



# 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*  
*City Attorney Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman*  
*City Clerk Jennifer M. Johnson*

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Wednesday, April 3, 2024

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 846 2399 7403

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84623997403>

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

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

### MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 1) PRESENTATION(S)

#### STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

A. ID 2024-083 ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: BIANCA GARGANTINI (STUDENT), CINDY BUCKLAND (TEACHER), (Ms. Latoya Dean, Principal and/or Ms. Marta Palhano, Assistant Principal)

ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY: JAELE NERE (STUDENT), KARINA KHAN (TEACHER), (Mrs. Shereen R. Reynolds, Principal and/or Ms. Yahira Tamayo, Assistant Principal)

BROWARD MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOLS: DOMINIQUE HIDALGO (STUDENT), KIMBERLY ANDERSON (TEACHER), (Mr. Hasan Kose, Principal and/or Ms. Fabricia Santos Maraclo, Assistant Principal)

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY: WADELEY JEANBAPTISTE (STUDENT), ERIKA VALBUENA (TEACHER), (Ms. Vicki Flournoy, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Styles, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE ELEMENTARY: AYDEN FERREIRA (STUDENT), EVA HALBERT

(TEACHER), (Mr. Thomas Schroeder, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Rucker, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE MIDDLE: KEVIN DELGADO (STUDENT), BRIANA MERCHANT-KELLY (TEACHER), (Mrs. Sabine Phillips, Principal and/or Mr. Thomas Morgan, Assistant Principal)

PHYL'S ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL: ANAYA FACEY (STUDENT), FAITH ALTIERI (TEACHER), (Ms. Afua Baptiste, Principal and/or Ms. Meleisa Forbes, Upper School Director)

WEST BROWARD ACADEMY: LOREN BAPTISTE (STUDENT), GARFIELD DENNIE (TEACHER), (Mr. Derrick Hugue, Principal and/or Ms. Rossana Padron, Assistant Principal)

### PROCLAMATION(S)

- C. [ID 2024-093](#) CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH - APRIL, 2024 (presented to Kenneth King, Director of Public Affairs and Organizational Development at the Children's Services Council of Broward County)

This Item was heard before 1) C. ID 2024-092.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES COUNCIL OF BROWARD COUNTY, KENNETH KING, thanked the City for their proclamation.

- B. [ID 2024-092](#) FOOD WASTE PREVENTION WEEK - APRIL 1 - APRIL 7, 2024 (presented to Aakruti Sheth, Board Member and Denise McFall, Member of the North Broward and Palm Beach County Chapter of The Climate Reality Project)

NORTH BROWARD AND PALM BEACH COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT REPRESENTATIVE, DENISE MCFALL thanked Margate for joining other cities and groups in the County and around the country.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO discussed the teddy bear initiative by the Police Department for children in distress and highlighted a Snuggle Buddie event for this Saturday.

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO introduced Interim Chief of Police (CoP), Palma who replaced recently retired CoP Galaska. He also showcased Fire Chief Lorenzo.

Discussion ensued on the length of service the respective Chiefs have served with the City and also highlighted the International Day Festival.

Meeting went into Recess.

Meeting Reconvened.

## 2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO explained the protocol for this Item.

JULIE JONES thanked Commissioner Arserio for his forthcoming Snuggle Buddy event and asked him to accept her teddy bears for the same.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO thanked Ms. Jones for her donation.

DONNA L. FELLOWS, 6108 NW 9TH COURT (via Zoom) thanked Mayor Ruzzano for attending the bowling event. She referenced supporting Margate bowlers and also other youth players of Broward County and encouraged the City Commissioners to attend future events.

LAUREN BERACHA, 6950 NW 14TH PLACE (via Zoom) expressed her concerns about the speeding on Margate Boulevard. She discussed sightings of early election signs and highlighted that the MAC meeting was held on the first Monday of every month.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ provided further details on the MAC meeting.

