

Sponsored by: Council

**CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION 2020-89**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON,  
FLORIDA APPROVING THE PROPOSED CONTRACT FOR THE POSITION OF  
CITY MANAGER BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA AND MR.  
GEORGE GARRETT, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

**WHEREAS**, on or about October 13, 2020 Charles Lindsey, current City Manager for the City of Marathon, submitted his resignation, now effective November 12, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council voted 3/2 at a Special Call meeting held on October 29, 2020 to approve hiring Mr. George Garrett, currently the City's Planning Director, as the City Manager; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council directed that the City Attorney and Mr. Garrett to negotiate a Contract which they would bring back to the Council at the next Council meeting or as soon as possible; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council also directed that the Contract should provide certain terms, particularly that the City Manager, in this case, would retain the title of Planning Director in order to continue a high-level oversight of that Department; and

**WHEREAS**, said Contract is determined to be in the best interest of the City,

**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.** The City Council hereby approves the Contract between the City of Marathon, Florida and George Garrett as its City Manager. Said Contract is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

**Section 3.** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval by the City Council.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARATHON,  
FLORIDA, THIS 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2020.**

**THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Luis Gonzalez

AYES: Senmartin, Bartus, Zieg, Gonzalez  
NOES: Cook  
ABSENT: None  
ABSTAIN: None

**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

## EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

This Employment Agreement (the "Agreement") is made and entered into this 10<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020, by and between the City of Marathon, Florida, a Florida municipal corporation (the "City") and George S. Garrett ("City Manager").

### **WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, Section 7(3) of the City Charter provides that the City Manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the City to secure and retain the services of the City Manager; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Manager desires to be employed as the City Manager for the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, the parties agree as follows:

### **SECTION 1. DUTIES**

The City Manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the City and shall perform the functions and duties specified in the City Charter and the City's Code of Ordinances, and shall also perform such other legally permissible and proper duties and functions as the City Council shall from time to time assign.

The City Manager shall retain the title of Planning Director for the purposes of overseeing that Department and in the event that he chooses to relinquish the City Manager position or if the City Council in majority determines that the City Manager is not the best fit for the position.

### **SECTION 2. TERM**

This Agreement shall be for a term of three (3) years and renewable by further agreement of the parties. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent, limit or otherwise interfere with the right of the City Council to terminate the services of the City Manager at any time, subject only to the provisions set forth in the City Charter and Section 11 of this Agreement. Likewise, nothing in this Agreement shall prevent, limit or otherwise interfere with the right of the City Manager to resign at any time from the City Manager position, subject only to the provisions set forth in Section 11 of this Agreement.

### **SECTION 3. COMPENSATION**

The City agrees to pay the City Manager for his services rendered an annual base salary of \$160,000.00 payable in equal biweekly installments. In addition to any performance-based increases, as specified in Section 16 of this Agreement, beginning in calendar year 2020, any cost-of-living increases will be provided at the same time to the City Manager consistent with those provided to other City employees generally.

The City requires, as early as possible, the City Manager to become a Credentialed City Manager by the International City/County Management Association ("ICMA"). The City Manager shall apply to become so credentialed by January of 2021. In addition to paying reasonable professional development expenses, as specified in Section 8 of this Agreement, if the City Manager is designated as a Credentialed

Manager by the ICMA, the City agrees to provide the City Manager with a five percent (5%) increase to the City Manager's base salary in effect at that point in time.

#### **SECTION 4. HEALTH, DISABILITY AND LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS**

The City shall provide the same health, dental, and vision insurance options provided to other City employees to the City Manager. Continued coverage will transition, as to payment amounts, on the Effective Date but shall otherwise continue in full pursuant to Mr. Garrett's employment as the Planning Director since his Effective Date in that position. Should the City not be able to provide health insurance coverage immediately due to policy constraints, it will compensate the City Manager for the cost of COBRA policies for the family until they can be added to the City's policy up to \$3,000.00.

In the Alternative, the City Manager may opt to take advantage of Medicare at his discretion.

The City shall provide term life insurance for the City Manger with coverage under its standard disability insurance policy.

The City shall provide term life insurance for the City Manager in the same amount as all other City employees.

#### **SECTION 5. DEFERRED COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT**

The City shall pay, on the City Manager's behalf, into the 401(a) Retirement Plan each pay period the same percentage of City Manager's base salary as has been paid to Mr. Garrett in his employment as the Planning Director.

The City shall also provide the City Manager with a City-paid contribution, payable biweekly, to the City's 457 deferred compensation plan in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the City Manager's base salary, provided that such contribution shall not exceed the maximum allowable contribution as established annually by the IRS.

The City Manager shall receive any deferred compensation retirement only with regard to one position and may not "double dip" benefits.

#### **SECTION 6. VACATION AND SICK LEAVE**

The City Manager shall earn and be credited with Vacation Leave at a rate equal to the highest rate earned by any other employee of the City. The amount will be capped in accordance with the City's policy, currently 152 hours.

The City Manager shall receive the same Sick Leave that is provided to other full time City employees.

#### **SECTION 7. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The City recognizes that the City Manager's attendance at professional development and training courses are beneficial to both the City Manager and the City. The City agrees to budget for and pay for

reasonable and customary travel and subsistence expenses of the City Manager to attend courses and seminars that are necessary for his professional development related to City issues.

#### **SECTION 8. GENERAL BUSINESS EXPENSES**

The City shall pay reasonable and necessary professional dues and subscriptions for the City Manager to participate in national, regional, state, and local associations and organizations essential for the City Manager's continued professional development.

#### **SECTION 10. OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

The City shall provide the City Manager with the use of desktop and laptop computers with appropriate software, a cellular telephone (PDA/smartphone) and such other equipment as may be necessary for the City Manager to make himself available to perform his duties and to be able to maintain communication with the City Council, City staff, and City residents at all times, as approved in the City's annual budget.

#### **SECTION 11. TERMINATION AND SEVERANCE PAY**

The City Manager serves at the pleasure of the City Council. The City may, at any time whatsoever, for any lawful reason whatsoever terminate the employment of the City Manager by an affirmative vote of a majority of the entire City Council as prescribed by the City Charter. In such event, the City Council will give written notice of termination to the City Manager of the decision of the City Council not less than thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of the termination of employment. The City Manager will be entitled to a lump sum severance payment equal to twenty (20) weeks of base salary in compliance with Section 215.425(4)(a), Florida Statutes, to be paid on the effective date of the termination of employment at the City Manager's rate of pay on the date of separation from employment.

The City shall not be required to pay the severance payment set forth in the above paragraph in the event the City Council terminates the employment of the City Manager because of an adjudication of guilt of any felony, or because of a finding of misconduct as defined by Section 443.036(29), Florida Statutes. Changes to Section 11 ("Termination and Severance Pay") as proposed by either party require a supermajority vote of the City Council. Severance pay is prohibited if the City Manager is terminated for misconduct as defined by Section 443.036(29), Florida Statutes. The current statutory language reads:

(29) "Misconduct," irrespective of whether the misconduct occurs at the workplace or during working hours, includes, but is not limited to, the following, which may not be construed in pari materia with each other:

- (a) Conduct demonstrating conscious disregard of an employer's interests and found to be a deliberate violation or disregard of the reasonable standards of behavior which the employer expects of his or her employee. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to, willful damage to an employer's property that results in damage of more than \$50, or theft of employer property or property of a customer or invitee of the employer.
- (b) Carelessness or negligence to a degree or recurrence that manifests culpability or wrongful intent, or shows an intentional and substantial disregard of the employer's interests or of the employee's duties and obligations to his or her employer.

(c) Chronic absenteeism or tardiness in deliberate violation of a known policy of the employer or one or more unapproved absences following a written reprimand or warning relating to more than one unapproved absence.

(d) A willful and deliberate violation of a standard or regulation of this state by an employee of an employer licensed or certified by this state, which violation would cause the employer to be sanctioned or have its license or certification suspended by this state.

(e)1. A violation of an employer's rule, unless the claimant can demonstrate that:

- a. He or she did not know, and could not reasonably know, of the rule's requirements;
- b. The rule is not lawful or not reasonably related to the job environment and performance; or
- c. The rule is not fairly or consistently enforced.

