



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes City Commission Budget Workshop

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

Tuesday, July 9, 2024

4:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 885 2974 3545

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88529743545>

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

1) PRESENTATION(S)

A. [ID 2024-208](#) FY 2024-2025 BUDGET WORKSHOP

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS explained the protocol for the City Commission Budget Workshop. He extended his thanks and gratitude to all the staff that was involved with putting this together and said that they had done an excellent job keeping expenditures in line and believed that the City had a very solid budget for consideration.

BUDGET MANAGER, DECIA A. SMITH-BURKE, welcomed everyone to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Proposed Budget (PB) Workshop where she provided a PowerPoint presentation. She gave an analogy of the PB which she likened to the Olympics and explained that its foundation was built and served on four purposes; as a Policy Document, Operations Guide, Financial Plan and the Communications Device. She highlighted that the City had received the Distinguish Budget Award from the Government Financial Officer's Association for the last seven years which satisfied 25 criteria under those four purposes. She mentioned that Broward County Property Appraiser (BCPA) Kiar attended the last City Commission meeting and provided detailed information regarding property values and homeowner protection. She highlighted Margate's property values and millage rate and said that it was proposed to remain at 7.1171 and that their debt service millage would slightly decrease by .0337 mills with savings of approximately \$159,000.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO highlighted that since 2020, their overall

millage had decreased every year.

BUDGET MANAGER, SMITH-BURKE, explained that the taxable values and the millage rates were used to calculate the tax revenue and for FY 2025 PB, it included an increase to the estimated revenue of 9.3% which was based on BCPA's July 1st values. She indicated that although the City had budgeted approximately \$2,900,000 in additional ad valorem revenue, the change in property values also resulted in an increase in the payment over \$600,000 to the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for FY2025. She said that this would result in the net change in ad valorem revenue to the General Fund of \$2,300,000. She advised that the property values increased again this year but Margate was lower than the average in Broward County and that 8%, which was a little of 1,600 Margate residents, paid no ad valorem taxes. She said that after listening to BCPA Kiar, another prospective was that Margate was one of the only cities in Broward County (BC) to offer the additional exemption for Low Income Senior Exemption of \$25,000.

She continued to discuss the average Homestead Single Family home values which was based on tax year 2024's July average values and FY2024 adopted millage rates for comparative cities and Margate was the second lowest in dollar amount of taxes behind the City of Sunrise. She continued to go through Margate's comparisons which included that the City received less than one third of 32% of total property taxes for an average Single Family Home that had a \$50,000 Homestead exemption. She advised that the FY2025 PB was approximately \$265,000,000 which was a 34.27% increase from the FY2024 amended budget which was due primarily to the Water and Wastewater Renewal and Replacement Fund utility projects which was dependent on the \$68,000,000 approval of bond funds. She advised that the General Fund (GF) deficit decreased to its lowest level in the last several years at \$1,760,000. She said that the PB GF was a little over \$79,000,000. She read through and highlighted a summary of GF Revenues and Expenditures. She said that the overall expenditures had decreased slightly by .11%. She explained that their ad valorem revenue taxes were increasing to 9.17% and that overall expenditures have increased slightly by .86%, mainly due to a combination of a reduction from the prior year for one time capital purchase of fire engine and other equipment as well as personal services increasing as a result of anticipated contractual obligations, FRS and health insurance changes.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO requested information on the sales tax.

BUDGET MANAGER, SMITH-BURKE, said that it was located in entry governmental.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ was concerned that the FY2025 PB of \$79,000,000 had increased by \$13,000,000 since FY2022.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO reminded Vice Mayor Schwartz that the same question was brought up last year and explained that the City budgeted for it but they do not necessarily spend it and referenced some of Margate's parks.

Discussion ensued.

FINANCE DIRECTOR, ISMAEL DIAZ, advised that Page 13 of the FY2025 PB books had a breakdown of all the revenues.

BUDGET MANAGER, SMITH-BURKE, continued with her PowerPoint slide and said that ad valorem revenue accounted for approximately 42.49% of the GF which was primarily due to increases in taxable values. She explained that expenditures for public safety

continued to make up the majority of the GF at 56% although there was a very small decrease from 2024. She highlighted that as Margate was a full service City, personnel services accounted for 73% of the GF budget. She read through the list of departments' GF capital items as well as for the next FY. She advised that all the projects under Capital Improvement Project (CIP) were all rebudgeted which were subject to change and that the Parks Bond Projects were all currently ongoing.

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO questioned if there would be any money left after the Parks bond.

BUDGET MANAGER, SMITH-BURKE, explained that all funds were in the Parks Bond Projects and that \$10,000 would remain which currently was not allocated.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that what was on the sheet was the balance of what was remaining to be spent.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO questioned if the CIP's Centennial Park was a scaled back plan.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS confirmed it was but it had been deprioritized based on feedback from the community and that Oriole Park had moved up in the rankings for upgrades and whatever was leftover, they would look at allocating towards improvements at Centennial Park.

