



# City of Margate

5790 Margate Boulevard  
Margate, FL 33063  
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www.margatefl.com

## Meeting Minutes Regular City Commission Meeting

*Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz*  
*Vice Mayor Antonio V. Arserio*  
*Commissioners:*  
*Anthony N. Caggiano, Tommy Ruzzano, Joanne Simone*

*City Manager Cale Curtis*  
*City Attorney Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman*  
*City Clerk Jennifer M. Johnson*

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Wednesday, January 22, 2025

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 854 5700 2949

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85457002949>

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 4 - Commissioner Tommy Ruzzano, Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Joanne Simone and Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Mayor Antonio V. Arserio

### MOMENT OF SILENCE

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 1) PRESENTATION(S)

**A. [ID 2025-003](#) PRESENTATION - HCA FLORIDA HEALTHCARE CEO KENNETH JONES**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOSPITAL CORPORATION OF AMERICA (HCA) FLORIDA NORTHWEST HOSPITAL, KENNETH JONES, informed that he had been in his position since March 2021 and introduced his team members, a few of which were present at this meeting. He gave a PowerPoint presentation where he provided an update since his last attendance. He informed that HCA Florida Northwest Hospital in Margate was founded in 1984, advised that HCA had 84,000+ employees, 187 hospitals throughout the country, 48 hospitals in the State of Florida and two years ago, HCA acquired MD Now Urgent Care. He highlighted the HCA Florida's Healthcare East Florida Division, provided an overview and discussed their key services. He mentioned the key statistics and initiatives for 2024 as well as provide information on HCA's economic impact and taxes. He read a list of HCA's accomplishments and briefed on their capital investment overview since 2018. He advised there would be an open house on January 31st as HCA was excited to offer comprehensive complex stroke care in the community. He concluded his PowerPoint presentation by informing that the public could follow HCA through social media platforms.

COMMISSIONER, TOMMY RUZZANO, said that three of his children were born at HCA Florida Northwest Hospital. He questioned whether there were any future plans to

expand on the property to the south of HCA. He also asked whether the two properties behind the carwash to the east were affiliated with HCA.

CEO OF HCA, FLORIDA NORTHWEST HOSPITAL, JONES, explained that they had acquired the property to the south which was an auto dealership which was being considered to create a conference center for their staff. He said that although nothing currently had been planned, the goal was to have access on their property for future development or expansion. He also advised that they had the ground lease on the two facilities behind the carwash but it was third party developers that owned those buildings.

Discussion ensued on having a medical corridor.

MAYOR, ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, questioned whether HCA planned to expand to six stories. She thanked them for having City Manager Curtis on the board.

CEO OF HCA, FLORIDA NORTHWEST HOSPITAL, JONES, referenced the capital plan and bi-plan and that they were currently working on a hybrid room in their operating suite for advance cardiac vascular care. He explained that thereafter, the next big project was a surgical services expansion with the possibility of adding two stories to the tower, the fifth floor would be their women's expansion, the sixth floor would be more medical surgical patient rooms and maybe some rehabilitation beds (current plan). He said that they wanted to make their main lobby more robust and potentially, expand to the south side of the building. He also said that they were working on the 5800 medical office building with the possibility of demolishing it and rebuilding that facility closer to the 441 location.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO, requested an update on whether the helicopter pad on the building was still going ahead and also questioned if pediatrics would return.

CEO OF HCA FLORIDA NORTHWEST HOSPITAL, JONES, explained that the helicopter pad had not been discussed recently. He also advised that the HCA was more focused on the adult population.

COMMISSIONER, ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, was pleased that the maternity area was being utilized since its renovation. He thanked the HCA for being in their community.

## 2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained the protocol for submitting a Public Discussion.

MARGATE RESIDENT requested 5) B. and 5) C. be pulled from the Consent Agenda for Discussion and provided his recommendations on those Items.

MARGATE RESIDENT, TRACY VAN WINKLE, questioned whether the conventions that the City Commission attended were mandatory and she requested that the City Commission update the public after they have attended the same. She said that Southgate Boulevard was looking good every day and referenced trees. She recommended more trash cans around Margate and that she had not seen the street sweepers recently. She also referenced an odor from the Margate Water Plant and said that neighboring cities did not have that issue.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ suggested that having a 70 year old plant was probably the biggest problem.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ repeated the protocol for submitting a Public Discussion.

DOUGLAS R. KEMP, PARADISE GARDENS IV, thanked the City for the grant and recognized Business Development Coordinator, Robinson and Public Works Director, Batista, for being phenomenal.

MARGATE RESIDENT, ELSA J. SANCHEZ, sent New Year's greetings to everyone. She read a statute pertaining to election signs stating that they should be removed 30 days after the election and asked a number of questions as to why a large display still remained in Margate. She thanked Mayor Schwartz for the Rules of Conduct and the Rules of Procedures of the meetings and sought clarification on the use of the City Commission using cellphones during meetings.

