

**CALL TO ORDER** - A Meeting of the City Council of Marathon, Florida was held on September 24, 2024 in the Marathon Council Chambers, 9805 Overseas Hwy., Marathon, Florida, Mayor Still called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL - There were present:**

Councilmember Gonzalez

Councilmember Matlock

Councilmember Smith

Vice Mayor Landry, via Zoom

Mayor Still, comprising a quorum.

Also, in attendance were:

City Manager, George Garrett

City Clerk, Diane Clavier

City Attorney, Steve Williams

Finance Director, Jennifer Johnson

Utilities Director, Dan Saus

Fire Chief James Muro

Code Director, Ted Lozier

Marina Director, Sean Cannon

Park and Recreation Director, Paul Davis

MCSO Sheriff's Officer, Lt. Derek Paul

**MOTION:** Gonzalez moved to allow Vice Mayor Landry to attend via Zoom due to illness.

**SECOND:** Smith

With no objection from the members of Council, Mayor Still declared the agenda approved by unanimous consent.

### **Approval Of Agenda And Consent Agenda**

With no objection from the members of Council, Mayor Still declared the agenda approved by unanimous consent.

### **Final Public Hearing to Adopt the Final Budget and Millage Rate**

Johnson explained the current rate of 2.2235 mills is equal to the rolled back rate. This millage rate will generate about 10.1 million in revenues for our general fund. Johnson explained the notable increases which included positions and contractual increases for union employees.

Johnson explained the special revenue funds, capital projects fund, debt service fund, enterprise funds and the affordable housing fund which includes \$400,000 of appropriations to continue the first-time home buyer loan program. The wastewater fund includes approximately \$8.5 million of debt proceeds to offset the construction of the new deep well project. Johnson informed everyone the capital infrastructure budget included appropriations for City Hall improvements, new fire hydrants, 7 mile marina and park improvements, design of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Street multi use facility, Ocean Front Park improvements, Quay bathroom facilities, Community Park improvements, road and bridge improvements, maintenance for Sombrero Beach house, as well as transfers to the general, vehicle replacement, debt service and stormwater funds.

**A. Resolution 2024-91**, Adopting The Final Millage Rate and Levy Of Ad Valorem Taxes For The City Of Marathon of Monroe County, Florida For The Fiscal Year 2024-2025; and Providing For An Effective Date.

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

**MOTION:** Gonzalez moved to approve Resolution 2024-91 with the rolled back rate of 2.2235 mills.

**SECOND:** Smith

#### **Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Gonzalez, Smith, Matlock, Landry, Still

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

Mayor Still commented that she would like to revisit the Cola. Smith commented that we have one contractual obligation with the Fire Department, everyone could use the June COLA number going forward as it would remove the subjectivity. Gonzalez agreed it would make perfect sense. Still commented she would like to see the 2.5 percent merit. Smith commented that we have used 1.5 percent in the last two years and cautioned to be careful about increasing as it is not sustainable. Gonzalez agreed to stick to June whatever the COLA is, and he would like to see an additional half a point to a point as the cost of living is more expensive here. Still explained she did a comparison of some basic food, with no luxuries Publix here versus Walmart in Florida City for eggs, milk, hot dogs and buns with lunchmeat, condiments, which would cost \$49.43 here versus \$32.35 on the mainland.

The Mayor called for speakers.

Diane Scott – commented that not everyone should get a merit increase.

**B. Resolution 2024-92**, Adopting The Final Budget For Fiscal Year 2024-2025; Authorizing The Expenditure Of Funds Established By The Budget; And Providing For An Effective Date.

**MOTION:** Gonzalez moved to approve Resolution 2024-92 with a 3.5 plus a .5 point for total of 4 percent Cola and a two percent merit.

**SECOND:** Landry

Landry commented he could support the addition half percent.

**Vote of the Motion:**

Yes: Gonzalez, Landry, Matlock, Smith, Still

No: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

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

**\*C. Resolution 2024-93**, Authorizing A “Piggy-Back” Purchase Pursuant To The City’s Purchasing Policies And Procedures And Approving The Purchase Of Two Chevrolet Silverado, one 1500 and one 2500 Vehicle Under The State of Florida Motor Vehicle Contract No. FSA23-VEL31.0 From Stingray Chevrolet In An Amount Not To Exceed \$89,595.94; Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into Agreements In Connection Therewith, Appropriating And Expending Funds; And Providing For An Effective Date

**\*D. Rescinding Resolution 2024-84** (the Resolution stated the costs for resurfacing and restriping the tennis courts was \$55,800, but the actual amount was \$29,500, which did not need Council approval.)

**Council Comments:**

Gonzalez thanked the staff and Johnson and reminded everyone the time is now to prepare for the storm out there and to be safe.

Matlock wished everyone to be safe and he would see everyone in two weeks.

Smith wished everyone to be safe, diligent and pay attention.

Landry thanked the Council for allowing him to participate via Zoom and thanked Johnson and Bowman, wished everyone to be safe and he would see everyone in October.

Still thanked the staff, Public Works, Marathon Fire Rescue, MCSO and reminded everyone of homecoming on Friday.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Still adjourned the meeting at 5:32 pm by unanimous consent.

I certify the above represents an accurate summary of the regular Council meeting of September 24, 2024.

Diane Clavier  
Diane Clavier, City Clerk

October 9, 2024  
Date