructure improvements and water quality protection efforts.

Council members also approved a program to allow eligible veterans to receive exemptions from beach parking and boat ramp fees.

Mayor Del Gazio spearheaded the effort and was happy to see it pass.

“Last night, we came up with a plan that all veterans, if they register with the city, they get parking for free and boat ramps for free,” Del Gaizo said Thursday on U.S. 1 Radio.

“If you are a veteran, you just reach out to the city, register with them, and you have a free parking pass. I'm super excited about that.

“If you go and fight for our country, I think we should do a little something extra for you,” the mayor said.

Once administrative procedures are finalized, the program should require a simple registration process like those used by Florida State Parks.

Early in the meeting, the council recognized Marathon senior Justice Lee for her exceptional accomplishments in track and field and weightlifting.

Lee was honored as the most decorated athlete in Marathon High School history, having earned 13 state championship medals, four state championship titles, and recording multiple top finishes in shot put, discus, javelin, and weightlifting throughout her high school career.

Additionally, the council recognize three employees for their years of service to the city.

Maria Covelli (Grants) and Jared Weaver (Engineering) were honored for five years of service, while City Clerk Diane Clavier was given special recognition for her two decades of service and her contributions to city administration, records management, and meeting operations.

At the start of the meeting, City Attorney and interim City Manager Steve Williams provided an informational update regarding a proposed constitutional amendment expected to appear on the state's November ballot.

The proposal would increase homestead exemptions over time, create residency requirements for new Florida residents seeking enhanced exemptions, reduce annual assessment increases on non-homestead properties from 10% to 5%, and restrict the categories of local services that may be funded through property taxes.

Williams emphasized Marathon may be less affected than many communities because of its relatively low percentage of homesteaded properties.

Other details from the meeting included:

- Significant progress has been made on the new city website, with the possibility of launch before the end of the summer;
- Discussion on an agreement allowing Marathon employees with risk management expertise to temporarily assist Monroe County while the county fills staffing vacancies. The arrangement is expected to last approximately 90 days;
- Approval of a series of ordinances updating portions of Marathon's Comprehensive Plan. The ordinances addressed future land use, housing, infrastructure, conservation and coastal management, intergovernmental coordination, transportation, and implementation and review.
- Approval of an amendment to regulations governing waterfront walkways and docks, which would allow property owners with fish-cleaning tables to comply with city code requirements and follows previous review by state officials.
- Approval of the city's updated 10-year water supply facilities work plan, which is intended to ensure long-term coordination between future development and available water resources.

A recording of the meeting is available at <https://imd0mxanj2.execute-api.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/ssr/watch/6a29517423ea5f3fa236442b>



Alex Rickert/Keys Weekly Newspapers

Marathon's Justice Lee, center, alongside her mother, Manda, was honored Tuesday, June 9, for her myriad athletic accomplishments by, from left, City Council members Lynn Landry and Robyn Still, Vice Mayor Debra Struyf, Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo, and City Council member Kenny Matlock.



Alex Rickert/Keys Weekly Newspapers

Maria Covelli, center, from the city's Grants Department, was recognized by the City Council for her five years of service.



Alex Rickert/Keys Weekly Newspapers

Jared Weaver, center, with the city's Engineering Department, was recognized by the City Council for his five years of service.



Alex Rickert/Keys Weekly Newspapers

Marathon City Clerk Diane Clavier, center, was honored for her 20 years of service by the City Council.

**Chris Seymour, City of Marathon Public Information Officer**  
Email: [pio@ci.marathon.fl.us](mailto:pio@ci.marathon.fl.us) Cell: 645-206-4368

***For inquiries, contact City of Marathon, 305-743-0033***