



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, February 5, 2025

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 834 4060 0805

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83440600805>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

MAYOR, ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, highlighted the forthcoming anniversary of the tragedy that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

A. [ID 2025-007](#) ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: MARIA STELLATO (STUDENT), KADIAN ELVIN (TEACHER), (Ms. Latoya Dean, Principal and/or Ms. Romona McCloud, Middle School Assistant Principal)

ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY: KYLIE TRAN (STUDENT), SLANDE MONESTIME (TEACHER), (Ms. Shereen Reynolds, Principal and/or Ms. Yahira Tamayo, Assistant Principal)

BROWARD MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOLS: JOHANNA SAINTIL (STUDENT), FARUK ERGIN (TEACHER), (Mr. Hasan Kose, Principal and/or Ms. Sulaya Williams, Assistant Principal)

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY: TIFFANY TRINH (STUDENT), JADINE WADE (TEACHER), (Ms. Vicki Flournoy, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Styles, Assistant Principal)

Principal)

MARGATE ELEMENTARY: MILA CLAYTON (STUDENT), SUSAN DEMARCO (TEACHER), (Mr. Thomas Schroeder, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Rucker, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE MIDDLE: AMYR ADAMS (STUDENT), CLAUDIA BOSWELL (TEACHER), (Ms. Sabine Phillips, Principal and/or Ms. Krystal Coke, Assistant Principal)

PHYL'S ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL: KEILANI ATILUS (STUDENT), SHAHANA SHUBIR (TEACHER), (Ms. Afua Baptiste, Principal and/or Ms. Jalaja Cooke, Elementary School Director)

RISE ACADEMY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: ANIJAH LEYARD (STUDENT), ASHANTI MILLER (TEACHER), (Dr. Adriana Guerra, Principal)

WEST BROWARD ACADEMY: FRANKLIN VILLAFANE (STUDENT), TORIA HENRY (TEACHER), (Mr. Derrick Hugue, Principal and/or Ms. Rossana Padron, Assistant Principal)

PROCLAMATION(S)

- B. [ID 2025-006](#) AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH - FEBRUARY, 2025 (presented to United State Marine Corps Retired Master Sergeant, Dr. Gary L. Wilder)

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS, RETIRED MASTER SERGEANT, DR. GARY L. WILDER, spoke on this Item.

Meeting went into Recess.

Meeting Reconvened.

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

CITY ATTORNEY, DAVID N. TOLCES, referenced the City's Rules of Conduct and read Section G. pertaining to decorum.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that she was asked for the Section on decorum to be read.

MARGATE RESIDENT, ELSA J. SANCHEZ, read a statement pertaining to the behavior at the last City Commission meeting on January 22nd and highlighted misinformation.

COMMISSIONER, TOMMY RUZZANO, responded to Ms. Sanchez's statement.

MARGATE RESIDENT, TRACY VAN WINKLE, thanked the City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) for the changes made to Southgate Boulevard and recommended a time change to the sprinklers. She discussed a faulty fence on her property behind Checkers.

OCTAVIO E. SALCEDO, 1100 NW 74TH AVE, discussed a sprinkler head which he alleged was caused by Republic Services and thanked Commissioner Simone for a separate issue.

MARGATE RESIDENT, DONNA L. FELLOWS, discussed a cat situation on Melaleuca Drive and 9th Court which she wanted addressed.

MARGARET J. BREZINA, read a statement about false allegations made against Commissioner Caggiano at the last City Commission meeting.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO responded to Ms. Brezina's comments.

RICHARD ZUCCHINI (OF LAKEWOOD) suggested instituting a rule that a public speaker had a right to reply to being addressed by a City Commissioner or staff member. He also provided suggestions to Ms. Fellows' pertaining to a cat issue.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO thanked everyone for attending the City Commission meeting including his relatives from Canada. He wished City Clerk Johnson, a Happy Anniversary and a Happy Birthday to Assistant City Manager, Vignola. He highlighted that Margate Baseball had started and encouraged parents to get their children involved with sporting activities within the City. He highlighted his initiative for the Margate Athlete of the Month which was introduced approximately 10 years ago. He advised that he paid for plaques for \$339.95 for Margate teams and asked for the City Commission if they would consider reimbursing him.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that she was unaware that he paid for the plaques for the teams and wished that he had withdrew the sum from the City Commission's donation fund so he would not have to pay for it himself. She advised that she would ask each City Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO would review before making a decision.

