



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

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us
Webinar ID: 859 2036 0134

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85920360134>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Commissioner Tommy Ruzzano, Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano,
Commissioner Joanne Simone and Vice Mayor Antonio V. Arserio

Absent: 1 - Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

A. [ID 2025-187](#) DENNIS HERNANDEZ, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 35 YEARS

JOSEPH H. SCIMECA, CODE COMPLIANCE SUPERVISOR - BUILDING
DEPARTMENT - 30 YEARS

ELIAS VAZQUEZ, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 25 YEARS

BRADFORD J. BORRELLI, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 10
YEARS

ANGELINA GALARZA, CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER I - BUILDING
DEPARTMENT - 5 YEARS

STEPHEN J. KONASH, MECHANIC II - PUBLIC WORKS - 5 YEARS

DIRECTOR OF BUILDING & BUILDING CODE SERVICES, RICHARD R. NIXON paid
tribute to Code Compliance Supervisor, Scimeca.

PROCLAMATION(S)

- B. [ID 2025-193](#) INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY - AUGUST 31, 2025
(presented to Phyllis Babrove, Member of National Alliance on Mental Illness)

PHYLLIS BABROVE read a statement on this Item.

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MARGATE RESIDENT, DONNA L. FELLOWS, thanked City Manager, Curtis, pertaining to sandbags and referenced Hurricane preparedness for the City. She also thanked the Police and Fire Departments as well as Broward County Sheriff (BSO) Fire Rescue relating to an incident where a child was bitten. She asked City Manager Curtis if the fair was paid.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, said that the fair was not fully paid.

Discussion ensued on the fair.

MARGATE RESIDENT, TRACY VAN WINKLE, said that there was an issue in her neighborhood last Thursday pertaining to sewers and thanked the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES) for assisting in that matter. She advised that there was a problem with the Checkers Center Plaza. She asked Vice Mayor Arserio what he had learned on behalf of the residents in the convention in Orlando.

VICE MAYOR, ANTONIO V. ARSERIO, responded to Ms. Winkle's query by saying that he had learned about integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the City, was provided with an update on the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and attended his policy board meeting and networking events.

Discussion ensued.

RICHARD ZUCCHINI, LAKEWOOD ON THE GREEN, disapproved of the back to back meetings. He referenced social media discussions about safety personnel, in particular, firefighters and their compensation package. He recommended that the City Commission needed to look into raising their salary and compensation programs to come close to Broward County. He also provided his suggestions on development within the City.

CAROLINA CLUB RESIDENT opposed the proposed development and expressed that it would be disruptive to everybody's lifestyle and could foresee traffic issues and chemicals contained in the soil on the golf course.

MARGATE RESIDENT sought a copy of a traffic study and questioned when would the City be breaking ground for construction for the downtown on State Road 7.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO responded to the Margate resident's questions.

Discussion ensued.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER, TOMMY RUZZANO, disliked the two months off as well as the double meetings. He advised Ms. Fellows that the Carnival was not paid but there were penalties in place. He informed Ms. Van Winkle that all the elected officials were invited

to the event in Orlando and said that there were continuous classes throughout the day. He also said that it was a great networking event and referenced discussing the BSO contract with other cities. He agreed with the Carolina Club public speaker and other residents relating to the golf course and asked City Manager Curtis about zoning changes.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, advised that it would go to Planning and Zoning in September and then the first public hearing for the City Commission would be in October.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO indicated that the situation with the golf course could have been stopped five, six years ago if City Commissioners said they were against the rezoning.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO would not give his opinion on the golf course but he encouraged the residents to attend the meetings and referenced that there could be a lake, a walking trail or open green spaces which were favorable with some locals. He would not make any decision until it was before him as things could change and forewarned that there was a lot of fake news circulating.

Discussion ensued about the golf course.

COMMISSIONER, JOANNE SIMONE, congratulated the employees for their Years of Service and dedication to the City which was greatly appreciated.

COMMISSIONER, ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, advised on hurricane preparedness. He said that it was a great National Night Out and thanked everyone who had an input in organizing the same.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO discussed the recent sandbag initiative and said that although it had nothing to do with the recent storm, he advised last year that the City should be more proactive. He explained that Margate was still negotiating on the firefighters' pay and informed of a forthcoming Executive session. He wanted to go with Broward Sheriff's Fire Rescue (BSFR) but said that it appeared that the City may go in a different direction. He believed that subject to negotiations, the firefighter's pay would be matched to BSFR. He advised that near to the downtown, a Hometown Heroes Program was next on the horizon which would incorporate forty units and would be dedicated to first responders and teachers.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS, advised that subject to availability, the public could collect sandbags which were leftover.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no City Manager's Report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:11pm.

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: 859 2036 0134 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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