



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, September 3, 2025

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 814 5480 3985

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81454803985>

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

PROCLAMATION(S)

- A. [ID 2025-135](#) ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH - JUNE, 2025 (presented to John Strader, Co-Chair, Southeast Florida Alzheimer's Association Board of Directors)

JOHN STRADER spoke on this Item.

BROWARD COUNTY WALK DIRECTOR, DENISE DIXON, wanted to set up a meeting in the future to collaborate with the City and highlighted the forthcoming walking event in December 2025.

Discussion ensued.

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR, ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ, provided instructions on how to submit a Public Discussion.

TRACY VAN WINKLE, questioned if her email was read pertaining to fixing a ticket by a City Commissioner. She sought legal advice from the City Attorney.

COMMISSIONER, TOMMY RUZZANO, responded to Ms. Van Winkle's question.

CITY ATTORNEY, DAVID N. TOLCES, said that they did not provide private legal advice and suggested that she contact Broward County.

Discussion ensued.

MARGATE RESIDENT, ELSA J. SANCHEZ, advised that she had retired as the Board President of Paradise Gardens III and read a statement thanking those who supported her community and she also spoke about last month's National Night Out.

MARGATE RESIDENT, DONNA L. FELLOWS, asked City Manager Curtis whether Margate could do anything for the raccoons. She indicated that the raccoons were getting food from the church.

CITY MANAGER, CALE CURTIS, advised that she could contact Animal Control to see if they could address the issue.

Discussion ensued.

JULI VAN DER MEULEN, read a statement pertaining to service dog, Coco, who was also an active member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). She requested that the City Commission formally recognize Coco's unique and lasting contribution to Margate and referenced a memorial.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ, conversed with the dog's owner, Tom and advised him that she was doing something on the first meeting of October when the children were present. She explained why she did not believe it was appropriate to rename the Dog Park.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR, ANTONIO V. ARSERIO, was going to suggest at this meeting, that the City Commission recommend spending something under \$5,000 such as a plaque or tree in recognition of Coco which would he believed would be memorable and appropriate. He said that he had a balance of \$500 left in his fund for the current fiscal year.

Discussion ensued.

ALLEN KOPELMAN, 2870 NW 74 AVE, provided an update on the Carolina Club with the developer and referenced an Item that had been placed on the forthcoming Planning and Zoning meeting. He requested that the City Commission stand with the residents and listen to Margate's employees.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced the ticket issued and offered his services to the public if they believed that the City had not done well to them. He agreed that they should do something for Coco, referenced new shelters and suggested that a nice plaque should be installed. He discussed the contributions and donations and referenced that the City Commission could opt whether they wanted a \$2,000 budget to distribute at their own discretion pertaining to matters in the community. He sought CONSENSUS from the City Commission to bypass the conventional application donation process by giving \$1,000 to a Margate family whose son was murdered.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES advised that as long as the City Commissioner documented

that it was properly directed with the City and City Clerk.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained about the City's donation policy and informed that it was \$500 for an individual and \$1,000 for organizations and if they wanted to do the latter, City Commissioner Ruzzano should ask the City Commission to waive that provision for that specific type of thing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Mayor Schwartz, to WAIVE the provision for the specific amount to go to \$1,000 for just this donation. This carried as follows:

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

CITY MANAGER CURTIS introduced the new Building Assistant Director, Mark Young.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO wished his daughter, Sophia, a Happy Birthday. He thanked resident, Ms. Sanchez, for all the time she had given for her community. He referenced people who lived in the Carolinas and hoped that there would be an alternative outcome at next week's Planning and Zoning meeting.

COMMISSIONER, ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO, discussed the success of the Doc Reno's 8th Annual Bacon, Beer & BBQ Fest and saluted the respective departments who had provided assistance to that organization. He highlighted the forthcoming Sounds at Sundown concert. He advised on hurricane preparedness.