COMMISSIONER, JOANNE SIMONE, explained that for years, she had not been in favor of the plaques as it was an unnecessary expense and preferred the sleeves.

VICE MAYOR, ANTONIO V. ARSERIO, always supported giving plaques and had no problem with the reimbursement.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that if they had always done that, she had no problem with Commissioner Ruzzano being reimbursed and repeated her question why he could not withdraw the fund from the City Commission's Contribution/Donations fund.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO responded to Mayor Schwartz.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, heard the direction to reimburse Commissioner Ruzzano for the plaques.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced that the Margate Association of Condominiums (MAC) had gone and thanked everyone who was involved with it. He referenced the Margate Golf Course which he said had been going on for six years and said that he stood with the residents. He referenced the Margate Flag Committee and said that these

would be distributed in the next couple of weeks. He referenced Rob Reiner who replaced some of the tools for a resident who had them stolen from his vehicle and suggested if the City could recognize him for that. He also advised that Mr. Reiner was working with Code Compliance for residents who had minimal codes issues, those with disabilities or lack of funds.

COMMISSIONER, ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE, passed her condolences to Coach Peter's family and friends who was the Tennis Instructor for GSM Tennis & Pickleball at Firefighters' Park. She highlighted tomorrow's Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES) Margate's Free Paint Program event and asked whether residents had to sign up for the same.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS informed that the Margate Free Paint Program was by sign-up only but if there were any remaining, they could accommodate incoming requests.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO sent everyone New Year and Valentine's greetings. He informed that due to ill-health, he was sick for almost one month and was unable to attend the last two City Commission meetings. He believed that with a year and half left, it was probably not the best move to make a position change and explained that it was about the progress made and said that it was not about picking a side but about the residents. He hoped that moving forward, everyone be cordial as he did not like seeing the back and forth. He thanked Commissioner Simone for nominating him as Vice Chair of the CRA but he advised why he declined the position and thought that he had always been very productive on that board.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that she did ask City Attorney Tolces if they could vote for someone who was absent. She thanked those who reconnected the electric at the Sounds at Sundown and the band staying an extra hour. She referenced Valentine's Day and said that parents across the country have to worry about their children returning home from schools.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS announced that they made a major milestone for Calypso Cove and provided an update on the same. He believed that the community would be happy to have the new area at that facility and advised that the City was having a soft opening ribbon cutting for mid-March, details of which would follow. He informed that their recycling dumpster was located at Oriole Park and that it would be shut down for cleaning on February 10th and 11th and explained how the Margate residents could utilize the same.

Discussion ensued.

CITY ATTORNEY, TOLCES, paid tribute to his law partner, Paul R. Gougelman, who passed away yesterday.

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 2025-029](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: JANUARY 22, 2025 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING @ 6PM
APPROVED
- B. [ID 2024-413](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN BROWARD COUNTY AND CITY OF MARGATE FOR PREPARATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND ADMINISTRATION BY BROWARD COUNTY OF THE CITY OF MARGATE'S STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP (SHIP) PROGRAM FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S FISCAL YEARS 2025-2026, 2026-2027, AND 2027-2028; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE
APPROVED
- C. [ID 2024-414](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN BROWARD COUNTY AND CITY OF MARGATE FOR FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF HOME PROGRAM FUNDS FOR HOMEBUYER PURCHASE ASSISTANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE
APPROVED
- D. [ID 2025-023](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AMENDING AND UPDATING THE CITY'S LISTING OF SOLE SOURCE MANUFACTURERS AND PROVIDERS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED UNDER RESOLUTION NO. 22-075; AUTHORIZING WAIVING OF BIDDING AS REQUIRED FOR THE PURCHASE OF BUDGETED SUPPLIES, MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT AND PROJECTS FOR SO LONG AS A LISTED VENDOR REMAINS THE SOLE SOURCE FOR THE ITEM(S) SPECIFIED; 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 Ruzzano, Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone, Vice Mayor Arserio and Mayor Schwartz

6) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2025-027](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF _____ AS VICE CHAIR OF THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Mayor Schwartz, to insert, the name, Joanne Simone.

