

Sponsored by: Garrett

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA
RESOLUTION 2025-32**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA DIRECTING STAFF TO DRAFT AND ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE WITHDRAWING FROM AND THE ABANDONING ITS INCLUSION IN THE MIDDLE KEYS HEALTH CARE MUNICIPAL TAXING UNIT (CHAPTER 28, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 28-3 OF THE CITY'S CODE OF ORDINANCES) FOR REVIEW AT THE NEXT POSSIBLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City of Marathon entered into an agreement known as the Middle Keys Health Care Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU); and

WHEREAS, for the purposes sought and in order to assist Baptist Hospital with the redevelopment of Fisherman's Community Hospital, the County under its authority created the MSTU; and

WHEREAS, the attached MOU provides current and new procedures for such Rendering based on the Department's termination of the previous MOU effective March 3, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City agreed to be taxed through the MSTU for an amount of up to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) over a period of up to ten years; and

WHEREAS, the City passed a complimentary Ordinance. As part of the City's Ordinance, the City must agree to either continue the MSTU each year or request that the County rescind that portion of the MSTU which includes the City; and

WHEREAS, if the City votes to terminate the MSTU, they must do it by Ordinance. The entirety of the City's agreement to the County's MSTU is found in Chapter 28 Taxation / Article 28-1 In General / Section 28-1 through Section 28-4; and

WHEREAS, each year since 2019, the City Council has reviewed the Ordinance and agreed to its continuation. As we approach this year (2025), the MSTU has been very effective at a rate of 0.5 mils to collect nearly all of the \$15 Million; and

WHEREAS, the MSTU is estimated to only require \$896,111.01 in this coming year to meet the intent and obligation under the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, as the MSTU has typically collected approximately \$2 Million annually, the millage of 0.5 is not necessary to collect the remaining amount; and

WHEREAS, the Council has at least two choices (two offered here);

1. Request that the County rescind that portion of their Ordinance which includes the City of Marathon from further collection under the MSTU, or
2. Request that the County reduce by Ordinance the current millage to an amount which would only generate the approximate amount of \$896,111.01; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that the reduction in millage would be approximately 1/3 of that required and adopted currently. However, this number cannot accurately be determined until the 2025-2026 tax roll amounts are available in June or early July 2025; and

WHEREAS, by majority vote, the City Council has elected to rescind and withdraw from the City's participation in the MSTU,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Staff draft an Ordinance reflecting the City withdrawal from the Middle Keys Health Care Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) to be advertised for public hearing at the April 8 and 22, 2025 meetings of the City Council. Upon final adoption, staff are directed to transmit a certified copy of the Ordinance to the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) requesting that they remove the City from participation in the MSTU.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon the signature of both parties.

Section 4. The City Clerk is directed to transmit this Resolution to Monroe County for their use and deliberations.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA, THIS 31ST DAY OF MARCH, 2025.

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA

Lynn Landry, Mayor

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ATTEST:

Diane Clavier, City Clerk

(City Seal)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY FOR THE USE AND RELIANCE OF THE
CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA ONLY:**

Steve Williams, City Attorney