



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, November 20, 2024

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us
Webinar ID: 833 5648 3842

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83356483842>

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 2024-388](#) JENESIS QUIMINA, 5TH GRADE, ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY

1) RESOLUTION(S)

A. [2024-355](#) CONFIRMING CERTIFICATION OF NOVEMBER 5, 2024, ELECTION RESULTS

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

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

4) PRESENTATION(S) CONTINUED

Item 4) A. ID 2024-379, B. ID 2024-378 and C. ID 2024-345 were heard before 2) Presentation(s).

A. [ID 2024-379](#) MARGATE 50 YEAR RESIDENCY AWARD

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

B. [ID 2024-378](#) CROSS COUNTRY: ADRIANA HERNANDEZ, 12 YEARS OLD (Margate Middle School Cross Country Team)

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

- C. [ID 2024-345](#) LACHTOWIZ F. FRAZIER, SERVICE WORKER - ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES - 25 YEARS
- MICHAEL HENNEFORTH, DRIVER/ENGINEER - FIRE DEPARTMENT - 20 YEARS
- DENNIS PETERSEN, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 10 YEARS
- KELLIE L. ROSIAK, FIRE LIEUTENANT - FIRE DEPARTMENT - 10 YEARS

2) PRESENTATION(S)

- A. [ID 2024-373](#) SWEARING-IN OF CITY COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO (SEAT #1)
- COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, thanked residents who voted for him and those who assisted him with his campaign.
- B. [ID 2024-374](#) SWEARING-IN OF CITY COMMISSIONER ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ (SEAT #2)
- VICE MAYOR, ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, read a statement on this Item and thanked residents for returning her to office.
- C. [ID 2024-375](#) SWEARING-IN OF CITY COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO (SEAT #4)
- MAYOR, TOMMY RUZZANO, thanked everyone for voting for him and expressed his gratitude to the City staff.
- D. [ID 2024-376](#) PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO AND OUTGOING VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ.
- CHRISTINE HUNSCHOFSKY DISTRICT AID, LINDA BEAUPORT, introduced herself and advised what her job role was.
- MAYOR RUZZANO repeated his thanks to everyone.
- VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ thanked Department heads.

RECESS

Meeting Reconvened.

4) PRESENTATION(S) CONTINUED**PROCLAMATION(S)**

- D. [ID 2024-370](#) SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 30, 2024
- MARGATE BUSINESS OWNER thanked the City Commission and Margate. He highlighted that they were going to provide a turkey meal for Thanksgiving for those in

need.

3) RESOLUTION(S)

A. [ID 2024-356](#) ELECTION OF MAYOR

A motion was made by Commissioner Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that Arlene R. Schwartz should be Mayor. The motion carried as follows:

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

B. [ID 2024-357](#) ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR

A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, to nominate herself as Vice Mayor. This failed for a lack of second.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Arserio, to nominate Antonio V. Arserio as Vice Mayor.

MS. VAN WINKLE commented on the City Commission overlooking Commissioner Simone for the position of Vice Mayor.

ELSA SANCHEZ felt disappointed that Commissioner Simone was overlooked for either Mayor or Vice Mayor positions and read a statement on the same.

MR. KRALJIC commented on Commissioner Simone not being selected as Vice Mayor.

DONNA FELLOWS apologized to Commissioner Simone for being overlooked again and thanked her for her service.

The motion carried as follows:

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

5) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR RUZZANO explained the protocol for submitting a Public Discussion.

SILVANA LUCIANI, ORIOLE GARDEN II, discussed her disappointment of the City Commissioners who voted for the townhomes near her home.

MARGATE RESIDENT, 5121 NW 26TH COURT, read a statement on dog waste in her neighborhood.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO advised resident to inform Chief of Police Palma on the neighborhood.

Discussion ensued on the City's Ordinance on dog waste.

MS. FELLOWS thanked the Police Department for assisting with an incident in her neighborhood. She highlighted the poor quality of a white sign near Paradise Gardens.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, responded to Ms Fellows and advised her that they were in the final design stage for a new sign.

Discussion ensued.

SUNRISE RESIDENT, COREY SHIVERS, highlighted a food giveaway at Masjid Jamaat Al-Mumineen and discussed other services which they provided.

JONATHAN KRALJIC read a statement on the removal of campaign signs after elections.