A motion to amend was made by Vice Mayor Arserio, seconded by Commissioner

Ruzzano, to insert the name, Tommy Ruzzano and should be discussed.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced games being played between the City Commissioners. He also referenced City Commissioner Simone and advised that the position should be someone who was qualified and asked her if she had the necessary certification.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she did not have the certification.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO explained that he would love to be the Vice Chair as he said that he was the most qualified for that position.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE questioned whether they needed a Vice Chair for the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA).

CITY ATTORNEY, TOLCES, advised that under the Code of Ordinances, it provided for the City Commission to appoint a Chair and Vice Chair and that the Vice Chair would perform the duties of the Chair in their absence.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that her decision had nothing to do with the election as she won and held no grudges. She hoped that Commissioner Ruzzano and the Chair would work well together for the benefit of the City.

CITY ATTORNEY, TOLCES, explained the protocol.

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Commissioner Caggiano and Commissioner Simone

MS. SANCHEZ read a statement while questioning the position of the Chair and compared that role with the other board members.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO responded to Ms. Sanchez's comments on the CRA's Chair position.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that each CRA board member had the opportunity to speak with a developer and that the CRA Executive Director would explain why they have added an Agenda item.

MS. VAN WINKLE questioned who placed Items on the City Commission Agenda to suggest to change to the Mayor and the Vice Mayor seats and the CRA's Chair and Vice Chair positions.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ advised it was the City Manager who initiated the Mayor and Vice

Mayor seats and that it would probably be the CRA Executive Director who would place the Agenda Items for the CRA's Chair and Vice Chair positions.

Discussion ensued.

MR. ZUCCHINI highlighted the lack of workshops and discussions amongst the CRA board in order for the public to get an idea of what a consensus of vision was and alleged that it was the fault of the previous Chair.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ guaranteed Mr. Zucchini that the CRA would have future workshops.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO responded to Mr. Zucchini's comments by explaining that they have had plenty of workshops. He referenced a lawsuit and Commissioner Simone.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE responded to Commissioner Ruzzano's comments and said that there was agreement with the developer to lower the apartments to 750. She continued to outline the history that resulted in a lawsuit by New Urban.

Discussion ensued.

The motion as amended carried as follows:

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

No: 2 - Commissioner Caggiano and Commissioner Simone

Discussion ensued.

7) ORDINANCE(S) - FIRST READING

- A.** [ID 2025-030](#) ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF, IN ONE OR MORE SERIES, A TOTAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING \$120,000,000 WATER AND WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA TO FINANCE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS, FINDINGS, AUTHORIZATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF THE FIRST SERIES OF BONDS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000,000; PROVIDING FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF BONDS, REDEMPTION PROVISIONS, EXECUTION OF BONDS, NEGOTIABILITY, REGISTRATION AND CANCELLATION OF BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE FORM OF BONDS; PROVIDING FOR SECURITY FOR THE BONDS FROM NET REVENUES OF THE WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM; PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF FUNDS AND ACCOUNTS; PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION OF BOND PROCEEDS; PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF REVENUES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF ORDINANCE NO. 85-27, AS SUPPLEMENTED, AMENDED AND RESTATED BY ORDINANCE NOS. 92-34, 96-16, 99-29, 2004-02, 2006-06, 07-04 AND 2009-06;

PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Vice Mayor Arserio, that this Ordinance, First Reading, be discussed.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO thanked the voters for overwhelmingly passing the Water and Wastewater Improvement Revenue Bond and explained of its importance. He requested that the City provide updates and timelines on Margate's website.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS confirmed that they could definitely provide updates which would highlight the City's progress. He thanked and named the team members behind the Water and Wastewater Improvement Revenue Bond.

Discussion ensued.

The motion carried as follows:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

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.

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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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