COMMISSIONER, JOANNE SIMONE, highlighted the Grandparents' Day talent show at the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center (NWFPSC), the Patriot Day Ceremony and the Household Hazardous Waste event. She congratulated the Chief, detectives and Information Technology (IT) Director Garmon, who were all involved in catching the person stealing copper wiring from the City's electric polls.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO congratulated the team effort for catching the thief and referenced the LPR (License Plate Recognition). He discussed Senate Bill (SB)180 and referenced the City Attorney Tolces' firm.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES explained that his firm was taking the lead and representing municipalities in the State of Florida to fight SB180 which prohibits any local government entity that was within 100 miles of any named storm going back to 2024 from reenacting any new, more burdensome land development regulations. He believed it was a \$10,000 contribution from the City if they desired to participate in the litigation which they could place on September 17th Agenda.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO requested more research but thought it was something that they should explore.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO forewarned that if Florida State Governor DeSantis and possibly the President have their way, the cities would not have any say with future development.

Discussion ensued on SB180.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES said that he would place that Item on the next City Commission meeting.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO discussed the Carolinas and thought that all of the City Commissioners were actively talking with stakeholders including the residents and developers. He expressed his concerns about the apartments with residents but did not divulge whether he was for or against those proposals.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO questioned the City Attorney about the potential litigation.

CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES thought his law partner, who represents the City of Weston, may have had some talks together with some additional discussions through the Florida League of Cities. He said that not everyone was sure how the bill developed.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced the Carolina Club and thought that the proposal they were going to be sending to Planning and Zoning would have apartments which he opposed.

Discussion ensued on the Carolina Club.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ highlighted what Florida State Governor DeSantis did a couple of years ago about the storage facility on 31st which was declared a state of emergency.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ highlighted Saturday's Household Hazardous Waste event. She expressed that when the Planning Zoning Board meet, it was her expectation that the board members on the Development Review Committee (DRC) who turn down the application will stand before them and explain that to them and vote accordingly but she would not expect anything to change if the City asked them why they disapproved it.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO continued to discuss authorities trying to take away the City's rights and referenced a lobbyist who made a rule about brownfields.

Discussion ensued.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS echoed the congratulations and thanked the Police Department, Public Works and IT for catching a thief.

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 2025-206](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AWARDED BID NO. 2025-011 TO PROLIME CORPORATION, AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR THE TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC WATER TREATMENT LIME-STABILIZED RESIDUALS FROM THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT; PROVIDING FOR PRICING AT \$20 PER CUBIC YARD AND \$400 PER LOAD FOR BOTH REGULAR AND EMERGENCY RATE SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR AN INITIAL FOUR-YEAR TERM AND ONE TWO-YEAR RENEWAL PERIOD; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT UNDER THE SAME TERMS WITHOUT FURTHER COMMISSION ACTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

APPROVED

- B. [ID 2025-207](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AWARDED BID NO. 2025-012 TO H & H LIQUID SLUDGE DISPOSAL, INC., AND APPROVING AN AGREEMENT FOR THE TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT CLASS B BIOSOLID RESIDUALS FROM THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT; PROVIDING FOR PRICING AT \$46.50 PER CUBIC YARD AND \$1395.00 PER LOAD FOR BOTH REGULAR AND EMERGENCY RATE SERVICES; PROVIDING FOR INITIAL FOUR-YEAR TERM AND ONE TWO-YEAR RENEWAL PERIOD; AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATION TO RENEW THE AGREEMENT UNDER THE SAME TERMS WITHOUT FURTHER COMMISSION ACTION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

APPROVED

- C. [ID 2025-229](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARGATE AND BROWARD COUNTY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION (PBA) TO PROVIDE FOR COMPETITIVE WAGES FOR MEMBERS GOVERNED BY THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1, 2024-SEPTEMBER 30, 2027; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

APPROVED

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, 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 2025-230](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING THE WAIVING OF BIDDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF CITY OF MARGATE YOUTH ATHLETICS PROGRAM UNIFORMS FROM CHALLENGER TEAMWEAR FOR THE 2025 SEASON, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$36,203 PLUS A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY FROM THE GENERAL FUND; PROVIDING FOR AN

EFFECTIVE DATE

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

MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned whether this Item was for every team.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS confirmed that it was.

Discussion ensued.

The motion carried as follows:

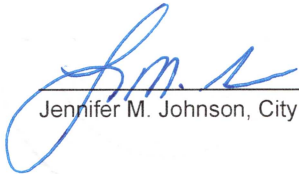
Yes: 5 - Commissioner Ruzzano, Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone, Vice Mayor Arserio and Mayor Schwartz

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards



Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk

Date: 10/15/2025

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.

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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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