MARGATE RESIDENT, RICHARD ZUCCHINI, responded to Ms. Sanchez's question on cellphones. He concurred with Mr. Kraljic's comments pertaining to the public speaking on Consent Agenda Items.

MARGATE RESIDENT, DONNA L. FELLOWS, discussed signs on commercial properties and requested City Manager Curtis to have it removed.

### 3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO believed that it was up to Mayor Schwartz to allow the public to speak under Consent Agenda. He responded to the residents' concerns pertaining to signs, the permit process and associated costs and the waste water plant. He provided an update on the recent Northwest Council of Elected Officials (NWCEO) meeting and referenced artificial intelligence (AI). He discussed the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) at Liberty Elementary School and complimented the Police Officers who were involved in that program.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO, sent New Year's greetings to everyone, discussed the recent events at Liberty Elementary School and also Margate Elementary School and thanked the Police Department.

COMMISSIONER, JOANNE SIMONE, congratulated the employees for their years of service. She repeated her praise of Rise Academy for being ranked as one of the best schools by the US News & World Report. She highlighted the popularity of the Dog Park (also known as Firefighters' Park) and requested the City Commission agree to spend some more money on that park. She suggested putting in extra amenities to provide shade to cover 10 benches and adding more seating. She explained that some of the park users had requested placing concrete under the benches instead of sand.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ sent New Year's greetings and provided an update on the NWCEO meeting where they discussed homelessness. She highlighted next month's Sounds at Sundown. She requested Division Chief Rodriguez to provide an update on the Fire Department.

FIRE CHIEF, ROBERTO LORENZO, informed that he attended the Annual Florida Fire Chief's Conference in Orlando and explained that the rescue truck which was being built for the City was a showstopper.

FIRE DEPARTMENT'S DIVISION CHIEF, DANNY RODRIGUEZ, advised that since 2021, the Fire Department had purchase orders for three vehicles which included the fire truck which was 90% complete and indicated that they could take up to 48 months to be

finalized.

A question and answer session ensued between the City Commission and Fire Division Chief Rodriguez.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced Commissioner Simone's comments on the Dog Park and commented that the biggest complaint he received was the seating and the shade areas.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ indicated that those problems at the Dog Park was highlighted on the day of the ribbon cutting.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, said that he would ask if the City Commission supported the issue with the shading and seating and he would work with the Parks and Recreation Director and revert with two or three different levels of improvement.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE explained that she had a query requesting adding a garbage bin to the polls that contained the doggy bags.

#### 4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS, explained that last month, he met with Broward County Sheriff Office's (BSO) Fire Rescue Chief, Timothy Keefe and was advised that to obtain a meaningful discussion and understanding of the cost, operation and any efficiencies that could be borne out of it, they would require a significant amount of information. He informed that he would work with staff over the next few months to send that information back to BSO which would enable a more meaningful discussion.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES sent New Year's greetings to everyone and wished his Father a Happy 91st birthday.

CITY CLERK, JENNIFER M. JOHNSON, informed that they were always accepting applications for the Board of Adjustment, Planning and Zoning and the Civil Service via an online application.

#### 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 2024-405](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: NOVEMBER 6, 2024 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING, DECEMBER 4, 2024 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING @ 6PM AND DECEMBER 4, 2024 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING @ 6:30PM

**A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Mayor Schwartz, to approve the Consent Agenda.**

Discussion ensued on two Items being removed from the Consent Agenda.

**Mayor Schwartz removed her motion.**

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that she would pull Items 5) B. ID 2024-367 and 5) C. ID 3034-368 from the Consent Agenda.

- D.** [ID 2025-012](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT FOR PARTIAL FUNDING OF FOUR (4) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS IN ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY, MARGATE ELEMENTARY, LIBERTY ELEMENTARY AND MARGATE MIDDLE SCHOOLS FOR AUGUST 16, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 2026; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE

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

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Ruzzano, Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone and Mayor Schwartz

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Mayor Arserio

- B.** [ID 2024-367](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING RULES OF PROCEDURE AT MARGATE CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2024-25

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

A MARGATE RESIDENT requested the reinstatement of the rules that was made between 2016 - 2022 to allow the public who wished to comment on any Item on the Consent Agenda to approach the podium and be able to speak before a vote was conducted by the City Commission.

MR. ZUCCHINI explained that he concurred with Mr. Kraljic's comments pertaining to the Consent Agenda and asked for reconsideration.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that most of the Items under Consent Agenda were considered ministerial and she continued to discuss her reasons behind this proposal.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO said that the Mayor ran the meeting and could do what she wanted and discussed transparency at Margate.

Discussion ensued.

**The motion carried as follows.**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Ruzzano, Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone and Mayor Schwartz

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Mayor Arserio

- C.** [ID 2024-368](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING RULES OF CONDUCT AT MARGATE CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS FOR 2024-25

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

A MARGATE RESIDENT, referenced the fourth and first amendment and declined to give their name. The Margate resident recommended removing certain verbiage from the Rules of Conduct.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES explained that the City Commission did have the right to ask for somebody's name as part of the record.

