



# City of Margate

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## Meeting Minutes Regular City Commission Meeting

**Mayor Tommy Ruzzano**  
**Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz**  
**Commissioners:**  
**Anthony N. Caggiano, Lesa Peerman, Joanne Simone**

**Interim City Manager Samuel A. May**  
**City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales**  
**City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh**

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**Wednesday, July 5, 2017**

**7:00 PM**

**Commission Chambers**

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### CALL TO ORDER

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Joanne Simone, Commissioner Lesa Peerman, Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz and Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

In Attendance:

Interim City Manager Samuel A. May  
City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales  
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

[ID 2017-436](#) CUB SCOUT PACK 836

### 1) PRESENTATION(S)

- A. [ID 2017-439](#) CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION TO MARGATE CITIZENS ACADEMY GRADUATES - SPRING 2017

### 2) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO thanked everybody for attending the meeting. He said that the Fourth of July ceremony was wonderful with the parade, fireworks, Calypso Cove and the Pie Eating Contest. He stated that it was a beautiful day for Margate and thanked everyone for attending the event.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE thanked the Parks and Recreation Staff, Public Works Staff and the residents for supporting the Fourth of July activities. She noted that at the last meeting she spoke about taking care of small children because of the recent incidents involving small children drowning. She asked that the children be given the swimming lessons at Calypso Cove. She also reminded everyone not to leave small children or dogs in the car because of the extreme heat during the summer.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN echoed that the Fourth of July was a great event and thanked Parks and Recreation, Public Works, the CERT Team, Police Department and the Fire Department, as well as everyone else involved. She noted that a board member resigned on the Board of Adjustment. She mentioned the upcoming meeting and

*questioned whether a new board member could be selected tonight as an emergency item. She noted that the person who resigned was someone she had picked.*

*CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES said that it did not have to be an emergency item, and that the position could just be filled tonight.*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Commissioner Simone, to insert the name of Millie Lester as the new Board of Adjustment Board Member. The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 1 - Commissioner Peerman

**No:** 4 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**RESOLUTION 17-094**

**An amendment was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, to insert the name of Fred Schweitzer as the new Board of Adjustment Board Member. The amendment carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**No:** 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ mentioned that Mayor Ruzzano and Commissioner Caggiano and their families participated in the Pie Eating Contest at the Fourth of July event.*

*MAYOR RUZZANO thanked the City and the CRA for the Fourth of July event and parade. He noted that a gentleman even proposed to his girlfriend at the event. He explained that there was some mismanagement of funds in the City allegedly by the former Grants Director. He said that the program was devised to help people purchase homes and to provide grants. He noted that there was a woman in the process of purchasing a home in Margate when the program was put on hold for two years. He stated that he contacted the woman who was in the process of receiving the grant and getting the home, and he determined that she still wanted the home but was frustrated with the City. He further explained that during the two years, she was given a sale price that went from \$160,000 to \$250,000. He felt that the Commission should step up and do the right thing for this woman. He noted that she also had a four year old child who was in need of special services.*

**A motion was made by Mayor Ruzzano, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, that the Commission see to it that the woman received the home for what she was promised at the same square footage with no reduction.**

*CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES explained that there were a lot of facts involved in this property, such as the proposed donor was never told or confirmed. He stated that there was a written document stating that she may not get the increase in size of the property she wanted because the Grant Program would not allow the increase of the size of the home. He clarified that the Grant Program was designed to allow for the*

rehabilitation of things that needed to be rehabilitated. He suggested that a vote not be taken on this item tonight because there were additional issues that he was not even aware of with other factors on the property.

MAYOR RUZZANO questioned why it took two years for the woman to go through the process to find out she could not have the size increase.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES said that because there was an act of criminal investigation during that two year period. He explained that everyone in the que for homes were under the same time constraints.

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that he was questioned as to why he did not hold a Press Conference about the matter and he was told he could not speak about the case. He said that now the individual was captured and arrested and he felt that Margate needed to do the right thing for this resident and get the work done within 90 days. He added that he would like to see the house as soon as possible.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY assured the Mayor that the City would do everything possible to get the resident in the house, especially with the backing of the Commission. He said that he could not say how long it would take, because he did not know the condition of the house.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked that it be done as soon as it could be.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the process was backwards from the way it was previously done. She noted that previously, the homes were repaired first and then went out for buyers.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES said that he understood the house was never rehabilitated and was never sold to the woman; therefore, it was the City's property that was acquired with the Grant funds. He noted that the Grant funds were still part of an active criminal investigation and the City never sold the property back to the woman.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she understood that the woman was buying the house.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES clarified that the woman was going to purchase the house; however, the purchase never went through because the rehabilitation repairs had not been made. He said that she ultimately decided not to purchase the home.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that the program was to rehabilitate the house first and then look for buyers.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES stated that somehow she was earmarked for that property, which he did not know about.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that the City put her in this situation and the City needed to fix it.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he believed this was a special case because the woman had a disabled child and requested the house to be built per American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned whether the house could be fixed up and sold,

*considering it was tied up in the investigation.*

*CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES said that at this point, he was not aware of whether there were Grant funds left. He stated that if using City funds, the Commission could authorize that.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN recommended that Ruzzano Construction give a price and do it for half price, with the other half being paid for by the City.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the Mayor could not do business with the City.*

*MAYOR RUZZANO said that Ruzzano Construction was his company and he would oversee the job, look at the job and provide an estimate. He stated that he would be Project Manager for the job and he would make sure it was done in a timely manner, following the bid process.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN agreed that the Mayor should not be involved as Project Manager and she was suggesting a donation from the Ruzzano Construction Company.*

