



City of Margate

5790 Margate Boulevard
Margate, FL 33063
954-972-6454
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

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 827 2552 8658

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82725528658>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

- A. [ID 2025-330](#) RECOGNIZING THOMAS RUZZANO, JR., FOR HIS HEROIC ACTS OF ASSISTING STRANDED DRIVERS DURING THE FLASH FLOODS THAT OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 26, 2025

COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO spoke on this Item and introduced his family members.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

- B. [ID 2025-314](#) BASEBALL: JOEL GONZALEZ, 13 YEARS OLD (City of Margate Baseball, Laser Sharks)

JOEL GONZALEZ introduced his family members.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

- C. [ID 2025-251](#) RIPLEY HOWELL, DAY CARE AIDE - SENIOR CENTER - 25 YEARS

MARC E. SILVIS, DRIVER/ENGINEER - FIRE DEPARTMENT - 25 YEARS

SANDY CRUZ-AMAYA, LABORATORY TECHNICIAN - ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES - 20 YEARS

DIEGO A. ESCOBAR, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 10 YEARS

- D. [ID 2025-265](#) PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ AND OUTGOING VICE MAYOR ANTONIO V. ARSERIO.

RECESS - Refreshments will be served

Meeting Reconvened.

2) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2025-264](#) ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Ruzzano, to nominate Anthony N. Caggiano as Vice Mayor.

MAYOR, ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, suggested that Commissioner Simone should have the position of Vice Mayor.

MARGATE RESIDENT, DONNA L. FELLOWS, believed that Commissioner Simone should be Mayor or Vice Mayor.

FREDERICK T. BOURDIN, 6323 HARBOR BEND, suggested that there could be a reason why a Commissioner had not been selected.

OCTAVIO E. SALCEDO, 1100 NW 74 AVE, had no affiliation but complimented Mayor Schwartz and Commissioner Simone.

MARGATE RESIDENT, LAUREN BERACHA, made comment on the selection of Vice Mayor.

TRACY VAN WINKLE made comments about two Margate residents and believed that Commissioner Simone should be Vice Mayor.

RICHARD ZUCCHINI, denounced Ms. Van Winkle's alleged comments as false.

This carried as follows:

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

- B. [ID 2025-263](#) ELECTION OF MAYOR

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Ruzzano, that Antonio V. Arserio should be made Mayor.

MR. BOURDIN, complimented Vice Mayor Arserio and indicated that he had strong communication skills. He was in support of Vice Mayor Arserio being nominated as the Mayor and also thanked current Mayor, Schwartz.

MS. BERACHA commented on previous decisions about the public not being able to participate in the City Commission meetings via Zoom and disapproved on the selection of the Vice Mayor and Mayor positions.

JONATHAN KRALJIC, MARGATE RESIDENT, read a statement against electing Vice Mayor Arserio as Mayor and listed a number of initiatives that he would like to be introduced.

This carried as follows:

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

3) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR SCHWARTZ, provided instructions on how to submit a Public Discussion.

MARGATE RESIDENT, MS. FELLOWS, referenced moving to Edgewater, Florida and commenting on the City's Facebook page.

MR. BOURDIN referenced the Planning and Zoning Board (P&Z).

MR. KRALJIC recognized an act of heroism of two men who rescued a six year old boy from drowning in a lake behind the Villas on the Community. He said that he emailed the City Commission for 6) B. ID 2025-302 to be pulled from the Consent Agenda. He also discussed the Flock License Plate Reader (LPR) and referenced Fourth Amendment implications.

MR. BOURDIN informed that he was celebrating his 30th year in Margate and said that the value of his house had tripled and praised the City.

MS VAN WINKLE made comment.

MARGATE RESIDENT, ALLEN KOPLEMEN, questioned an Consent Agenda Item pertaining to burying powerlines at the Cocogate project and said that it would set a very bad precedent in the City. He discussed parking issues at Firefighters' Park.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, clarified that the underground utilities Item was not for the City to pay but for the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to contribute funding which was one of their goals and objectives.

MR. ZUCCHINI, LAKEWOOD ON THE GREEN, discussed the installation of (LPR) cameras and said that they were an excellent resource. He read a list of suggestions that he would like implemented for Margate.

4) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO, congratulated the newly appointed Vice Mayor and the

Mayor. He said that it was up to the Mayor on how they wish to run the meeting and gave advice to Vice Mayor Arserio. He thanked those who attended, helped and donated for a Thanksgiving food drive on behalf of and in memory of the late Mr. Robert Reiner. He asked for Item 6) B. ID2026-302 to be pulled from the Consent Agenda. He highlighted the Carnival and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

COMMISSIONER, ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, appreciated that there was no hurricane. He wished everyone a safe travel over the Thanksgiving period.