### 3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE discussed and thanked the Finance Department for a forthcoming award that they were expected to receive and congratulated Interim CoP Palma. She highlighted that the state budget received an additional \$2,000,000 to fund My Safe Florida Home which was expected to re-open for applicants on July 1st. The program provided free hurricane inspections and offered grants for hurricane hardening.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that the program offered \$2 for every \$1 spent by the resident.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE provided an update on the City's partnership with Red Cross where they distributed and installed smoke alarms and she thanked the Fire Department for their assistance. She highlighted future events at Northwest Focal Point Senior Center and also the Margate's Tree Giveaway. She requested a change of the hiring and firing the two positions and that they should be removed from the City Commission's remit which she did not support back in 2018. She explained that the City Manager was a professional administrator who had hiring and firing experience and that those positions required a higher level of human resource (HR) skills. She believed that it would be a major stumbling block for the City Commission to hire a new Fire Chief as she did not think they would want to answer to five City Commissioners and stated that Sunrise was the only other city to use that initiative. She said that embarrassment could have been prevented with the former CoP Galaska if City Manager Curtis handled the hiring and the firing and she continued to discuss the same. She asked for CONSENSUS from the City Commission to put this back on the ballot for the residents to reconsider. She was previously unaware of the oral exams for promotions and recommended that it needed to be changed and questioned whether the City's strategic plans for Margate aligned with the Police Department's priorities. She read a handbook which was written by a former CoP on development and power management to better equip and educate her. She also learned and was better educated after she watched interviews from different cities and states. She indicated that this process created an extra layer that did not need to be there. She informed that if there was no CONSENSUS, then for the next CoP, she suggested having an open candidate forum or Zoom call where there would be a moderator who collated questions from the City Commissions as well as the community in front of an audience and televised which she indicated would bring more transparency.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO hoped to see everyone attend the Snuggle Buddy drive this Saturday. He appreciated Commissioner Simone sharing her ideas pertaining to the two positions but disagreed with the ballot. He complimented her research pertaining to

watching the interviews and said that he did not oppose an open forum but only for the top three finalists. His preference would be to conduct personal interviews in a private setting where he envisaged creating his own interview panel where he would enlist the assistance of a high ranking officer, a road patrol officer and maybe a CoP or Assistant CoP from another City to sit down with him and do some of these questions as he did not know all the intricacies of the day to day settings.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ stated that she had never gone to a CoP and asked them to do anything and vice versa. She believed that the two former CoPs would still be here if the City Commission did not ask a question or request that an investigation be conducted. She said that she had no political stake and understood after 17 years in administration that she knew the right things that people should be doing.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO advised that regardless of whether it was in the City's Charter or not, the Florida State Legislator passed a law which stipulated that if there was cause, Floridian City Commissioners could fire the CoP but there would be a due process including a hearing.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ read an email from a resident referencing a blind turn with double lines pertaining to parking.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS said it sounded like there should not be cars parked there but he would review it.

MAYOR RUZZANO referenced hiring and firing of the two respective Chiefs and said that it was passed overwhelmingly and explained why he was against putting this back on the ballot. He also likened the City Commission to a board of a company and that the biggest part of their budget was 70% that went to public safety which he said included the Police/Fire Chiefs and he believed that they needed to be accountable for that. He said that there were comments about the last City Commission meeting being a mess but informed their board was not allowed to talk behind closed doors. He only knew a handful of people being fired within his 12 years of service and compared the work in government to the private sector. He received a letter saying that previously, there was not a CoP fired. He highlighted the City's Tree Giveaway event and discussed the MAC meeting. He congratulated Fire Chief Lorenzo and referenced his son going to boot camp.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that Florida Power & Light Company's (FPL) new representative was scheduled to attend the MAC meeting to talk about hurricane preparedness.

#### 4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS highlighted that the Fire and Police Departments were hosting Project Autism. He advised that they were working on the referendum language for the revenue bonds for their utility projects which would result in Ordinances and Resolutions coming back to the City Commission meetings in the next month or so.

FINANCE DIRECTOR, ISMAEL DIAZ, gave a brief summary pertaining to the annual Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). He advised that the Finance Department received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award which gave evidence to their stake holders of a transparent informative and high-quality budget presentation.

Discussion ensued.