Discussion ensued on improvements to the City's Parks and whether any remaining funds could be used for Calypso Cove.

BUDGET MANAGER, SMITH-BURKE, detailed the Enterprise Funds Infrastructure Improvements for Stormwater and Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES).

Discussion ensued on stormwater lines.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO referenced the drinking water and questioned whether the city that Margate serviced would have to buy it out if they decided to leave.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS confirmed that the City did own the lines and if they were to separate, they would enter into some form of separation agreement that would account for that.

Discussion ensued.

BUDGET MANAGER, SMITH-BURKE, advised that the objective of this PB Workshop was to reach CONSENSUS on the millage rate ceiling for FY2025. She repeated that it was proposed to leave the operating millage at 7.1171 and the debt service millage was decreasing to .0337. She advised that the next steps were for the City Commission to set the millage rate ceiling, put out the budget message and the full budget package would be submitted to the City by August 15th as required and then the first public hearing would be on Monday September 9th, 2024 at 5:01pm and the second public hearing would be on Wednesday September 18th, at 6:00pm. She advised that the millage rate would be certified in the Department of Revenue system to be included in the Truth in Millage (TRIM) notices that were mailed in August.

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO asked if he could make a motion to accept

the lower millage rate as in the paperwork.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained in the first instance, he needed to get CONSENSUS on setting the maximum millage rate at 7.1161 which was the same rate that it had been for the last couple of years.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked for CONSENSUS to make the millage rate 7.5667 that the staff had recommended.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO said that he was in support of keeping the millage rate the same and overall, it had decreased once again and said that the taxes had continued to go down since 2020. He referenced BCPA's Kiar's recent attendance at the City Commission meeting and advised that if the residents' tax bill had increased, that was due to either the home value increasing or another government entity raised their taxes. He would like to inject more money into the City's Property Improvement Grant Program (PIP) and a separate one for Homeowners Associations (HOA). He said that he would like to allocate approximately \$50,000 for Police enforcements for speeding in school zones. He thanked the staff and said that they did a good job with the budget.

MAYOR RUZZANO questioned if the City still had the damages of approximately over \$1,000,000 which was received from a lawsuit against BC in 2015/2016. He said that the Finance Department did a great job, referenced Commissioner Arserio's comments and said that when they did the budget, they could nip, pick and pull. He indicated that he had no problem with agreeing to the millage rate as it was presented.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS confirmed that there was approximately \$800,000 from the CPI fund. He explained about the Budget Workshops if additional time was needed. He repeated if there was a general protocol for CONSENSUS to keep the operating millage rate the same.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to keep the operating millage rate the same.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ referenced page 5 and questioned what Fund 1-32 and NSP1 meant? She also asked another question on the same page where it said water wastewater connection fees.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, JACQUELINE CHIN-KIDD, responded to Vice Mayor Schwartz question.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that pertaining to the water connect fees, Vice Mayor Schwartz was looking at budgets compared to the actuarial.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ continued to ask questions on the FY2025 BP.

Discussion ensued.

FIRE CHIEF LORENZO looked to obtain one rescue truck in the fourth quarter of 2024 and that the quint and engine was to be delivered in the first quarter of 2025.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ continued to ask questions on the FY2025 BP including a question on whether they charge the sovereign nation of Seminole for services provided

by the City or was there an agreement to receive payment as they were separate from mutual aid for cities.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS was unsure about the financial aspect for the Seminole but said that it was something that they could look into and also how many calls for service they provided for that area.

Discussion ensued including the service to Seminole Casino Coconut Creek and public safety.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the City and the parks looked great and public safety was number one. He received compliments from the 4th of July Extravaganza and how great the fire trucks looked. He did not have any complaints but would address it in the budget about aesthetic matters such as medians. He said that City Manager Curtis did a good job but indicated that it was also the staff's contribution which he appreciated and said it was a great presentation.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO was a big fan of curb appeal and would support any median improvements such as landscaping.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE appreciated staff and their efforts in keeping their wishes and spending within the City means. She said that compared to other municipalities, Margate was a full service City and they have excellent services that they provide for their residents and yet, Margate was 27th on list. She said that Margate was good or better than other cities, referenced what was charged to the residents and indicated that it was because of the staff.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ appreciated that some of Margate's goals had been incorporated in the FY2025 PB. She had seen the growth and change in Margate since 1991 and she had been saying that Margate should be a great place to live and work and not just to pass through. She said that when the City looked at their goals and as they hit those marks, they should always strive for 100% and that the staff were unsung heroes.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he had not received calls on garbage cans.

Discussion ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:57pm.

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.

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- 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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