



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes Regular City Commission Meeting

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

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 869 9632 5594

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86996325594>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. [ID 2024-088](#) TESSANNE ASHMEADE, 7TH GRADE, WEST BROWARD ACADEMY

1) PRESENTATION(S)

A. [ID 2024-141](#) MARGATE 50 YEAR RESIDENCY AWARD - PATRICIA AND JAMES HENDERSON

B. [ID 2024-089](#) LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE HUNSCHOFSKY, DISTRICT 95

DISTRICT 96 – FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE HUNSCHOFSKY thanked the City for their partnership and for their support. She gave a brief update where she highlighted five bills that were filed this session which included:

- School Safety bill;
- Flood Disclosure;
- Shielding information when you sign up to the Broward County Property Appraiser's (BCPA) Owner Alert program; and
- My Safe Florida Home Condominium pilot program and she listed the application dates for July and August 2024.

DISTRICT 96 – FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE HUNSCHOFSKY also briefly discussed a sixth bill that she filed last session pertaining to workforce. She advised that two of the Margate projects for the Radio Tower Repair and Upgrades for \$300,000 and

the Margate Frontline Rescue and Aerial Truck for \$372,000, were currently included in the budget which had not gone to Governor Ronald DeSantis as yet. She explained that the Broward County (BC) projects of the \$700,000 budgeted Junior Achievement of South Florida Youth Workforce Program expansion and a budget of \$600,000 for the Eagles Haven Wellness Center impacted Margate residents. She discussed the missed opportunities for this legislative session and indicated that there was no substantive action on property insurance but they would continue to advocate for that and she discussed the Vacation Rental bill. She introduced some of her high school interns and encouraged students to apply to their program and learn about civics.

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO expressed his gratitude to Florida State Representative Hunschofsky.

Discussion ensued on the time frame that State Governor DeSantis would veto the bills.

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

- C. [ID 2024-076](#) TRACK AND FIELD: COOK FOSTER, 11 YEARS OLD (HIGHLANDS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY TRACK AND FIELD)

PROCLAMATION(S)

This Item was heard before Item. 1) D. ID 2024-097.

- E. [ID 2024-127](#) ARBOR DAY - APRIL 26, 2024 (presented to Ben Trapani, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation)

PARKS AND RECREATION ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, BENJAMIN V. TRAPANI, spoke on this Item and highlighted details for the City's Tree Giveaway event.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

- D. [ID 2024-097](#) NARINE GOVIND, UTILITY TECHNICIAN II - ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES - 20 YEARS

EILEEN NEMBHARD, DAY CARE AIDE - SENIOR CENTER - 15 YEARS

SABRINA AGOSTINO, PAYROLL AND BENEFITS MANAGER - HUMAN RESOURCES - 5 YEARS

TUSHAR BULSARA, SYSTEM ANALYST - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - 5 YEARS

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MARGATE RESIDENT, DENISE C. WHITLEY, moved from New Jersey to Florida four years ago and questioned whether the Citizen's Academy (CA) that used to be on the City's website would be reinstated.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR RUZZANO indicated that a couple of residents had talked about the CA and suggested that the City Commission could raise this when they had their one-to-one

meetings if they wanted to do it again.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ confirmed that the CA was suspended due to the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

JULIE JONES, complimented a member of the public for assisting in finding her missing daughter.

ELSA J. SANCHEZ, 6930 NW 15TH STREET, thanked the City for the International Day Festival which she enjoyed and was looking forward to next year's event. She thanked Office Specialist III, Edwards, for writing the minutes for the City Commission meetings, in particular, for March 20th.

DONNA L. FELLOWS, 6108 NW 9TH COURT, thanked City Commissioner Arserio for attending the bowling event and highlighted a forthcoming Pepsi sponsored tournament.

TRACY VAN WINKLE, 1020 SW 61ST AVENUE, congratulated former Chief of Police (CoP), Galaska on his retirement and said that he did a good job in Margate. She referenced taking care of City employees and suggested speaking to former staff members who had left.

JEFF DEVITO, PALM SPRINGS II CONDO ASSOCIATION, complained that his Homeowners Association's (HOA) fees in his community would almost triple by next year and referenced partial and full reserves and indicated that the Surfside condominium collapse at Champlain Towers South could have played a part in its increase.

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO referred to the increases and alleged that Florida State Governor DeSantis did not agree with Mr. Devito and he continued to discuss the same.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO said that he felt everybody's pain and discussed the HoA and high insurance fees.

RICH ALIANIELLO, 7631 NW 23RD STREET, informed that he had to search for a new insurance company as he was dropped by his previous insurer.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ discussed current rates and high insurance policies.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO discussed the success of the International Day Festival.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE highlighted this weekend's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event. She recognized the City's employees who go above and beyond to address residents' concerns and thanked the Department Heads and designees for their efforts.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO thanked the residents who attended the Snuggle Buddy event and he discussed the same. He also thanked the City staff for the second annual International Day Festival. He repeated his wish to see a grant specific for HoAs which would improve on curb appeal, fencing around properties and entry way signage.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ wished the Jewish community a Happy Passover.

