



City of Margate

5790 Margate Boulevard
Margate, FL 33063
954-972-6454
www.margatefl.com

Meeting Minutes Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz

Commissioners:

Antonio V. Arserio, Anthony N. Caggiano, Joanne Simone

City Manager Cale Curtis

Interim City Attorney Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman

City Clerk Jennifer M. Johnson

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 864 3167 4288

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86431674288>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Antonio V. Arserio, Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz and Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Joanne Simone

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION BY PASTOR GAYLORD BUSS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

- A.** [ID 2023-309](#) SWEARING-IN FOR MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO AND VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ spoke about Shawn Johnson who swore her in.

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO thanked everyone for attending the City Commission meeting and discussed his family members.

- B.** [ID 2023-403](#) CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

MAYOR RUZZANO discussed this new initiative Item and explained why he presented this award to Mr. Grant O'Donnell.

GRANT R. O'DONNELL, 3011 HOLIDAY SPRINGS BOULEVARD, #205, thanked the City Commission.

Discussion ensued.

- C.** [ID 2023-404](#) MARGATE 50 YEAR RESIDENCY AWARD - RALPH BECERRA

MAYOR RUZZANO read a statement on 50 year Residency Award winner, Ralph

Becerra.

RALPH BECERRA, 6701 NW 7 CT., thanked Mayor Ruzzano and spoke about the baseball fields in the City.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

D. [ID 2023-394](#) ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: CHRISTOPHER ROKER (Student), ANA RODRIGUES (Teacher), (Ms. Latoya Dean, Principal and/or Ms. Laura Hennebery, High School Assistant Principal)

ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY: THERVENS SOLON (Student), LESLIE FOX (Teacher), (Mrs. Shereen Reynolds, Principal and Ms. Yahira Tamayo, Assistant Principal)

BROWARD MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOLS: JOANNA MOYER (Student), MARY ENGELMAN (Teacher), (Mr. Hasan Kose, Principal and/or Ms. Fabricia Santos Maraclo, Assistant Principal)

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY: HEAVEN SAINT JUSTE (Student), TIA GODSKIND (Teacher), (Ms. Vicki Flournoy, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Styles, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE ELEMENTARY: JUSTIN GRULLON (Student), DIANA BERESOVY (Teacher), (Mr. Thomas Schroeder, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Rucker, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE MIDDLE: MASON FENELUS (Student), WINSTON CAMPBELL (Teacher), (Mrs. Sabine Phillips, Principal and/or Ms. Krystal Coke, Assistant Principal)

PHYL'S ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL: AMANDA ANDERSON (Student), PAULINE THOMAS (Teacher), (Ms. Afua Baptiste, Principal and/or Ms. Meleisa Forbes, Upper School Director)

RISE ACADEMY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: SAMANTHA LIBERAL (Student), ANDREA GORDON (Teacher), (Dr. Adriana Guerra, Principal)

WEST BROWARD ACADEMY: MICHAEL BELLO (Student), RICHARD WITHERSPOON (Teacher), (Mr. Derrick Hugue, Principal and/or Ms. Rossana Padron, Assistant Principal)

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

E. [ID 2023-393](#) JONATHAN M. KUCZYNSKI, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 10 YEARS

SIDNEY A. FELICIANO, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 5 YEARS

CHIEF OF POLICE, JOSEPH GALASKA, paid tribute to Police Officer Kuczynski.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (DEES) DIRECTOR, CURT KEYSER, spoke about the Holiday Decorating contest.

FIRE CHIEF ROBERTO LORENZO made comment about his department.

MAYOR RUZZANO discussed DEES Director solving a recent issue.

Meeting went into Recess.

Meeting Reconvened.

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR RUZZANO discussed speaking under Public Discussion.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES forewarned that if any comment was made relating to the Items on the next City Commission Agenda, it would not be concluded as part of the record.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO explained that if anyone was present to discuss the golf course, they would have that opportunity at the next City Commission meeting.

Discussion ensued.

RONALD B. ROBERTS, 7340 LAKE CIRCLE DR #104, thanked Vice Mayor Schwartz and Commissioner Simone for voting to uphold the Margate code for prohibiting animal use for entertainment purposes and read a statement on the same.

MAYOR RUZZANO responded to Mr. Roberts' comments.

TONY SPAVENTO, 3194 W. BUENA VISTA DRIVE, congratulated Mayor Ruzzano on his new position.

MAYOR RUZZANO responded to Mr. Spavento's comments.

JUDITH WEIR, OAKLAND PARK, read a statement pertaining to the Fair at Margate's pig racing.

TRACY VAN WINKLE, 1020 SW 61ST AVENUE, congratulated Mayor Ruzzano on his new position and welcomed the change from Public Comment to Public Discussion. She made comment about the increase in iguanas in Margate.

THEA CAMPELL, GARDEN PATIO VILLAS, discussed a traffic accident in Margate Boulevard approximately one year ago and requested that the bus stop sign should be reinstated.

RICHARD ZUCCHINI, 380 LAKEWOOD CIRCLE E, #B, congratulated the Mayor and Vice Mayor on their respective positions. He hoped for a change in the environment from Public Comment to Public Discussion. He suggested an initiative to bring back recommendations and suggestions and referenced land underneath the powerlines at Rock Island Road.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO congratulated both the Mayor and Vice Mayor on their new respective terms in those positions.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ referenced the public speaker pertaining to the damaged/removed bus stop and explained that it was the responsibility of Broward County but informed that City Manager Curtis would make contact.

MAYOR RUZZANO thanked his family and God. He appreciated those who attended the City Commission meeting and apologized for it running over. He forewarned about the conduct of the next City Commission meeting and said that he did not have any goals for this year but endeavored to make the best decisions for Margate. He provided an update on the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) legal case which the City won.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS advised that they would need 10 minutes to make the electronic adjustments for the next City Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO explained that he would hold his congratulations until the next City Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards

Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk

Date: _____

PLEASE NOTE:

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, the person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone desiring a verbatim transcript shall have the responsibility, at his/her own expense, to arrange for the transcript.

[Appendix A – Zoning – Section 3.3] Any representation made before any City Board, any Administrative Board, or the City Commission in the application for a variance, special exception, conditional use or request for any other permit shall be deemed a condition of the granting of the permit. Should any representation be false or should said representation not be continued as represented, same shall be deemed a violation of the permit and a violation of this section.

Any person with a disability requiring auxiliary aids and services for this meeting may call the City Clerk's office at (954) 972-6454 with their request at least two business days prior to the meeting date.

One or more members of the City of Margate advisory boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting.

Members of the public are invited to view this meeting through Zoom using Webinar ID: 864 3167 4288 or can listen via telephone by calling one of the following phone numbers: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099.

- A copy of the Agenda for this Meeting is posted on www.MargateFL.com and on the main bulletin board outside City Hall located at 5790 Margate Blvd, Margate, FL 33063.

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