MR. ZUCCHINI concurred that although very often, Items under Consent Agenda were miniscule or administrative issues, sometimes, they were not and did not believe that one should have to use their Public Discussion time to ask for the ability to speak. He believed they should be given extra time and said that flexibility should be applied.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ advised that the rules allow anybody to ask the City Commission to remove something from the Consent Agenda.

**The motion carried as follows:**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Ruzzano, Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone and Mayor Schwartz

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Mayor Arserio

## **6) RESOLUTION(S)**

- A.** [ID 2024-409](#) RESOLUTION - RATIFYING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE BROWARD COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (LIEUTENANTS AND CAPTAINS) FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 2024 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE

**A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that this Resolution should be approved. This carried as follows:**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Ruzzano, Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone and Mayor Schwartz

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Mayor Arserio

**B.** [ID 2024-410](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_  
AS CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD

**A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Mayor Schwartz, to insert the name of Anthony C. Caggiano.**

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO explained that there was approximately a year and a half left of the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) and he believed that this Item was personal against him and that he had more experience being the Chair than Commissioner Caggiano.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE believed that the Chair and Vice Chair positions should be fully educated in the CRA Statute 163 and they should have Florida Redevelopment Academy (FRA) certification. She explained her reasons for selecting a different chair which pertained to inappropriate posts uploaded to Facebook and referenced that at her most recent ethics training, it stated that you should not do business within your own entity.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO confirmed that he had a FRA certification and indicated that he would continue with the Facebook comments. He said that there was nothing wrong with him conducting his business within the City and referenced former City Commissioners who did the same.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ expressed that there was nothing personal but she was adhering to a resident's request. She explained that she was not interested in being the Chair but thought that the role should be rotated.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO questioned that if it was not personally motivated, what did Mayor Schwartz think Commissioner Caggiano have over him and repeated that he had more experience in development than anyone who worked in the City.

Discussion ensued.

MARGATE RESIDENT, STEVE GOLDMAN, alleged that Commissioner Simone did nothing for Margate.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ reminded the public about their conduct at the City Commission meetings.

MS. SANCHEZ thanked Mr. Zucchini for bringing this Item to the Agenda and explained that the CRA Chair position should be rotated on a yearly basis.

MS. VAN WINKLE explained that she previously advised that the City Commission should not be on the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) board. She could not understand why they wanted to change the Chair's role if Commissioner Ruzzano had been doing it for the last six years.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that up until November 2004, the City Commission was never the CRA.

CORAL GABLES RESIDENT, JULIE JONES, spoke.

MR. ZUCCHINI explained that the CRA should have been expanded to bring in additional professional expertise. He also explained why the CRA Chair should be rotated.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO responded to Mr. Zucchini's comments.

Discussion ensued.

MARGATE RESIDENT, JULI VAN DER MEULEN, spoke against changing Chair Ruzzano.

MARGATE RESIDENT, LAUREN BERACHA, questioned whether the CRA Chair had more power than other board members.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO explained the role of the CRA Chair and believed that setting the Agenda was the most powerful thing.

NORTH LAUDERDALE RESIDENT, ROBERT J. CANGELOSI, explained his opposition to replace the CRA Chair whilst they were in business negotiations.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ responded to Mr. Cangelosi's comments.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES reminded Mayor Schwartz that it was not CRA business.

MR. KRALJIC recommended that Items 6B. and 6C. should be tabled to a later date as one City Commissioner was absent from the meeting.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO discussed past projects.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ruzzano, to table this Item to the next City Commission meeting on Wednesday February 5th, 2025. This died for a lack of second.**

**The original motion carried as follows:**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone and Mayor Schwartz

**No:** 1 - Commissioner Ruzzano

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Mayor Arserio

**C. [ID 2024-411](#)** RESOLUTION - APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF \_\_\_\_\_  
AS VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
BOARD

**A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner**



**Caggiano, to appoint Antonio V. Arserio as Vice Chair of the CRA.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Ruzzano, to insert the name, Joanne Simone.**

COMMISSIONER SIMONE declined the CRA Chair position due to a lack a training.

Discussion ensued.

**The motion carried as follows:**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone and Mayor Schwartz

**No:** 1 - Commissioner Ruzzano

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Mayor Arserio

## **7) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- A.** [ID 2025-022](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FEES FOR MARGATE ELEMENTARY TO USE THE COVERED SPORTS FIELD FOR GRADUATION CEREMONIES AND CALYPSO COVE FOR GRADUATION CELEBRATION.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Ruzzano, that this Item, should be approved. This carried as follows:**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Ruzzano, Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone and Mayor Schwartz

**Absent:** 1 - Vice Mayor Arserio

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.

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.

[Unified Land Development Code – Section 40.300(C)] 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.

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

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