2. Such conduct may include, but is not limited to, committing criminal assault or battery on another employee, or on a customer or invitee of the employer or committing abuse or neglect of a patient, resident, disabled person, elderly person, or child in her or his professional care.

The City shall not be required to pay severance pay if the City Manager voluntarily and under free will resigns the position of City Manager. If the City Manager voluntarily resigns, then he shall give the City Council written notice no later than thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of the resignation of employment as City Manager.

This Agreement may also be terminated by mutual agreement, death, or retirement.

Unless otherwise specified in this Agreement, should the City Manager leave the employ of the City, the City Manager, or his beneficiary, shall be entitled to receive payment of all accrued and unused Vacation Leave, calculated at the City Manager's base salary in effect upon the date of termination.

## **SECTION 12. INDEMNIFICATION**

Pursuant to Sections 111.07 and 111.071, Florida Statutes, the City will provide a civil defense to any legal action brought against the City Manager. This section shall survive the termination of this Agreement or any other separation of the City Manager's employment.

## **SECTION 13. BOND**

The City shall bear the full cost of any fidelity or other bonds required of the City Manager under any law.

## **SECTION 14. NOTICES**

All notices, requests, and other communications required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing (including telefax or telecopy) and shall be sent by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, or shall be hand delivered or delivered by a recognized national overnight courier service or shall be sent by electronic communication, whether by telefax or telecopy, addressed as follows:

If to City Manager: City Manager, City of Marathon  
9805 Overseas Highway  
Marathon, Florida 33050

If to City: Mayor, City of Marathon  
9805 Overseas Highway  
Marathon, Florida 33050  
(With a copy to the City Clerk)

## **SECTION 15. HOURS OF WORK/EXCLUSIVE EMPLOYMENT**

The City Manager acknowledges that the proper performance of the duties of the position will require the City Manager to generally observe normal business hours and will also often require the performance of necessary services outside of normal business hours. The City Manager agrees to devote such additional time as is necessary for the full and proper performance of the City Manager's duties and that the compensation herein provided includes compensation for the performance of all such services. However, the City intends that reasonable time off be permitted the City Manager, such as is customary for exempt employees, so long as the time off does not interfere with the normal conduct of the City Manager's Office.

The City Manager shall remain in the exclusive employ of the City and shall not accept any other employment during the term of this Agreement without the prior approval of the City Council.

The City encourages the City Manager to accept invitations to speaking engagements or other opportunities to communicate with the community, to make use of and share data and information with relevant persons and groups, and encourages the City Manager to participate in pertinent seminars, groups, associations, and organizations, as well as in informational meetings with those individuals whose particular skills, expertise, or backgrounds would serve to improve the capacity of the City Manager to perform his duties.

The City Manager shall be entitled to the same official paid holidays as all other employees.

## **SECTION 16. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

The City Council shall at six months and at the annum in the first year and annually thereafter review and evaluate the performance of the City. The first bi-annual review and evaluation under this Agreement shall take place at the first regular City Council meeting six months from the Effective Date of this Agreement. Annual evaluations shall occur at a regular City Council meeting approximately one year from the Effective Date of the Agreement and in each year in succession.

The review and evaluation may be in accordance with specific written criteria developed by the City Council, in conjunction with the City Manager. Further, the individual Council Members shall provide the City Manager with the written evaluations and provide the City Manager ample opportunity to respond. In effecting the provisions of this section, the City and the City Manager mutually agree to abide by the provisions of applicable law.

If the City Manager receives an above average evaluation, the City agrees to provide an increase between 3 and 5 percent of the then current base salary of the City Manager. The exact amount shall be

determined by City Council and shall be effective on the first day of the pay period immediately following approval of the increase by City Council.

#### **SECTION 17. NO REDUCTION IN BENEFITS**

The City shall not at any time during this Employment Agreement take action to reduce the salary, compensation, or any other benefits of the City Manager without the written consent of the City Manager.

#### **SECTION 18. EFFECTIVE / ANNIVERSARY DATES**

This Agreement shall become effective on the date approved by the City of Marathon City Council. Accordingly that date shall become the Anniversary Date of the City Manager's employment with the City.

