



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

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

Tuesday, December 12, 2023

11:00 AM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

Not Present: 1 - Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Mayor Ruzzano arrived at 11:14am.

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

A. [ID 2023-384](#) FORM 6 - FULL AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS DISCUSSION

CITY ATTORNEY, DAVID N. TOLCES, introduced his law partner, Robert Meyers, who was the Former Executive Director of Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and was present at the City Commission Workshop to explain the requirements relating to Form 6.

CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT MEYERS conducted his PowerPoint presentation and explained that he had been traveling around S. E. Florida for the last six to eight months pertaining to the forthcoming changes that would be implemented to Form 6, including the legislator announcing in 2022 that the local elected officials would have to complete the same, effective January 1st, 2024. He indicated that there was a possibility that a lawsuit could be filed against this new procedure and that there could be a legislative fix this session. He outlined the key objectives for Form 6 for elected officials which included that if a resignation was received prior to January 1st, 2024, there was no obligation to file the same. He explained that for some municipalities, if there were elections in 2024 and the qualifying period was before July 1st, anyone that would qualify for office would have to file Form 6 but would be fined after September 1st, if the same

was not submitted.

CITY COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO questioned whether he would have to file by June 2024.

Discussion ensued on the qualifying period which would be June 2024 for those City Commissioners who were opting for re-election.

CITY ATTORNEY MEYERS explained that for disclosure purposes, essentially, the filer would need to provide their net worth, a report of every asset or liability in excess of \$1,000 and also detailing the source of income. He advised that household goods would also need to be aggregated including items such as an art collection or jewelry. He ran through the procedure and said that a City Commissioner would be removed from office if they did not file and the expulsion could take up to approximately six months but during the interim, several fines would be imposed up to a maximum of \$1,500.

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO raised a question on whether settlements would have to be disclosed.

Discussion ensued including transferring assets to a spouse or to somebody else, filing forms and the net worth of household items, personal businesses and income liability.

CITY ATTORNEY MEYERS continued with his PowerPoint presentation and advised the Commission to talk to accountants who would advise them on completing Form 6. He said that there would also be certain disclosures if they had businesses regulated by the State, banks and utilities, etc. He said that the Florida Commission on Ethics (FCoE) had eight investigators and anticipated that they would be inundated with complaints. He anticipated that there may be reservations in small cities as well as difficulty finding people to run for office due to this new requirement.

Discussions ensued on the changes that would come into effect.

CITY ATTORNEY MEYERS advised the City Commission that they should get their affairs in order and he repeated that they should discuss this new procedure with their accountant or tax attorney. He said that he would send the City some sample forms together with opinions issued by the FCoE. He informed that they would no longer file with the Supervisor of Elections but with the FCoE electronically and by March/April 2024, they should be in receipt of the form together with the instructions. He concluded by saying that the City Commission could revert to the City Attorney's office for any further questions.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, sought CONSENSUS from the City Commission to postpone Margate's Winter Festival until next Tuesday due to weather conditions.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to postpone the Winter Festival from Friday December, 15th 2023 to Tuesday December 19th, 2023 due to the weather forecast.

Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:49am.

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 Boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting.