



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes Regular City Commission Meeting

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

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

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 849 8117 6142

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84981176142>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Mayor Arserio attended the City Commission meeting via Zoom.

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

- A.** [ID 2026-017](#) VIDEO PRESENTATION - DENISE P. STEELE, RECREATION COORDINATOR AT THE NORTHWEST FOCAL POINT SENIOR CENTER

RECREATION COORDINATOR, DENISE P. STEELE, spoke on this Item.

Discussion ensued.

PROCLAMATION(S)

- B.** [ID 2025-377](#) AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH - FEBRUARY, 2026 (presented to Dale Holness)

DALE HOLNESS spoke on this matter.

- C.** [ID 2025-376](#) AMERICAN HEART MONTH - FEBRUARY, 2026 (presented to Deputy Mayor Jacqueline A. Guzman - City of Sunrise, Florida)

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

D. [ID 2025-375](#) ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: MATTHEW TILL (STUDENT), MARLENA ROLAND (TEACHER), (Ms. Latoya Dean, Principal and/or Mrs. Marta Palhano, Assistant Principal)

ASCEND ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL: IANI JAMES (STUDENT), KEYONA BURNES (TEACHER), (Dr. Kathrine Pierandozzi, Principal and/or Ms. Neisha Billy, Assistant Principal)

ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY: ANGEL GUTIERREZ PUJOLS (STUDENT), CIERA SAINTIL (TEACHER), (Ms. Shereen R. Reynolds, Principal and/or Ms. Corrine Mendez, Assistant Principal)

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY: OLIVER ETIENNE (STUDENT), BURCIN YALCIN (TEACHER), (Ms. Vicki Flournoy, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Styles, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE ELEMENTARY: AYAANAH SATTAR (STUDENT), THERESA SMITH (TEACHER), (Thomas Schroeder, Principal and Donna Rucker, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE MIDDLE: SKALANDJIE JEAN (STUDENT), SEAN GROSVENOR (TEACHER), (Ms. Sabine Phillips, Principal and/or Mr. Thomas Morgan, Assistant Principal)

PHYL'S ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL: KYRIE SHAW (STUDENT), VINNETTE GORDON (TEACHER), (Ms. Afua Baptiste, Principal and/or Ms. Gloria Addo Yamoah, Preschool Director)

RISE ACADEMY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: DANIEL DORONIN (STUDENT), OSCAR ARCHER (TEACHER), (Dr. Adriana Guerra, Principal)

WEST BROWARD ACADEMY: MILES FRANCK (STUDENT), MASLANDE FREDERIC (TEACHER), (Mr. Derrick Hugue, Principal and/or Ms. Rossana Padron, Assistant Principal)

Following a brief recess, the meeting reconvened.

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

VICE MAYOR ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, provided instructions on how to submit a Public Discussion.

ROBIN M. FRIEDMAN, 1330 BANKS RD., highlighted that six weeks ago, the left hand turn lane was permanently blocked which made it difficult to access Coconut Creek Parkway or Atlantic Boulevard and asked for it to be reopened.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO, informed Ms. Friedman that he would have the City Manager review that matter for her.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, informed that the City was aware of that issue and had

been in contact with Ms. Friedman. He explained that the issue of the turn lane was addressed and that it was part of a site plan that was approved by this board and by Broward County (BC).

Discussion ensued.

RICHARD ZUCCHINI, LAKEWOOD CIRCLE, requested that Margate's boards do a better job in researching and coming up with a CONSENSUS from what they expect from the City center. He referenced conducting Workshops and that the City Commission approved a parking variance for an old building.

MARGATE RESIDENT, ELSA J. SANCHEZ, asked whether the public could attend the City Commission meetings via Zoom. She said that a company advised that she needed water filters who also provided her with a website that details the quality of the water in an area. She said that the trees planted on Rock Island Road were beautiful.

MARGATE RESIDENT, DONNA L. FELLOWS, thanked the City Manager for addressing a trash issue at her property. She said that the City Manager and City Commission were failing the residents pertaining to outstanding fees owed by the fair company and requested that they should no longer approve any future applications from that owner.

MARGATE RESIDENT, TRACY VAN WINKLE, tried to comprehend why the City allowed the Carnival to take advantage of Margate. She paid her condolences to Eunice Silverstein and suggested that the City should do something in recognition for her at one of the parks.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER, ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, referenced closings on Banks and Coconut Creek Parkway.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS responded to Commissioner Schwartz's question and explained that public hearings were held and that the plat was something that was approved by the City and BC.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ highlighted this Saturday's Sounds at Sundown and wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day for next week.