JULIE JONES thanked the City Commission for hiring Chief of Police Palma. She spoke about an alleged assassination attempt against Congressman Jared Moskowitz which was foiled by the City's Police Department and she thanked City Manager Curtis. She also referenced a child pornography case. She praised the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES) Assistant Director, Reczko.

MS. SANCHEZ congratulated the re-elected City Commissioners and said that they had a big job in front of them. She gave a special thanks to the Fire and Police Departments and paid tribute to the passing of Edward DeCristofaro.

MS. WINKLE expressed her sentiments to Mrs. DeCristofaro and her family for the passing of her husband. She said that currently, Southgate Boulevard looked awesome and loved the work that was being carried out and sought clarification on the medians.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that there was going to be pavers together with landscaping along Southgate Boulevard.

Discussion ensued.

6) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO repeated his gratitude and hoped that everybody had a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE expressed her condolences for Mr. DeCristofaro and his family. She referenced Police Officer Bouzakis who was praised by residents for rescuing a stray dog from a porch.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO congratulated all the incumbents who won re-election and discussed the same. He sent his condolences to the DeCristofaro family. He thanked the Police Department for two significant cases and referenced Congressman Jared Moskowitz and a child pornography case.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ sent her condolences to Theresa DeCristofaro. She also referenced the passing of former Lieutenant Greg Cosmar who retired from the Police Department. She thanked the Fire Department for a drowning issue. She wished everybody a Happy Thanksgiving and repeated her thanks for her re-election.

MAYOR RUZZANO highlighted the Margate Fair. He wanted to organize a pet adoption

event in the future. He received a call pertaining to the lack of parking spaces at Margate's Hospital Corporation of America (HCA).

Discussion ensued on the parking facilities at HCA.

MAYOR RUZZANO discussed an alleged threat to Congressman Jared Moskowitz by a Margate resident and commended the Police Department for being pro-active. He reflected on his position as a City Mayor and explained that the City Commission was unable to get the Police contract resolved this year. He also questioned what would happen to the Fire Department in their contract year and referenced his time in Tampa and indicated that it was difficult to recruit people in that field and some places had to change the hours of the firefighters. He questioned whether the City should be going to Broward County and indicated that it could be unsustainable in the current format and sought a proposal from the Broward County Sheriff's Office (BSO).

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO agreed to look into a proposal from BSO but did not want to commit until he reviewed all of the information. He recalled last August that there was CONSENSUS at a City Commission meeting to obtain a quote from BSO and requested that this be revisited.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS believed that he could obtain a ballpark estimate from BSO which could be processed much faster than a line item quote.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO said that it was not just numbers as he was curious at their levels of service and explained that the BSO could possibly provide a better level of service.

Discussion ensued including a North Lauderdale ambulance fee issued to a Margate resident.

REPRESENTATIVE OF 3080, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS (IAFF) DISTRICT 14, MARGATE, ASSISTANT DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT AND FIRE FIGHTER/PARAMEDIC, BRIAN PALMER, confirmed that from the ranking file, there was 100% support for regionalization with BSO. He believed it would provide a better service to the City through regional assets together with the support of the Fire Chief, administration, the City Commission and that the Fire Department would not change and the City would still have control. He thanked Vice Mayor Schwartz for highlighting the incident with the aid of the Service Water Rescue and discussed the Fire Rescue-Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to that patient.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE questioned whether a request was ever made for a proposal when it came about.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS responded to Commissioner Simone and said that not until 2021.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR RUZZANO discussed last night's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) meeting and said that it was getting exciting with the property and commended the board members. He invited the public to engage in the next CRA meeting to discuss the downtown. He suggested installing a memorial for Mr. DeCristofaro.

CITY ATTORNEY, DAVID N. TOLCES, informed that his firm was sponsoring an online

Sunshine Law ethics public records training on December 11th. He referenced Congressman Moskowitz and advised that if members of the public felt that somebody could be a danger to themselves or others, they did have the ability to discuss it with the Police Department and referenced a Risk Protection Order. He wished everybody a Happy Thanksgiving and congratulated incoming Mayor Schwartz and Vice Mayor Arserio.

7) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS extended his thoughts and prayers to the DeCristofaro family. He congratulated incoming Mayor Schwartz and Vice Mayor Arserio. He advised that the replacement equipment that was damaged had arrived and was being installed and the next steps was to finish the pool for regular opening for Spring Break.

Discussion ensued.

8) 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 2024-377](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: OCTOBER 16, 2024 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING @ 7PM

APPROVED

- B. [ID 2024-380](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING DATES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2024

APPROVED

- C. [ID 2024-353](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE UTILITY EASEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE OF WATER METERS AT 5671 WEST ATLANTIC BLVD AND ACCEPTING THE ASSOCIATED BILL OF SALE; PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR AN 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 Caggiano, Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Arserio, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

9) RESOLUTION(S) CONTINUED

- A. [ID 2024-390](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITY FUNDED 457 ACCOUNT FOR CITY COMMISSIONERS; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL

CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT; PROVIDING FOR ANNUAL INCREASE; PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

A motion to amend was made by Mayor Ruzzano, seconded by Commissioner Arserio, to include the City's Department Directors.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO questioned why the City's Heads of Department was excluded and if they could tackle this as a separate Item for the next City Commission meeting and also referenced the consumer price index (CPI).

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that if the starting amount was \$5,000, the CPI would be applied but it would not be based on the salary. He said that it was not the direction of the board at the last City Commission meeting to include the City's Department Directors.

Discussion ensued.

An motion to amend, made by Mayor Ruzzano, seconded by Commissioner Arserio, to include the City Department Directors (not including City Chartered Officers) and remove Section 2 relating to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

COMMISSIONER SIMONE explained that she received a call from City Manager Curtis who wanted to add the Executive Directors to this Item. She advised that at the Agenda Review, she asked if this Item was not including the Executive Directors and said that his response was 'no' and he asked the City Commission not to discuss it as he preferred not to do it at this time. She was respecting the City Manager Curtis' wishes that this should not be discussed. She said that from her understanding, the City contributed the exact amount of money of 40% for the retirement for all the City Commissioners. She indicated that some City Commissioners prefer to be in the investment plan as some believed that they were not receiving as much as those who were in the regular pension plan and said that this was not the responsibility of the City. She stood by her decision that she was going to vote no for the City Commissioners.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked if they could call a vote to exclude a City Commissioner if they did not want it.

Discussion ensued.

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Arserio, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

No: 2 - Commissioner Caggiano and Commissioner Simone

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ indicated that she initially disagreed with this proposal after discussing it with City Manager Curtis but explained she voted upon it as it was going to include other people who were expected to be at the City long after she was there and that it would retain the services of staff members.

Discussion ensued.

MS. VAN WINKLE commented on her disapproval on some areas of this Item.

MS. FELLOWS commented on Commissioner Arserio.

MS. SANCHEZ sought clarification on this Item.

MAYOR RUZZANO responded to Ms. Sanchez.

Discussion ensued.

The motion as amended carried by the following vote.

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Arserio, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

No: 2 - Commissioner Caggiano and Commissioner Simone

- B. [ID 2024-389](#)** RESOLUTION - APPROVING PAYMENT OF EARNED RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR SPECIFIC CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE CITY COMMISSION TO CORRECT NON-RECEIPT OF ELECTED OFFICERS' CLASS RETIREMENT BENEFITS DURING SERVICE AS A CITY OFFICIAL; PROVIDING FOR DIFFERENTIAL FORMULA; PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC PURPOSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

COMMISSIONER ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ - \$51,383.62

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE - \$34,542.08

FORMER COMMISSIONER LESA PEERMAN - \$75,772.34

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

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES confirmed that Commissioner Schwartz could vote on this Item and explained that under Florida law, Commissioners were allowed to vote on matters affecting their salary and benefits.

Discussion ensued.

The motion approved by the following vote:

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

10) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING

- A. ID 2024-362 AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET (ORDINANCE NUMBERS 2023-6 AND 2023-8); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that they have two budget amendments in November which consisted of closing out accounts in the prior year which was fiscal year 2024 and the second one was amending the fiscal year 2025 budget.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES clarified that this was the Ordinance to amend the 2024 budget.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

- B. ID 2024-363 AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET (ORDINANCE NUMBER 2024-2); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards


Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk

Date:

1/23/2025

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: 833 5648 3842 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/83356483842>

Telephone:

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

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