COMMISSIONER, JOANNE SIMONE, thanked the staff for their years of service and dedication to their City. She wished everyone a Happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

VICE MAYOR, ANTONIO V. ARSERIO, thanked his colleagues and appreciated being appointed as Mayor for a second time. He informed that he had a lot of good ideas and that he was looking forward to next year. He advised that the fair was not a City event, that the space was leased by the CRA and that there was no animal acts. He highlighted the City's Winter Festival and informed that it would be held at the Sports Complex due to the construction that was occurring in Margate Boulevard.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ congratulated Vice Mayor Arserio and Commissioner Caggiano in their respective new positions. She responded to Mr. Zucchini's comments and referenced Linear Park and said that she ran on the model of communication, cooperation and collaboration and continued to read a statement. She thanked everyone and wished them a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

5) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that it had been a pleasure working under Commissioner's Schwartz's leadership and capacity as Mayor and that he looked forward to working with the newly appointees. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

CITY ATTORNEY, DAVID N. TOLCES, thanked the Mayor and Vice Mayor as well as congratulating the new appointees and that he looked forward to continue working with the City. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

CITY CLERK, JENNIFER M. JOHNSON, congratulated the newly appointed Mayor and Vice Mayor.

6) CONSENT AGENDA

Item 6) B., ID 2025-302, was pulled from the 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 2025-304](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: OCTOBER 8, 2025 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING @ 6:30PM

APPROVED

- C. [ID 2025-313](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, DESIGNATING AN ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE, REVIEW, AND PROCESS PLAT OR REPLAT SUBMITTALS AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 177.071 OF

FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

APPROVED

- D. [ID 2025-332](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE MULTIPLE AWARD OF BID NO. 2026-004, AGGREGATES, TOPSOILS AND SAND TO AUSTIN TUPLER TRUCKING, INC., FLORIDA SUPERIOR SAND INC., CHIN DIESEL, INC., TRU HAUL, LLC, AND CONCRETE WORKS & PAVING, INC.; WITH THE CITY OF MARGATE ACTING AS LEAD AGENCY FOR THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASING COOPERATIVE GROUP; PROVIDING FOR AN INITIAL THREE-YEAR TERM AND TWO ONE-YEAR RENEWAL OPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

APPROVED

- E. [ID 2025-333](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MCRA AND THE CITY OF MARGATE TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO PAY THE COST OF UNDERGROUNDING THE EXISTING OVERHEAD UTILITY LINES ADJACENT TO THE COCOGATE PROJECT.

APPROVED

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

- B. [ID 2025-302](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR PLACEMENT OF PURCHASED LICENSE PLATE READER CAMERAS (LPR) AT SELECTED LOCATIONS.

This Item was heard after 6) E. ID 2025-333.

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

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO read some emails where it indicated that this Item could be a possible infringement upon the Fourth Amendment.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLGES explained that there was no expectation of privacy when you were on a public road. He advised that the data that was provided by the Camera was simply stored there for informational purposes which was then up to the Police Department to retrieve the information to utilize in any necessary investigation which was governed by an agreement between the City and Flock.

Discussion ensued.

This carried as follows:

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

7) RESOLUTION(S) CONTINUED

A. [ID 2025-300](#) APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF:

TO THE FIVE MEMBER MARGATE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD FOR
A TERM COMMENCING NOVEMBER 25, 2025 - MARCH 18, 2026

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO advised that this was a partial appointment until March 2026.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, to nominate Richard Zucchini.

Discussion ensued on the process of the P&Z Board and how the application could be improved.

MR. BOURDIN spoke on this Item and of his experience on working on various boards.

MARGATE RESIDENT, EUGENE ECCLI, provided recommendations for this Item and highlighted his experience.

MR. ZUCCHINI spoke on this Item, detailed his previous experience and provided recommendations.

VARUN OJAR, 6296 MARGATE BLVD, spoke on this Item and provided his recommendation on what improvement he would implement.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO questioned if there was a Sunshine violation if the City Commission spoke to a board member.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES advised that there would only be an issue if individuals were serving on the same board and that they could not use a third person as a conduit.

MS. BERACHA discussed the advice she was provided by the City Commission when she applied for the Civil Service Board.

The motion carried as follows:

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

- B. [ID 2025-303](#)** RESOLUTION - APPROVING THE WAIVE OF BIDDING FOR SOLE-SOURCE ACQUISITION OF TRIMBLE X9 FORENSIC LASER SCANNING SYSTEM; UTILIZING THE FEDERAL JUSTICE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST FUND ACCOUNT TO ENHANCE LAW ENFORCEMENTS ABILITY TO CAPTURE AND DOCUMENT EVIDENCE ON MAJOR VEHICLE CRASH SCENES AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00

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

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO explained that this Item pertained to a Trust Fund of confiscated monies that law enforcement received and where some of it had to be specifically used for certain items.