MAYOR RUZZANO said Happy Passover. He questioned if the Paradise Garden's sign belonged to the City and said that it would be a great community project for the City and the residents to do.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS indicated that he would review the ownership of the signage and agreed that it needed to be refreshed.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR RUZZANO informed that there was a new Broward County Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Howard Hepburn and wished him all the best. He missed the International Day Festival as he attended his daughter's participation in competing in the national championship cheerleading competition where he continued to discuss the same.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS thanked Communications and Marketing Manager, Fallon, for organizing the International Day Festival and also Parks and Recreation, for their assistance in setting up the same. He said that he would continue to expand upon that event and make it bigger and better every year. He explained that at the last City Commission Workshop, the City Commission gave instructions to invite two of the CoP candidate recruiters, Florida Police Chief Association's (FPCA) and Colin Baenziger & Associates (CB&A) for some in-person interviews. He informed that the FPCA had declined to attend in person and would conduct a Zoom interview or alternative and that they did not offer a warranty on their services. He sought feedback from the City Commission whether to offer a virtual meeting with both of those recruiters or did they want him to seek an agreement with CB&A.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO confirmed that he was content with CB&A as they offered a warranty.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE was okay with CB&A.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO explained that whilst he was okay with CB&A, initially, he was leaning towards the FCPA at the last City Commission Workshop but indicated that they probably could not provide the level of service that the City required.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ indicated that initially, she would have preferred to speak to the recruiters in person prior to entering into an agreement.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he had no problem with CB&A and introduced the Police Department's new Acting Major, Al Banatte, to the City Commission meeting.

Discussion ensued.

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 2024-113](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: MARCH 20, 2024

REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING AND MARCH 25, 2024 SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING

APPROVED

- B. [ID 2024-101](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE WAIVER OF BIDDING REQUIREMENT FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A STEEL GARAGE-STYLE BUILDING TO BE USED AS A MAINTENANCE SHED AT THE COST OF \$33,437.86; RECOGNIZING SUPERIOR SHEDS' ABILITY TO FULFILL THE CITY'S NEEDS FOR DURABILITY AGAINST WEATHER CONDITIONS AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS

APPROVED

- C. [ID 2024-128](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AWARDED RFP 2024-006 - PREQUALIFICATION FOR SIGN CONTRACTING FIRMS TO I2 VISUAL, INC, AND GARDNER SIGNS, LLC D/B/A FERRIN SIGNS; ESTABLISHING BOTH FIRMS AS PREQUALIFIED CONTRACTORS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO SOLICIT AND AWARD SERVICES FOR SIGN PROJECTS WITHOUT FURTHER COMMISSION ACTION; PROVIDING FOR CONTRACTOR COMPENSATION BASED ON PRICING SUBMITTED IN EACH FIRM'S RFP RESPONSE AND/OR ANY SUBSEQUENT COMPETITIVE PRICING OFFERED IN RESPONSE TO FUTURE PROJECT SPECIFIC SOLICITATIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

APPROVED

- D. [ID 2024-138](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A STAFFING LEVEL GOAL OF THREE FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ON A FIRE ENGINE AND THREE FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ON A FIRE RESCUE VEHICLE, UTILIZING EXISTING FUND REVENUE, FUND BALANCE, AND GRANTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024; PROVIDING FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

APPROVED

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

6) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2024-096](#) APPROVING APPOINTMENT(S) OF:

TO THE FIVE MEMBER MARGATE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT FOR A TERM COMMENCING APRIL 17, 2024 - MARCH 19, 2025

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, to put in the first name of Kandi Harris.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO confirmed that the open spots were for Mayor Ruzzano and himself.

Commissioner Caggiano pulled his motion.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO questioned City Clerk Johnson if any of the current applicants had served on a previous City board.

CITY CLERK, JENNIFER M. JOHNSON, confirmed that Sloan Roberts had previously served.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, to appoint Sloan Roberts, to the Board of Adjustment.

A motion was made by Mayor Ruzzano, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, to appoint Kandi Harris, to the Board of Adjustment.

JONATHAN A. KRALJIC, 7357 FLORES WAY, read a statement where he alleged that Vice Mayor Schwartz emphasized that she would not be able to nominate candidates that had submitted incomplete applications. He asked that he should be considered as a nominee.

The motion was approved as a slate by the following vote:

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

- B.** [ID 2024-118](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO NEGOTIATE A DESIGN/BUILD AGREEMENT WITH THE TOP RANKED FIRM, REVERE CONTROL SYSTEMS, INC., FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) 2024-005 - SCADA UPGRADES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES;

PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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

C. [ID 2024-125](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING FULL FUNDING OF THE FIVE (5) EXISTING POSITIONS OF ASSISTANT BUILDING DIRECTOR AND FOUR (4) CHIEF INSPECTORS FOR THE BUILDING AND CODE SERVICES DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO reiterated Florida State Representative Hunschofsky's comments on the Short Term Rental bill that was passed and said that it would devastate neighborhoods and that Margate would be affected. He advised that if people had an opportunity, they should correspond with their State Representative expressing that they were against it and that they hoped that State Governor DeSantis would veto it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

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 advisory 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: 869 9632 5594 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:

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