



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

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 849 0033 4063

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84900334063>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Commissioner Joanne Simone, Commissioner Antonio V. Arserio, Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz and Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION BY PASTOR LEIDMAR LOPES

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO announced that Pastor Lopes was unable to attend the City Commission meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. [ID 2023-424](#) ELIF OZDENCANLI, 7TH GRADE, RISE ACADEMY

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO asked if they could add Dr. Jonathan Fields to the Agenda after Item 1) D. ID 2024-027.

Mayor Ruzzano acknowledged the request.

1) PRESENTATION(S)

A. [ID 2024-020](#) MARGATE 50 YEAR RESIDENCY AWARD

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

B. [ID 2023-426](#) TENNIS: SEBASTIAN CONSTANDACHE, 15 YEARS OLD (GSM Tennis Experience)

TENNIS: MELANIE CONSTANDACHE, 13 YEARS OLD (GSM Tennis Experience)

PROCLAMATION(S)

- D. [ID 2024-027](#) AMERICAN HEART MONTH - FEBRUARY, 2024 (presented to Commissioner Jacqueline A. Guzman - City of Sunrise)

This Item was heard before 1) C. ID 2023-420.

CITY OF SUNRISE'S COMMISSIONER, JACQUELINE A. GUZMAN, spoke on this Item.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO presented a plaque to Dr. Jonathan Fields and showcased a PowerPoint presentation displaying the shrubs and trees that he had donated to Margate and its residents.

MR. JONATHAN FIELDS made comment.

MAYOR RUZZANO highlighted next month's City's Kickball challenge of the Fire Department versus the Police Department.

PRESENTATION(S) CONTINUED**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE**

- C. [ID 2023-420](#) SHAWN E. BERG, FIRE LIEUTENANT, FIRE DEPARTMENT - 20 YEARS

JUAN P. CARRENO, FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC, FIRE DEPARTMENT - 20 YEARS

LAURIE L. MEYER, DIRECTOR, HUMAN RESOURCES - 5 YEARS

TODD D. SCHEPERS, CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR, BUILDING DEPARTMENT - 5 YEARS

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, LAURIE L. MEYER, spoke on this Item.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT'S CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR, TODD D. SCHEPERS, spoke on this Item.

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

JILL R. CERCHIONE, 6188 SEMINOLE TER., referenced the impropriety of Commissioner Caggiano's use of his title and questioned whether a new policy had been introduced.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO said that he would address Ms. Cerchione's concerns in Commission Comments.

JULIE JONES read a statement pertaining to the last City Commission meeting and referenced Commissioner Caggiano.

STUDENTS FROM WEST BROWARD ACADEMY thanked the Mayor for his presence on Friday for celebrating their school choice prep-rally. They sought permission for the students to organize a community service project pertaining to Earth Day and requested tree donations.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO advised that they should contact Parks and Recreation Director Jones.

Discussion ensued.

ROB REINER, 110 EAST PALM DRIVE, referenced the last City Commission meeting and questioned whether Vice Mayor Schwartz was going to condemn and censor Commissioner Caggiano.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ responded to Mr. Reiner's comments and said that she was not giving people political soundbites.

MAYOR RUZZANO highlighted the rules during Public Discussion. He also discussed intimidation.

ELSA J. SANCHEZ, 6930 NW 15TH STREET, said 'bravo' to Vice Mayor Schwartz's response. She discussed the forthcoming kickball competition between two City departments.

LAUREN BERACHA, 6950 NW 14TH PLACE, thanked the City Commission who responded to her email pertaining to feeling unsafe at the last meeting.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE congratulated those listed under the Presentations Item and to the Fields family for their very generous donation of trees.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO confirmed that he had responded to resident, Ms. Beracha's email and made comment pertaining to the last City Commission meeting and people recording at meetings. He thanked the Police Department for conducting a Fraud Seminar and discussed the same. He also thanked Police Officer Wilmer and other officers who gave stuffed animals to underprivileged children. He informed that he would be utilizing some of his office account funds to help stock the police cars with stuffed animals and welcomed donations of unused toys. He discussed a fund raiser that he hosted for a pack where he did not use his City's job title and recommended that Margate should look into creating some type of policy and sought more information.

MAYOR RUZZANO discussed a complaint made by a former City Commissioner against him pertaining to a Christmas party he held in 2013. He explained that they asked for him to be censored and did not believe that such a policy should be implemented.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ referenced stuffed animals, highlighted this weekend's Sounds at Sundown event and Valentine's Day next month.

MAYOR RUZZANO informed that City Manager Curtis would be looking into organizing a Tree Giveaway event.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO explained that the City and the CRA had very successful grant programs and discussed how it affected Homeowners Associations (HOA) and condo associations that applied for the same. He requested if a Property Improvement Grant Program (PIP) could be separate and specific to HoAs and considered and placed on a future City Commission Agenda. He suggested improvements could be

implemented for clubhouse hardening, entry way signs and perimeter landscapes.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ indicated that there were other grant programs available but no one took advantage of them.

Discussion ensued on how the PIP would improve on curb appeal and increase value in real estate.

MAYOR RUZZANO consented to Commissioner Arserio's suggestion about PIP.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS provided an update on the PIP and informed that they had approved applications to exhaust round two of the funding. He advised that eight applicants were denied and 62 had been approved for a total of \$500,000. He explained that the City still had money reserved for the round one list of applicants which were in some form of holding pattern. He said that he would work with the City Commission on recommendations of either a third round, some sort of expansion of the second round or a completely new program specific to HoAs. He recognized the exemplary work performed by the Water Distribution team in the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES) and referenced the recent respective water breaks on Margate Boulevard and East River Drive.

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 2023-421](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: DECEMBER 6, 2023 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING @ 6:30 PM, DECEMBER 6, 2023 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING @ 7:00 PM, DECEMBER 12, 2023 CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP, DECEMBER 26, 2023 SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING AND JANUARY 9, 2024 SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING

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

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Caggiano

6) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2023-418](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AWARDED CONTRACT ASSOCIATED WITH BID NO. 2024-001 - "WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS PHASE 2A AND PARK DRIVE", IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,106,419.00, TO MARCDAN, INC

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

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO requested City Manager Curtis to explain which part of the City this would be and referenced comments made on Facebook.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that this was a water plan improvement phase 2A in Park Drive which was in their Capital Improvement Plan to replace all of the aged asbestos-cement (AC) pipes throughout the City which they were doing in phases.

Discussion ensued.

This carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Caggiano

- B.** [ID 2023-427](#) APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF _____ TO THE CIVIL SERVICE BOARD FOR THE TERM COMMENCING FEBRUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2026

A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, to insert the name of Jasmin Ubillus.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO advised that Ms. Ubillus had previously served and highlighted the importance of having this board for City employees. He said that he had no problem with this Item.

This carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Caggiano

A discussion ensued pertaining to the Board of Adjustment and the Planning and Zoning Board's forthcoming appointments and how to apply thereto and a suggestion to bring the Citizens Academy back.

- C. ID 2024-028** ~~RESOLUTION APPROVING PFAS LITIGATION RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH THE FERRARO LAW FIRM; PROVIDING FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CLAIMS INCLUDING SUBMISSION AND PROCESSING~~

~~OF CLAIMS IN CURRENTLY PENDING CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT
SETTLEMENTS, ARISING OUT OF GROUNDWATER SUPPLY AND SOIL
CONTAMINATION BY PER AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES
("PFAS"); PROVIDING FOR CONTIGENCY FEE BASIS FOR ALL COSTS;
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.~~

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

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: 849 0033 4063 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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