This carried as follows:

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

- C. [ID 2025-331](#)** APPROVE THAT THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE ADDITION OF NON-BARGAINED FOR POSITIONS OF ONE (1) FULL-TIME DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF AND THREE (3) FULL-TIME ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEFS TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO PROVIDE FOR AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF DIVISION FIRE CHIEF, WITH THE POSITIONS TO BE PROVIDED FOR DURING THE BUDGET AMENDMENT PROCESS.

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

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

- D. [ID 2025-335](#)** ~~RESOLUTION APPROVING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL #3080 FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 2025, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2028; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.~~

This Item had been removed from the Agenda.

- E. [ID 2025-338](#)** RESOLUTION - DETERMINING CERTAIN DETAILS OF NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF ITS WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2025;

PROVIDING FOR THE SECURITY OF SAID BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATED SALE OF THE BONDS TO THE UNDERWRITER NAMED HEREIN AND WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING; APPROVING THE FORM AND EXECUTION OF A BOND PURCHASE CONTRACT; DELEGATING CERTAIN AUTHORITY TO THE CITY MANAGER FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE TERMS AND DETAILS OF SAID BONDS; APPOINTING A PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR FOR SAID BONDS; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FORM OF A BOND PAYING AGENT AND REGISTRAR AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE FORM AND DISTRIBUTION OF A PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A FINAL OFFICIAL STATEMENT; AUTHORIZING THAT SAID BONDS MAY BE INSURED BY A MUNICIPAL BOND INSURANCE POLICY AND THAT THE RESERVE REQUIREMENT THEREFOR MAY BE SATISFIED THROUGH THE PROVISION OF DEBT SERVICE RESERVE SURETY POLICY; APPOINTING A DISCLOSURE DISSEMINATION AGENT; APPROVING THE FORM OF AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT; AUTHORIZING A BOOK-ENTRY REGISTRATION SYSTEM FOR THE BONDS PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION AND INVESTMENT OF CERTAIN FUNDS; AUTHORIZING PROPER OFFICIALS TO DO ALL THINGS DEEMED NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND DELIVERY OF SAID BONDS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned how much the bonds would be sold for.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS indicated that it was too early to confirm.

Discussion ensued.

This carried by the following vote:

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

8) ORDINANCE(S) - FIRST READING

- A. [ID 2025-297](#) ORDINANCE- AMENDING CHAPTER 27 - PARKS AND RECREATION, SECTION 27-5 GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS AND SECTION 27-6 PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR REGULATION OF SMOKING AND VAPING IN CITY PARKS; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO said that lately, there had not been many people complaining about the smoking and if so, indicated that they would move far away from others which he believed was being respectful. He would prefer to see no littering but explained that this Item would not prevent the public from smoking unfiltered cigars.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that there was a no littering policy.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that administratively, there was a policy that you could not smoke or vape in the City's parks. He could not recall the last time he received any complaints but the reason why it was brought before the City Commission was that they were contacted by the Chair of Tobacco Free Florida (TFF) who was trying to get these policies codified in every City's code. He said that although there were some penalties, there was not a whole lot that would change by passing this Ordinance.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO expressed that the cigar thing was a form of a pre-emption as it was very rare that Tallahassee gave the City authority. He looked at this in two parts but explained that although he was not a fan of smoking in the parks, he advised that people needed to use common courtesy. He was happy with how the current policy was being handled administratively so far and if it was not broken, he did not believe it needed to be fixed. He suggested that they should see if the City Commission had the appetite to ban smoking and if so, then they should discuss what type of stipulations would be considered.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO did not have a problem with this Item but believed that warnings should be issued and fined \$25 if they did not wish to adhere to the same.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ did not believe that they should have smoking at a public park. She explained that as the City already had a policy to do this administratively and if TFF was asking for it, then they should make it their code.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE indicated that this also included the parking lot. She said that whilst she was not a smoker, she would not have a problem if somebody wanted to ignite a cigarette in the parking lot and smoke in their car.

Discussion ensued.

MR. ZUCCHINI, indicated that some of the City Commission had changed their minds on this policy over the years. He recommended that this Ordinance should be passed.

AMANDA G. RUZZANO, 116 E. PALM DRIVE, referenced Mr. Zucchini's comments. She questioned what would occur if they allowed smoking at City events in the parking lot such as the Winter Fest.

MS. FELLOWS stated as a former smoker and vaper, explained why it should be banned from the parks.

