



# 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*

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Wednesday, February 18, 2026

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 856 6056 8439

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85660568439>

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

**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)

#### EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

A. [ID 2025-374](#) DEBORAH NELSON, CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER I - BUILDING DEPARTMENT - 20 YEARS

JUAN C. BALLESTEROS, CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER II - BUILDING DEPARTMENT - 5 YEARS

MICHAEL P. CURRAN, EQUIPMENT MECHANIC WELDER - PUBLIC WORKS - 5 YEARS

DENISE A. CUTTER, OFFICE SPECIALIST II - ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES - 5 YEARS

#### PROCLAMATION(S)

B. [ID 2026-031](#) NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY - February 4, 2026 (presented to Alina Ruzzano)

## 2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MARGATE RESIDENT, DONNA L. FELLOWS, thanked Mayor Arserio who she thought may have forwarded her email to City Manager Curtis who she also thanked for erecting a sign.

MARGATE RESIDENT, ELSA J. SANCHEZ, congratulated Commissioner Ruzzano's daughter, Alina. She sought an update on the downtown development and referenced Ace Hardware.

MARGATE RESIDENT, LAUREN BERACHA, discussed Zoom comments being removed from the public.

MARGATE RESIDENT AND PRESIDENT OF THE PARKSIDE AT ROYAL PALM HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, JEFF BALABAN, explained that he had a long time problem with the Dunkin' property at Royal Palm and 73rd Street.

Following a brief recess, the meeting reconvened.

## 3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER, ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, distributed to the City Commission, a book on low-cost housing solutions ending homelessness and referenced that the literature was from a conference she recently attended. She wished those who practiced a good Lent.

COMMISSIONER, JOANNE SIMONE, informed the public about two significant zoning preemption bills that were moving through the legislation which would possibly have some real impacts; namely, House Bill (HB) 1143, the Starter Homes Act and SB1342, the Transit-Oriented Development Act. She hoped everybody stayed safe.

MAYOR, ANTONIO V. ARSERIO, explained that he saw something that Broward County (BC) posted that they had referenced the discontinuation of contributing or extending the Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRA) and that they were diverting the revenue from Tax Increment Financing (TIF) towards affordable housing. He informed that BC wanted to have 200,000 units built over the next 10 - 15 years and that they would be working with churches that have big properties and work out some type of deal to build multi-family housing on them.

COMMISSIONER, TOMMY RUZZANO, thanked Ms. Sanchez for her kind words and informed her that the CRA recently had a meeting and that there was a developers agreement that would be coming forward and thereafter, they would seek input from the residents. He said that in Tallahassee, they agreed to rename West Palm Beach Airport after President Trump. He had no problem with Zoom. He informed that a huge financial burden was put on the City after Coconut Creek's departure. He tried to be pro-active by conversing with Coconut Creek, Coral Springs and Parkland to see if there was a plan in the future to create a big north public safety district as he did not believe that cities would be able to sustain this, especially in light of any property tax cuts. He said that a person received a citation for a bunch of leaves on his property despite not having that particular tree, which derived from an opposite entity. He proposed that businesses had to maintain this properly without intruding on their neighbors. He also discussed code issues with driveways and referenced residents having problems with storage and referenced installing a shed. He advised that the school was at an impasse with Broward Teachers Union and The School Board of Broward County (SBBC) and highlighted the

problems.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE responded to Commissioner Ruzzano in response to the residents' landscape maintenance and explained that her past suggestion had not gone anywhere. She said that the public receiving tickets for leaves which were not theirs would need to be addressed both for commercial and residential.

Discussion ensued including the separation between commercial and residential, Code issues and the SBBC.

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ mentioned her concerns about the representative for Margate schools and suggested that they needed to move the boundary one block. She said that she would never vote for another school bond. She discussed code issues within her community pertaining to leaves and parking and said that she was still awaiting a workshop on those issues.

VICE MAYOR, ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, thanked Commissioner Simone for providing an update on the issues within Tallahassee. He forewarned that the state was implementing restrictions on the cities and advised that Margate should still do things with the developers whilst they had the opportunity. He concurred with Commissioner Ruzzano pertaining to teachers and said that they were ranked 50th in their pay scale in the country and referenced home schooling. He wished Happy Ash Wednesday for the Lent season and said that today, was the first night of Ramadan.

MAYOR ARSERIO said that it was the State, BC, federal government and it was bi-partisan that both parties were pushing for housing. He advised that two developers have contacted the City pertaining to live local on two properties and that he had been proactive by opening up a line of communication with them.

#### 4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no City Manager's Report.

#### 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 2026-025](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: JANUARY 21, 2026 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING @ 6:15 PM

**APPROVED**

- B. [ID 2026-006](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH BROWARD COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS FOR THE MUNICIPAL ELECTION SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 3, 2026

**APPROVED**

- C. [ID 2026-032](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL EXTENSION OF SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD SERVICES AWARDED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 21-050 TO BUTLER GROUP OF SOUTH FLORIDA, LLC D/B/A NEXTAFF FOR BID NO. 2021-006

THROUGH JULY 2027, OR UNTIL A NEW SOLICITATION IS RELEASED AND AWARDED; PROVIDING FOR REBID AT A FUTURE DATE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**APPROVED**

- D. [ID 2026-033](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL 60-DAYS EXTENSION OF THE AWARDED CONTRACTUAL TERM OF PARTS AUTHORITY, LLC D/BA IMC FOR BID NO. 2021-001 - SUPPLY AND DELIVER AFTERMARKET VEHICLE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES, AWARDED UNDER RESOLUTION 21-018, UNTIL MAY 15, 2026, OR UNTIL A NEW SOLICITATION IS RELEASED AND AWARDED; WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST; PROVIDING FOR REBID AT A FUTURE DATE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**APPROVED**

### Approval of the Consent Agenda

**A motion was made by Commissioner Schwartz, seconded by Vice Mayor Caggiano, 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) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2026-034](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIREFIGHTERS, LOCAL #3080 FOR THE PERIOD FROM OCTOBER 1, 2025, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2028; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Schwartz, seconded by Vice Mayor Caggiano, to approve this Resolution.**

PRESIDENT OF 3080, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS (IAFF) DISTRICT 14, MARGATE AND FIRE LIEUTENANT, BRIAN PALMER, explained that the Margate Professional Firefighters were proud and thankful to come to an agreement. He thanked the City Manager, Curtis who worked diligently with the union, the City's entire negotiation team and City Commission to help come to an effective agreement.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO thanked the City's firefighters and said that he would be happy to work with any of the Department Directors to help and referenced a four day work week.

COMMISSIONER SCHWARTZ congratulated Fire Lieutenant Palmer for finally becoming President of the Union.

MAYOR ARSERIO questioned whether the unions, in general, were pushing back with limiting the property taxes in Tallahassee.

FIRE LIEUTENANT, PALMER, said that he also worked closely with both the leadership from 3080 and IAFF South Eastern Region and advised that representatives from those groups would be meeting with politicians in Tallahassee and throughout the nation to ensure that they receive an answer to those questions.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR CAGGIANO forewarned what the impact could cause if the property taxes were abolished.

**This carried as follows:**

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

**7) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING**

**A.** [ID 2026-029](#) 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 Schwartz, to approve this Resolution. This carried as follows:**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards

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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: 856 6056 8439 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](http://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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Instructions:

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