



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes City Commission Budget Hearing

Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano

Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Commissioners:

Antonio V. Arserio, Arlene R. Schwartz, Joanne Simone

City Manager Cale Curtis

Interim City Attorney Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman

City Clerk Jennifer M. Johnson

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 840 8483 4519

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84084834519>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Commissioner Antonio V. Arserio, Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano, Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Arlene R. Schwartz and Commissioner Joanne Simone

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PUBLIC HEARING(S)

A. [ID 2023-260](#) PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS advised that from the first hearing until today, they had incorporated the changes that were directed by the City Commission.

MAYOR ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO opened and explained the protocol for submitting comments to Public Discussion during this City Commission Budget Hearing.

JONATHAN A. KRALJIC, 7357 FLORES WAY, read a statement pertaining to Resolution 2) A., ID 2023-317 and questioned whether the City Commission were elected officials or City employees.

2) RESOLUTION(S)

A. [ID 2023-317](#) RESOLUTION - PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE SALARIES OF THE CITY COMMISSIONERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

A motion was made by Commissioner Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Schwartz, that this Resolution, should be approved.

ELSA J. SANCHEZ, 6930 NW 15TH STREET, read a statement outlining her concerns on this Item.

LAUREN BERACHA, 6950 NW 14TH PLACE, highlighted her concerns on this Item and suggested that the City Commission should reconsider the salary increase.

KEVIN L. WARD, 6711 NW 8 CT., disagreed with the salary increase.

MR. KRALJIC requested the City Commission to decline the salary increase and go forth with changing the City's Charter to allow the voters to decide their pay.

LINDA R. STEWARD, 6367 NW 19 CT., said it was her first time attending a City meeting and she did not understand why the City Commissioners were asking for a 12% raise when the teachers were only asking for 7.5%.

DONNA L. FELLOWS, 6108 NW 9TH COURT, thought the salary increase was absurd.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE hoped that she could get at least two of her fellow City Commissioners to agree with her that this increase was outrageous.

This carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Arserio, Vice Mayor Ruzzano, Mayor Caggiano and Commissioner Schwartz

No: 1 - Commissioner Simone

- B. [ID 2023-259](#)** APPROVING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF MARGATE FISCAL YEAR 2023/2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF 7.6004 MILLS PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUATION (WHICH INCLUDES .4833 FOR VOTED DEBT SERVICE); THAT THE OPERATING MILLAGE RATE OF 7.1171 IS 9.44% HIGHER THAN THE ROLLED-BACK RATE OF 6.5031.

A motion was made by Commissioner Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Arserio, that this Resolution, should be approved.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS clarified that the millage rate was not increasing as the City was keeping the operating millage rate the same and the debt service millage rate was being lowered.

Discussion ensued.

This carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Commissioner Arserio, Vice Mayor Ruzzano, Mayor Caggiano, Commissioner Schwartz and Commissioner Simone

3) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING

- A. [ID 2023-261](#) ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2023 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024; PROVIDING FOR A BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUNDS, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS, ENTERPRISE FUNDS, AND INTERNAL SERVICE FUND; PROVIDING FOR A MILLAGE RATE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arserio, seconded by Vice Mayor Ruzzano, that this Ordinance, Second Reading, should be discussed.

VICE MAYOR RUZZANO said that the staff did a great job on this Item which he appreciated. He indicated that the requirements of a City Commissioner was no longer a part-time job.

This carried by the following vote.

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Arserio, Vice Mayor Ruzzano, Mayor Caggiano and Commissioner Schwartz

No: 1 - Commissioner Simone

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards



Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk

Date: 10/20/2023

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: 840 8483 4519 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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