MS. VAN WINKLE agreed with no smoking in the park.

MR. KRALJIC read a statement on this Ordinance.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE heard this evening that parks were for children but believed that they were for everybody.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO responded to Mr. Zucchini's comments. He asked City Attorney Tolces that if marijuana became legal, whether it could be smoked in a park.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES advised Commissioner Ruzzano that it would depend upon what would be in the legislation that would be ultimately adopted.

Discussion ensued.

The motion failed as follows:

Yes: 2 - Commissioner Caggiano and Mayor Schwartz

No: 3 - Commissioner Ruzzano, Commissioner Simone and Vice Mayor Arserio

9) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING

- A. [ID 2025-293](#) AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET (ORDINANCE NUMBERS 2024-2 AND 2024-7); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Vice Mayor Arserio, that this Ordinance, Second Reading, should be approved. This carried as follows:

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

- B. [ID 2025-294](#) AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-5); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano to approve this Ordinance, Second Reading. There was no second.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that this Item was to amend Fiscal Year (FY) budget 2026 which would account for any changes that were brought up throughout the Budget Workshop process which they had with the City Commission. He also advised that it was reappropriated funds which were placed in the budget for projects that were unfinished in 2025 and then rebudgeted for FY2026.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that this Ordinance, Second Reading, should be approved. This carried as follows:

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

Not Present: 1 - Commissioner Caggiano

10) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. [ID 2025-329](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO was against the banning of social media comments on the City's website and said that they should allow the residents to respond and that he believed that it was against the First Amendment. He asked whether there was any form of technology that could remove offensive verbiage. He commented that if the City shut down the public's comments, the social media's page would be less effective.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES replied to Commissioner Ruzzano's comments and advised that due to the First Amendment, you could not censor the verbiage being published and highlighted the importance of consistency as that would not violate freedom of speech. He advised that the City was not regulating based upon the comments but it was on the cost expense that was taken away from City staff in having to monitor this.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that Margate would be in the minority of cities that did not allow comments.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the pages should be for education and for celebratory things.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE believed that the page was for informational purposes only and did not think it was necessary to have any comments or whether they liked or disliked the posts.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO said it was a tough one as the public should be able to compliment or criticize the City Commission. He did not mind constructive criticism as long as it was done respectfully.

Discussion ensued including how other cities monitored their social media pages.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that as far as he was aware, any City's policy could provide some level of screening of those comments meaning that it needed to be on topic and he could not have profane language. He wanted to remind the City Commission of why he instructed to disable comments from their Facebook page but did not want the staff to endure criticism via that forum and referenced an incident that took place with a YouTuber filming Margate Police officers.

Discussion ensued.

MS. FELLOWS explained that it was a shame that the City was shutting down public comments on their social media page and agreed with Commissioner Ruzzano.

MR. OJAR agreed with Commissioner Ruzzano and referenced engagement in any social media platform.

MS. VAN WINKLE referenced that the share button and anonymous functions could be removed from the Facebook page. She also commented on her visit to the Building Department.

MR. KRALJIC responded to Commissioner Ruzzano's questions and read a statement pertaining to the City's social media accounts.

MS. BERACHA stated that Margate residents were not able to comment on other municipalities' websites about the City.

MR. ZUCCHINI said that the City's posting was not a social media interactive page. He believed that it was meant to provide announcements and said that it was not a violation of the First Amendment.

MRS. RUZZANO appeared to be on the fence on this Item but suggested that if the Item was shared from the City's website onto the viewer's personal page, then comments implemented. She commented that she would like to see Zoom continue as she had experienced problems with Channel 78 on their live feed.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO compared Facebook comments with Zoom and referenced anonymous participants. He suggested that they put the Facebook comments back on after the six months trial had ended.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS required instructions from the City Commission as to whether the Margate was resuming social media comments.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ polled the City Commission as to whether to resume with the comments after six months.

Commissioner Ruzzano – Yes
Commissioner Caggiano – No
Commissioner Simone – No
Vice Mayor Arserio – Yes
Mayor Schwartz – No

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES confirmed that based upon the City Commission poll, the direction was for the comments to remain off.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards


Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk

Date: 1/22/2026

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.

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.

Members of the public are invited to view this meeting through Zoom using Webinar ID: 827 2552 8658 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.

THROUGH THE CITY'S WEBSITE:

Go to www.margatefl.com

Go to "Agendas & Minutes" > Find the respective meeting date and click "Agenda Summary" to view the agenda items and see the Zoom meeting information

ALTERNATE OPTION FOR VIEWING AND LISTENING TO THE MEETING THROUGH ZOOM.US

Instructions:

Topic: "Margate Regular City Commission Meeting"

Enter the following link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82725528658>

Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099