COMMISSIONER, JOANNE SIMONE, informed that as of Monday, the fair had not paid their outstanding balance and there was no application for a Spring Fair. She said that it was the Mayor's decision to decide whether they were going to have Zoom available at the City Commission meetings.

COMMISSIONER, TOMMY RUZZANO, addressed comments made during Public Discussion and said that he held town hall meetings pertaining to the downtown development. He said that they had been asking the public what they wanted for the downtown project and from the surveys they received, apartments were the last thing but the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) was pushing for over 900. He thought they were still doing Zoom which he did not have a problem with or the comments.

MAYOR ANTONIO V. ARSERIO confirmed that they were still conducting the City Commission meetings on Zoom which the residents could watch.

Discussion ensued pertaining to Zoom.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO said Happy Valentine's Day to his wife and two daughters. He spoke about iguanas. He requested that a camera be installed to verify a public speaker and said that Margate Boulevard looked great pertaining to the landscaping.

Discussion ensued on iguanas.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO thanked staff who organized the Angio Cardio Screenings. He referenced Parks and Recreation who had a tool that detected a water leak on Rock Island Road and also referenced a work-out equipment which the Fire Department used. He praised the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES) who did a good job and said that he knew that they had great water.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced the left turn that a resident was discussing and also sought an update on the installation of a memorial.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR ARSERIO appreciated Ms. Sanchez comparing Margate's water quality to other cities. He repeated that Zoom and Channel 78 were available to watch meetings. He had been pushing really hard on landscaping and referenced median enhancements and thanked Parks and Recreation Director Jones. He was informed that the City could receive approximately \$100,000 federal grant in addition to what the City had budgeted to the landscape enhancements.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no City Manager's Report.

CITY ATTORNEY, DAVID N. TOLCES, wished his father a happy 92nd birthday and informed that he was the first manager of the Palm Lakes Plaza in Margate.

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 2026-010](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: DECEMBER 10, 2025 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING @ 7:15 PM

APPROVED

- B. [ID 2026-021](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (DEES) TO ESTABLISH AND FILL TWO (2) INTERNSHIP POSITIONS, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

APPROVED

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner

Ruzzano, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

6) ORDINANCE(S) - FIRST READING

- A. [ID 2026-020](#) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 2- ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE II - FINANCES, SECTION 2-23 PURPOSE AND INTENT, SECTION 2-24 - DEFINITIONS, SECTION 2-25 - PURCHASING PROCEDURES, SECTION 2-26 PURCHASING RESTRICTIONS; WHEN BIDS REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS OR LETTERS OF INTEREST REQUIRED, SECTION 2-27 CONTRACTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS, AND SECTION 2-28 AWARD OF BIDS, REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS, LETTERS OF INTEREST, AND OTHER SOLICITATIONS; PROCEDURE FOR LETTING; PROVIDING FOR CLARIFYING DEFINITIONS OF PIGGYBACKING, FORMAL QUOTE, AND INFORMAL QUOTE; AMENDING THE THRESHOLDS FOR PURCHASING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Ruzzano, that this Ordinance, First Reading, should be discussed.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO recalled some years ago that there was a question on the ballot pertaining to limiting purchasing.

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ referenced that anything over \$50,000, the City Commission would have to vote.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that historically, the City's Charter had a provision in that any procurement of over \$50,000 required the approval from the City Commission. He advised that in 2018, the City Commission put on the referendum, a question to remove that language from the same City Charter but the \$50,000 threshold applied and instead, it was adopted via an Ordinance and placed in their Code. He informed that six years later, they were looking at amending those thresholds. He explained that the City's procurement Code had not been updated in approximately 10 years and City staff have surveyed five neighboring cities to see what their purchasing thresholds were and that they were recommending that they upgrade the City's to equal theirs or in many cases, they were still below what their purchasing thresholds were. He said that costs had increased over the 10 years and that he wanted the City to be efficient in what they do but did not want to remove any scrutiny or evaluation procedures and that it aligned their purchasing practices with what today's dollars of goods costs.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO had a problem with the 'piggyback' contracts.

Discussion ensued on the procurement procedure and 'piggyback' contracts.

MS.VAN WINKLE questioned whether authority was required for demolishing buildings

worth \$50,000 each.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS responded to Ms. Van Winkle's question.

MARGATE RESIDENT, NINA CULVER, had a question pertaining to this Ordinance and believed that the department heads should be given more reign to allow them to run their division with the City Manager's guidance.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS responded to Ms. Culver's question.

Discussion ensued.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

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.

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: 849 8117 6142 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/84981176142>

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