

For Immediate Release:



From left, City Council member Lynn Landry, Vice Mayor Debra Struyf, Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo, and council members Robyn Stil and Kenny Matlock discuss options to selecting a new city manager Tuesday, July 28, at City Hall.

Council seeks second interviews for city manager candidates

MARATHON, FL (July 29, 2026) – The Marathon City Council held a Special Call meeting Tuesday, July 28, to discuss candidates for city manager.

After more than an hour of discussion and public comment, council members agreed to bring back two of the five candidates — City Clerk Diane Clavier and St. Lucie County Deputy County Administrator Mayte Santamaria — for a second in-person interview.

Three of the five council members also sought a third candidate who did not apply for the position — interim City Manager Steve Williams.



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Mayor Lynny Del Gaizo stressed numerous times in the meeting she did not feel comfortable deciding on a new city manager after one interview. Council members met individually on July 23 with the five candidates for the post.

"I cannot make a decision on a 30-minute interview or an hour interview for someone from out of town," Del Gaizo said. "I just can't do it in good conscience, I just can't."

Vice Mayor Debra Struyf said she was not ready to make a decision on the position.

"I'm willing to discuss all candidates on the board, but I still would like to interview one more, if not two more," she told council members.

The council's trepidation in deciding on a city manager Tuesday night was amplified by public speakers, many of whom supported taking time with the decision.

All five council members agreed Santamaria was a strong candidate, with Lynn Landry and Robyn Still advocating for her to receive the post. Del Gaizo, Struyf and council member Kenny Matlock indicated she was on their lists, which also included Clavier and Williams.

Besides Clavier, who recently was honored for her 20 years with the city, and Santamaria, a former resident of Marathon who previously worked in Monroe County government, other candidates were city Code Compliance Director Ted Lozier, longtime Marathon resident and former City Manager Mike Puto, and Green Cove Springs (Florida) interim City Manager Michael Null.

The city received 69 applications for the position. A selection committee worked to bring five candidates to City Council.

Williams has served as interim City Manager since February, following the termination of then-City Manager George Garrett.



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