## 5) CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed under Consent Agenda are viewed to be routine and the recommendation will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. If discussion is desired by the Commission, the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

- A. [ID 2024-075](#) MOTION - ACCEPTING THE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

**APPROVED**

- B. [ID 2024-100](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING TERMINATION OF THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT BILLING AND COLLECTION SERVICES MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CHANGE HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY ENABLED SERVICES, LLC. (FORMERLY PST SERVICES, LLC) (THE "AGREEMENT") APPROVED UNDER CITY OF MARGATE RESOLUTION 17-088; AUTHORIZING CITY ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION CONSISTENT WITH THIS RESOLUTION TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**APPROVED**

## Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

## 6) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2024-090](#) APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF CITY OF MARGATE DIRECTOR, FIRST ALTERNATE, AND SECOND ALTERNATE TO THE BROWARD LEAGUE OF CITIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2024-2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Arserio, to insert the following names:

**Director: Anthony N. Caggiano**  
**First Alternate: Arlene R. Schwartz**  
**Second Alternate: Tommy Ruzzano**

This carried by the following vote:

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

- B. [ID 2024-095](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A

WAIVER OF BIDDING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SOLE SOURCE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FOR THE CALYPSO COVE AQUATICS CENTER TO INCLUDE FACEPIPING, FILTER MEDIAN, PUMP MOTOR SOFT STARTS (PFD'S) AND VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVES (VFD'S) FOR THE FILTER PUMPS OF ALL THREE POOLS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$116,045.00; PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) CONTINGENCY FOR ALL WORK TO COVER POTENTIAL UNFORESEEN COSTS DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE UPGRADES

**A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Arserio, that this Resolution, should be discussed.**

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO discussed pumps and questioned when they expected the works at this facility to be completed.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR, MICHAEL A. JONES, said that he had spoken to Margate Elementary School's Principal, Schroeder, during the break and said that it was his department's priority to make sure that the kids would have access to the lap pool. He explained that he was awaiting the final details from the contractors and would start working thereafter. He confirmed that the equipment was onsite.

Discussion ensued on the Calypso Cove Aquatic Facility (CCAF).

MAYOR RUZZANO questioned City Manager Curtis if it was possible to do a soft opening for Margate residents.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO referenced the unsavory appearance of the wall surrounding CCAF and questioned if it was possible to sandblast a small area and experiment with different paints to see what sticks.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR, JONES, confirmed that they were going to work on the wall on Monday and explained that it would be pressure washed tomorrow.

Discussion ensued on the upkeep of painting the wall.

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

- C. [ID 2024-099](#)** A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF A REPLACEMENT COLLECTOR TANK FOR THE LAP POOL AT CALYPSO COVE BASED ON THE LOWEST COMPETITIVELY OBTAINED QUOTE FROM SAMMET POOLS, INC.; NOT TO EXCEED \$26,745.00; PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) CONTINGENCY FOR ALL WORK TO COVER POTENTIAL UNFORESEEN COSTS DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE UPGRADE AND UNDERGROUND WORK

**A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that this Resolution, should be approved.**

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned why there would be a 25% contingency which was an additional \$6,500.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JONES explained that they had the approval of 25% which had been the standard and indicated that they did not have to wait or come back. He did not believe that there would be any issues and that their plan was not to spend that much money but if there was one, they would have it ready and waiting.

Discussion ensued on the collector tank.

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

## 7) ORDINANCE(S) - FIRST READING

- A. [ID 2024-081](#) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN; AMENDING ELEMENT III, "SANITARY SEWER, SOLID WASTE, DRAINAGE, POTABLE WATER AND NATURAL GROUND WATER, AQUIFER RECHARGE"; AMENDING PART 1, "POTABLE WATER" IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE UPDATED TEN-YEAR WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES WORK PLAN, PURSUANT TO SECTION 163.3177, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, that this Ordinance, First Reading, should be approved.**

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES advised that this was the initial public meeting for this Item. He said that they would have a public hearing now and when it comes back for adoption.

MAYOR RUZZANO questioned whether this Item was a 10 year Comprehensive Plan.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that this Item was a component of the Comprehensive Plan which was a requirement and that it needed to be updated every 10 years. He advised that there would be items for this Ordinance which would probably be coming back this year for other elements that needed updating.

This carried by the following vote:

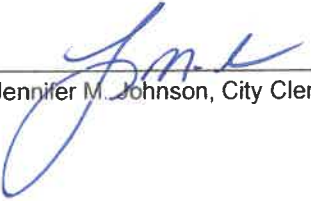
Yes: 5 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Arserio, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards

  
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Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk

Date: 5/2/2024

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: 846 2399 7403 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](http://www.MargateFL.com) and on the main bulletin board outside City Hall located at 5790 Margate Blvd, Margate, FL 33063.

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