



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

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 832 7293 3276

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83272933276>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ attended via Zoom.

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) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MARGATE RESIDENT, DONNA L. FELLOWS, said that National Night Out was great and thanked everybody that was involved.

CAROLINA GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY RESIDENT, JULI VAN DER MEULEN, read a statement on the future of the Carolina Golf course and referenced that the rezoning of this valuable green space was inconsistent with the City's own guided documents. She also spoke about the golf course's owner(s).

VICE MAYOR, ANTONIO V. ARSERIO, questioned City Manager Curtis of how many times he personally had complained about the golf course.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, advised that the City received many complaints and explained that the owners were not required to maintain it as a manicured golf course.

Discussion ensued including the penalties imposed on the golf course.

MARGATE RESIDENT, TRACY VAN WINKLE, advised Vice Mayor Arserio to allow residents to speak via Zoom in Public Discussion.

MARGATE RESIDENT, ELSA J. SANCHEZ, said that the City had an amazing Fire

Department and discussed the recent workshop that she attended.

MARGATE RESIDENT, NINA CULVER, questioned what the statute was on green space and why the Carolina course was deemed as open space.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO indicated that from the calculations, they would only account for about 15% of that area as green space which could be due to contamination and that it was not open or accessible to the public.

Discussion ensued on cleaning the soil of the golf course.

RICHARD ZUCCHINI, LAKEWOOD ON THE GREEN, discussed maintenance to the golf course and referenced toxins and pesticides.

MARGATE RESIDENT, MINDY LEE, questioned if Vice Mayor Arserio was in violation pertaining to his comments on the golf course.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO responded to Ms. Lee's question and explained that it was not a conflict of interest.

MS. LEE indicated that if development was made on the golf course, Vice Mayor Arserio could benefit.

TAMARAC RESIDENT, KENDRICK D. NOBLES, spoke about a misunderstanding and miscommunications about a business he proposed to have in Margate and explained that it was a transitional living facility for those who have spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries. He asked what they could do to move forward and requested a meeting to discuss this matter further.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS, explained that the building official had provided clear instructions on what needed to be performed.

Discussion ensued.

MYRIAM JIMINEZ, 603 MELALEUCA DRIVE, strongly believed that there was a misunderstanding of what the City wanted them to downgrade of what they had for a transitional living facility. She requested a meeting.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO said that she had his CONSENSUS for a meeting.

2) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER, TOMMY RUZZANO, addressed Ms. Jiminez's comments. He referred to the Golf Club where he indicated that the houses were built densely to accommodate their Comp plan and be used as a useable space. He said that if they built on that area, it would require approval by an engineer that it was mitigated correctly. He said that schools have returned and forewarned people to be careful and referenced cameras. He discussed the garbage issue at Deerfield Beach and Coconut Creek and referenced a 2016 lawsuit that the City fought and won. He congratulated Ms. Sanchez who had served as President in her Homeowners Association (HOA) community.

COMMISSIONER, ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, advised on hurricane preparedness and thanked everyone in the City for making National Night Out a huge success.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO referenced the City of Deerfield Beach and understood that they

were going to sign with Broward County Sheriff (BSO) and that the contract price decreased.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced a meeting and that the theory was that the City did not want to go to BSO because their rates upticked but indicated that the City's rates had increased to 8%/9%. He was informed that in the first few years, the City would save money if they joined BSO and forewarned of the issues facing the Fire Department.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO discussed Broward Sheriff's Fire Rescue (BSFR) and said that although he was a big fan of increasing the salaries to match those of its surrounding competitors, he did not believe it was the overall solution to the department and would like to see a third independent study performed to assess whether the City required another firehouse. He advised City Manager Curtis that Margate should have a plan b if they did not merge with BSFR. He wanted the City to be competitive and that they were providing the best services possible to their residents.

MAYOR, ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, apologized for not attending the City Commission meeting in person.

3) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no City Manager's report.

4) CONSENT AGENDA

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked to pull 4) B from the 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 2025-184](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: JULY 2, 2025 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING, JULY 9, 2025 CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP AND JULY 9, 2025 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

APPROVED

- C. [ID 2025-202](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE AMENDED AND RESTATED 800 INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH PALM BEACH COUNTY TO ENABLE INTEROPERABLE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARGATE AND THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) AND COMMON TALK GROUPS OF THE PALM BEACH COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR INITIAL FIVE YEAR TERM AND RENEWALS OF TWO ADDITIONAL FIVE YEAR TERMS; PROVIDING FOR RENEWAL WITHOUT FURTHER COMMISSION ACTION; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

APPROVED

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner

Simone, 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 2025-190](#) RESOLUTION - SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE BRIDGE ON STATE ROAD 7 OVER SAMPLE ROAD AS “SPC DANIEL J. AGAMI BRIDGE”, AS APPROVED IN FLORIDA HOUSE BILL 987 APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR ON JUNE 13, 2025, AND ENROLLED AS PART OF CHAPTER NO. 2025-214 ON JULY 8, 2025; PROVIDING FOR STREET SIGNS OR MARKERS TO BE PLACED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

CITY MANAGER CURTIS wanted to recognize Ms. Beth Agami and invite her to the podium if she wanted to say a few words about this Resolution.

BETH AGAMI extended her heartfelt gratitude to the City and read a statement on this Item.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO thanked the late Specialist (SPC) Agami for his service.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO thanked SPC Agami for his service and understood that the bridge's point was between Coral Springs, Coconut Creek and Margate and suggested a sign should be erected.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO said that Ms. Agami did a great job and expressed that it was an honor to have her son's name in Margate on that bridge.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that she spoke with SPC's Agami's brother and told a story that he shared with her.

MS. FELLOWS thanked Ms. Agami for her sacrifice and for her son's service. She asked if they could place a flag on Margate's side of the bridge in honor of SPC Agami.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

5) RESOLUTION(S)

- A.** [ID 2025-196](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING FOUR PERCENT (4.0%) COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 2025 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2026, FOR ALL NON-BARGAINED FOR PERSONNEL; PROVIDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE

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

MS. FELLOWS referenced giving non-bargaining a 4% raise but said that the City could not give the Fire and Police Departments what they deserved for sacrificing their lives.

MS. CULVER recommended that the City should give the Fire and Police Departments an increase to match BSO's bargaining with other cities.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO advised that the increase they were referring to was in reference to the salary study that BSO conducted. He supported a raise to match the study that they were going to be moving to and not where they currently were.

Discussion ensued.

This carried by the following vote:

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

- B.** [ID 2025-197](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARGATE AND THE MARGATE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ("MCRA") REGARDING ADJUSTMENT OF THE TAX INCREMENT FUND ("TIF") DEPOSIT FROM 95% TO 80% OF THE STATUTORY INCREMENT REVENUES; PROVIDING FOR TERMINATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that a couple of years ago, the City Commission gave CONSENSUS to add the third personnel to the Fire Department and explained that part of the funding for that, which was discussed in the future as the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), was nearing sunset, that the City would use that revenue for it. He informed that now that they have an extension of the CRA sunset, although it was just with the City's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds, they was looking at reducing their contribution to the CRA so that they could withhold that revenue and help fund their operations including Police and Fire.

This carried by the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

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: 832 7293 3276 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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