



# City of Margate

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

## Meeting Minutes City Commission Budget Hearing

**Mayor Joanne Simone**  
**Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano**  
**Commissioners:**  
**Joyce W. Bryan, Lesa Peerman, Frank B. Talerico**

**City Manager Douglas E. Smith**  
**City Attorney Eugene M. Steinfeld**  
**City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh**

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Tuesday, September 15, 2015

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Lesa 'Le' Peerman, Commissioner Frank B. Talerico, Commissioner Joyce W. Bryan, Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano and Mayor Joanne Simone

#### In Attendance:

City Manager Douglas E. Smith  
City Attorney Eugene M. Steinfeld  
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

## 1) PUBLIC HEARING(S)

### A. [ID 14-1339](#) PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET

*CITY ATTORNEY EUGENE STEINFELD opened the Public Hearing on the Proposed Millage Rate and Budget. He said that pursuant to State Law, the City of Margate publicly announces that the recommended operating Millage Rate is 6.3402, which is 9.10 percent higher than the Rollback Rate of 5.8114.*

*RICH POPOVIC, 6066 Winfield Boulevard, did not understand why the Millage Rate did not go down. He felt that in order to redevelop, Margate would have to match the sister Cities in Millage Rate. He said that the City needed to re-evaluate the decision to attract businesses.*

*COMMISSIONER TALERICO noted that Coral Springs had a lower Millage Rate; however, their homes averaged twice as much as in Margate. He said that they did not have to have a higher Millage Rate because their homes generated enough dollars; however, Margate's housing value was not as much as some other Cities. He stated that Margate still had to provide the services, which the residents were happy with.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the Millage Rate had been lowered for the three years in a row. She said that she would have been in support of lowering the rate if another Commissioner wanted to, but nobody did. She noted that the advertisement in the Sun Sentinel stating that the Millage Rate had increased was not correct.*

*CITY MANAGER DOUGLAS E. SMITH explained that the Millage Rate was above the Rollback Rate, which was why it needed to be advertised as a Tax increase. He noted that other Cities would show up the same way. He stated that the total Millage Rate was*

*the same as during the current Fiscal Year.*

*Hearing no further discussion from the public, the Public Hearing was closed.*

## 2) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 14-1286](#) APPROVING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF MARGATE FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016 IN THE AMOUNT OF 7.3093 MILLS PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUATION (WHICH INCLUDES 0.9691 FOR VOTED DEBT SERVICE); THE OPERATING MILLAGE RATE OF 6.3402 IS 9.10% HIGHER THAN THE ROLL-BACK RATE OF 5.8114.

*Resolution 15-088*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Commissioner Bryan, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Peerman, Commissioner Talerico, Commissioner Bryan, Vice Mayor Ruzzano and Mayor Simone

## 3) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING

- A. [ID 14-1285](#) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2015, AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016; PROVIDING FOR A BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUND, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND, ENTERPRISE FUNDS, AND INTERNAL SERVICE FUND; PROVIDING FOR A MILLAGE RATE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*Ordinance 2015-2*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Talerico, seconded for discussion by Commissioner Peerman, that this Ordinance - 2nd Reading be approved.**

*JOANNE RICHTER, Broward Regional Health Planning Council, stated that the Council was recently awarded the contract to provide subsidized Child Care and Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) services for all of Broward County. She noted that the contract was previously held by Family Central. She said that Broward County was currently eligible to draw down approximately \$82 million dollars of State and Federal funding, but to obtain the dollars a local match must be provided. She stated that the Council approached each of the County's 31 municipalities, Broward County Government, United Way and the Children Service Council to help make up the matching dollars required by State Statute. Ms. Richter explained that last year the City of Margate had 498 children utilizing the Child Care services at an approximate cost of \$4,487 per child for a total investment of just over \$2 million dollars. She said that the amount of matching dollars provided by the City was \$5,160. She stated that the Council anticipated increasing the number of children receiving the services within the City, but was requesting the same match amount of \$5,160 that was given last year. She said that the accessibility of enrollment by parents would be increased by allowing them to enroll both online and at other sites throughout*

the County. She noted that the Council was partnering with Broward Health, who would allow parents to enroll at their Primary Health Care Centers. She added that the Council offered the opportunity for some Cities to provide enrollment at their City Hall or at Parks and Recreation Centers. She noted that previously, parents had to go to one location to enroll their children in the services. Ms. Richter asked the Commission's positive consideration of the request, and added that the Council believed that Child Care Services was the foundation for later success in school. She stated that through the provision of Child Care parents would have the opportunity to work knowing that their children are in a safe and supportive environment. She added that the funding increased the capabilities of Margate families to remain financially secure and contributing members of their community.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked whether Family Central was not involved anymore.