To the extent meaningful, the City Manager's time in service in the position of Planning Director, shall not be lost or erased, in consideration of any such benefits as may accrue to such service, other retirement, benefits, etc. – date is December 11, 2007.

#### **SECTION 19. OPERATION OF THE CITY**

The City Manager shall have the responsibility for the management and operation of the City's Departments, including Finance, the Marina, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Utilities, City Clerk, Information Technology (IT), Building, Planning, and Code Compliance Departments. He shall be responsible for overseeing the development and implement of the City's budget and budget priorities.

The City Manager shall, along with the City Council's only other direct employee, the City Attorney, work to operate the City of Marathon pursuant to its adopted Charter and all lawful amendments thereto. The City Manager and the City Attorney positions shall operate co-equally to ensure the efficient operation of City matters.

#### **SECTION 20. ETHICAL COMMITMENTS**

The City Manager shall not endorse candidates, make financial contributions, sign or circulate petitions, or knowingly participate in fundraising activities for individuals seeking or holding elected office in the City, nor seek or accept any personal enrichment or profit derived from confidential information, or holding office, or misuse of public time. The City shall support the City Manager in keeping these commitments by refraining from any order, direction, or request that would require the City Manager to undertake any of the aforementioned activities. Specifically, neither the City Council nor any individual member thereof shall request the City Manager to endorse any candidate, make any financial contribution, sign or circulate any petition, or participate in any fund-raising activity for individuals seeking or holding elected office, nor to handle any matter involving personnel on a basis other than fairness, impartiality, and merit. The City Manager voluntarily agrees to this and shall not cause this provision to formulate any claim against the City whatsoever. The City Manager acknowledges the above is in no way a restriction on his freedom of speech, and if so claimed is deemed immediately invalid.

#### **SECTION 21. AUTOMOBILE**

The City Manager, at his discretion, may use a City vehicle in the performance of his duties and responsibilities as the City Manager.



## **SECTION 22. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

It is understood and agreed that this document incorporates all prior negotiations, correspondence, conversations, agreements, or understandings applicable to the matters contained herein and that the parties agree that there are no commitments, agreement, or understandings concerning the subject matter of this Agreement that are not contained in this document. Accordingly, it is agreed that no deviation from the terms hereof shall be predicated upon any prior representations or agreements, whether oral or written.

No modification, amendment, or alteration in the terms or conditions contained herein shall be effective unless contained in a written document executed with the same formality and with equal dignity herewith.

If any provision, or any portion thereof, contained in this Agreement is held to be unconstitutional, illegal, invalid, or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement, or portion thereof, shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

The waiver by either party of a breach of any provision of this Agreement by the other shall not operate or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach by that party.

The rights and obligations herein granted are personal in nature and cannot be transferred or assigned by the City Manager.

Florida law shall govern this Agreement and any litigation which may arise from this Agreement shall be filed and litigated in the Circuit Court in and for Monroe County, only after mediation to be held within thirty (30) days of notice of any claim or breach between the parties.

Both the City and the City Manager knowingly, voluntarily, and irrevocably waive their right to a trial by jury in any civil proceeding that may be initiated by either party with respect to any term or condition of this Agreement.

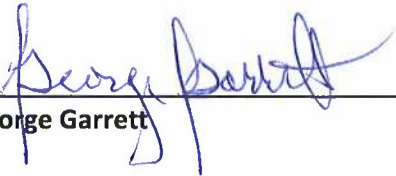
Either party may request the renegotiation of any provision of this Agreement at any time. If the parties are unable to reach agreement, these terms will remain unchanged.


If the City Manager dies during the term of his employment, the City shall pay to the estate of the City Manager the compensation which would otherwise be payable to the City Manager up to the end of the month in which his death occurs.

This Agreement will be construed and interpreted according to its language and not strictly against either the City Manager or the City, regardless of authorship.

This Agreement shall create no rights or claims whatsoever in any person other than a party hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto, by their duly authorized representatives, have executed this Agreement the day and year first written above.

  
George Garrett

  
Witness Signature

  
Printed Name

THE CITY OF MARATHON, FLORIDA

  
Luis Gonzalez, Mayor

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