

# MINUTES

## KEY COLONY BEACH CITY COMMISSION EMERGENCY MEETING

Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 3:30 PM  
Marble Hall, 600 W. Ocean Drive, Key Colony Beach  
& via Zoom Conferencing

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer, and Roll Call:** The Key Colony Beach City Commission Emergency meeting was called to order by Mayor Freddie Foster at 3:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer, and Rollcall. Present: Mayor Freddie Foster, Vice-Mayor Doug Colonell, Commissioner Tom Harding, Commissioner Kirk Diehl. Absent: Commissioner Tom DiFransico. Also present: City Attorney Jim Hicks, City Administrator John Bartus, Building Official Tony Loreno, Administrative Assistant Par Darnall, City Clerk Silvia Roussin.

2. **Approval of the Agenda** (*Additions, changes, and deletions can be made via one motion and a second to approve by a majority vote. There were no changes to the agenda, and Mayor Foster asked for a motion to approve.*)

**MOTION:** Motion made by Vice-Mayor Colonell to approve the agenda. Commissioner Diehl seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** None.

**ON THE MOTION:** Rollcall vote. Unanimous approval.

3. **Citizen Comments and Correspondence:** None.

4. **Emergency Action Items**

a. Approval of an Emergency Short-Term Contract for Sludge Hauling

Mayor Freddie Foster addressed the discontinuation of the City's current sludge-hauling provider and the need to secure a new short-term contractor. Mayor Foster explained that Haack Environmental, LLC has the necessary equipment, capacity, and a licensed facility in Big Pine Key to process the City's sludge on a temporary basis while the contract is rebid and equipment and engineering corrections are implemented. Mayor Foster requested a motion for approval.

**MOTION:** Motion made by Mayor Foster to move that due to current issues related to the hauling of the City of Key Colony Beach's domestic sludge, an emergency exists that poses a threat to public health and safety, and therefore to approve an emergency services contract with Haack Environmental, LLC without competitive bidding. Commissioner Diehl seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** The Commission discussed potential recourse against the prior waste hauler, the recent sludge spill, and ongoing operational concerns. Commissioner Harding summarized the events leading up to the spill and reviewed the contractual arrangements associated with wastewater plant management and sludge hauling. Vice-Mayor Colonell raised concerns regarding the prevention of future incidents and emphasized the need for improved coordination and communication. Mayor Foster noted that licensing violations are being addressed by the State and commented on the limited availability of pump-out facilities. The Commission discussed the importance of engaging multiple contractors, tracking invoices, coordinating communications with U.S. Water, monitoring system levels, and implementing operational improvements.

**ON THE MOTION:** Roll call vote. Unanimous approval.

The Commission provided additional comments regarding costs, upcoming communications with the insurance carrier, strategies to reduce long-term expenses, engineering assessments of wastewater equipment and identified deficiencies, the implementation of quarterly reviews, potential changes to the treatment process, including a transition to dewatering, timelines for utilizing Miami-Dade and Broward County facilities, the possible use of grant funding, and bid requirements.

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted

*Silvia Roussin.* City Clerk

**ADOPTED: April 16, 2026, Silvia Roussin City Clerk**