MS. RICHTER agreed and explained that the contract was not awarded until most of the Cities had already started their Budget process; therefore, she would be attending 31 Budget Hearings.

COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked whether the line item in the Budget was earmarked for Child Services.

CITY MANAGER DOUGLAS E. SMITH said that it was changed to a generic statement in the Commission's Budget so it was worded for contribution Child Services and was \$5,000, which was close to what was requested. He stated that it could be brought back to the Commission at a subsequent meeting for approval on consideration of this request should the Commission choose to move forward.

MS. RICHTER clarified for Commissioner Talerico that Family Central may come back to ask for funding; however, it would not be for the provision of subsidized Child Care or for VPK.

COMMISSIONER BRYAN clarified that the process was to be decentralized, parents did not have to go to Family Central and there would be different locations where parents could sign up.

MS. RICHTER agreed.

COMMISSIONER BRYAN mentioned that there was a Broward Health Center in Margate, and she asked whether it would be one of the facilities used.

MS. RICHTER noted that Broward Health Center in Margate offered to provide an opportunity for one of the Council Staff members to be at their Primary Care Centers for enrollments. She noted that several other Cities requested that a Council Staff person be provided at either their City Hall or their Parks and Recreation locations. She stated that the main location was in Hollywood on 200 Oakwood Boulevard in the Oakwood Plaza Shopping Center.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the money was already in the Budget for Child Services, but she did not know it had to be made specific when it came back to the Commission.

MAYOR SIMONE mentioned the health insurance for the City Commissioners. She stated that everyone had received the updated version of the documentation she previously discussed. She said that the Commission was previously reluctant to voice an

*opinion because it was not up-to-date. She asked the Commission to consider voting for either a 2 percent or 3 percent salary increase to be used to offset their own health insurance cost. She said that the current net savings for a 2 percent increase was \$32,522, and for a 3 percent increase the savings would be \$30,253. She clarified that a raise would be received and used to pay for health insurance, instead of the Commissioner receiving the health insurance.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN clarified that the Mayor was speaking of having no health insurance for Commissioners, but having raises instead. She said that would put everyone on an even playing field where nobody was receiving more benefits than somebody else. She noted that she did not know if she would take a raise or put it in the Resident Project Fund. She stated that she did not feel Commissioners should get insurance. She questioned whether this would start with the 2016 election.*

*MAYOR SIMONE agreed that it would start with the 2016 election.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN reiterated that she did not know if she would take the raise or put it in the Resident Project Fund, which she would discuss at home. She said that if it saved the City \$30,000 to \$32,000 extra dollars, she had no issue with it.*

*COMMISSIONER TALERICO asked whether there was a motion on the floor regarding the insurance, and it was determined that there was not.*

*RICH POPOVIC, 6066 Winfield Boulevard, said that the Commission should sign up for Obamacare. He felt that the City was flush with money because the Dispatchers were fired and the residents now receive crappy service from the County. He said that the City went from 4 to 5 minute response time to 15 to 20 minute responses with life on the line. He felt that the City should re-Budget and bring back the Dispatch Service so the residents would have service that was provided for the past 30 years. He spoke about the articles in the Sun Sentinel regarding the poor service by Broward County and the increased cost. He mentioned spending money on the Dog Park and hiring 10 new Firemen. He noted that the Firemen slept a lot and could not work 24 to 48 hours a day, but they got paid for that. He said that they collected charity money at the Carnival. He said that re-structuring was needed. He stated that the Firemen could not provide good service if he has not slept for 24 hours. He noted that hiring 10 more Firemen was not the solution, but re-structuring things was needed. He stated that spending \$400,000 for dogs to go to the bathroom was ridiculous. He said that only the developer would benefit from the Dog Park. He noted that the City had plenty of open space to be used for a Dog Park without spending the money.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lesa 'Le' Peerman to do the 2 percent raise to eliminate insurance from the Commission on the 2016 election and going forward from that point on.**

**The motion failed for lack of a second.**

**The original motion to approve the ordinance on the Second Reading carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Peerman, Commissioner Talerico, Commissioner Bryan, Vice Mayor Ruzzano and Mayor Simone

**ADJOURNMENT**

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Transcribed by Carol DiLorenzo*

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*Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk*

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_