*MAYOR RUZZANO asked the Commission if they were in agreement to use City funds for the project.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ suggested getting some understanding of what was done and what was not done by next week. She recommended having someone from the Building Department attend to provide an understanding of what was done.*

*INTERIM CITY MANAGER said that the City was looking into all of these properties and he felt that this property could be made a priority due to the special needs. He asked whether he could come back next week and provide a report on the house.*

*CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES stated that his children were the stars of a presentation at the Broward Center for Performing Arts tonight. He noted that this was the first time he ever missed a performance and that they were very talented and incredible young people who made him a better person being their dad.*

**THERE WAS NO VOTE TAKEN ON THE MOTION, AS THE COMMISSION DECIDED TO ALLOW THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE A REPORT AT NEXT WEEK'S MEETING PRIOR TO MAKING ANY DECISIONS.**

### **3) PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

*TONY SPAVENTO, 3194 West Buena Vista Drive, said that he attended a prior meeting in a panic about the flooding in Coral Bay; however, three hours later the Interim City Manager mobilized the City's forces to assist. He explained that the Police were placed at the entryways to avoid people entering and destroying their vehicles. He said that the Fire Chief called everyone in Coral Bay to alert them using the Code Red. He stated that Public Works and Engineering assisted with pumps and manpower. He Coral Bay was devastated and then Margate stepped in. He commended the entire City Staff who were all outstanding and capable during the emergency.*

*DOROTHY BROWN, resident, said that people in the lobby worked hard to get people to attend the meeting tonight to discuss the assessment. She complained that people were still standing outside while the Commission had a business meeting. She was upset that the residents were present for an hour and the item had not yet been discussed.*

MAYOR RUZZANO explained that the Commission meetings were twice a month and that the meeting followed the Agenda and he apologized for the residents having to wait.

RICH POPOVIC, 6066 Winfield Boulevard, said that most of the residents did not attend the meetings; however, this was how the meetings were run and they should be polite and let the Commission run the meeting. He spoke about the Margate rezoning laws, the Transit Oriented Corridor (TOC), and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He mentioned redevelopment and said that the Commission did not know the plan, though they argued about it and did not like it. He felt that money was being wasted and the Commission should apologize to everyone for the lost money due to the redevelopment.

MANNY LUGO, 1129 East River Drive, said that he and 30 other people were outside and asked that the Police Officers pick out the Senior residents outside to allow them to sit in the available seating inside. He also asked that the Agenda be rearranged to hear what the residents wanted to discuss.

HERB STEINER, Holiday Springs, asked why there was a 35 percent increase to the Fire Assessment when the inflation rate was only 1 percent. He noted that there had not been a Social Security raise in 10 years.

MAYOR RUZZANO explained that whatever was not on the Agenda could be spoken about; however, this item was on the Agenda. He stated that as soon as Public Discussion was closed he was bringing up the Fire Assessment item.

MR. STEINER said that Margate was a failure for retail centers, but he drove along U.S. 441 and saw all the retail centers being built. He stated that the roads were not built for the amount of traffic involved. He added that the lights were not synchronized correctly and sometimes three lights changed before someone could cross Atlantic Boulevard.

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that there was a special meeting held last week regarding the TOC in order to redo the plan. He stated that there would be a new plan for the City and hoped everyone would attend the meetings during the planning.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the lights were synchronized by Broward County.

JUAN LANDAZABAL, 891 North State Road 7, stated that his hair salon was affected by the Redevelopment Plan. He said that he was unable to sell his property because he was within the zoning. He asked when the next meeting was to be held so he could attend. He said that he went to the CRA office about selling his property and was told to call Jim Nardi; however, Jim Nardi had not returned his calls.

MAYOR RUZZANO noted that there was a CRA meeting on Tuesday night and everyone could attend.

RICH IRWIN, Oriole Tennis and Golf, said that he lived in Margate for 14 years and the Commission was trying to do some good things; however, he heard about the plan for U.S. 441. He mentioned the Swap Shop property and that it had not been developed yet. He felt that the Commission needed to pay attention to details. He noted that there were people here to discuss taxes, but this area was too small, which was wrong. He stated that he worked with the Margate Association of Condominiums (MAC) and with the flood problem. He commended the Police Department and the Fire Department. He suggested rescheduling this discussion and doing it the right way.

ANNETTE CHARLES, 5800 Margate Boulevard, said that she had questions about the

*Home Improvement Program. She asked what would happen to those on the list and whether they would be notified. She said that according to the paper, nothing would happen because there was no money. She asked whether someone was going to review the list and notify people, because she was on the list for two years.*

*INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY stated that the City would be addressing the list, which was a monumental task. He said that the people on the list would be informed of what will happen. He added that Broward County was also handling part of the program. He stated that there still was a list and those on the list would be contacted.*

*MS. CHARLES noted that some people on the list might have passed away or moved.*

*INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY agreed.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that Broward County was reviewing the list now to make those determinations. She stated that the County would be administering the programs for the City. She noted that the list started in 2000 with 300 people.*

*ITEM 6A WAS HEARD PRIOR TO CONSENT AGENDA.*

## 6) PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- A. [ID 2017-431](#) RESOLUTION - RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA; REIMPOSING FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS AGAINST ASSESSED PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF MARGATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2017; APPROVING THE RATE OF ASSESSMENT; APPROVING THE ASSESSMENT ROLL; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

### RESOLUTION 17-092

*MAYOR RUZZANO clarified that there was not an additional \$300 tax, but it was a limited that was being considered for the tax. He stated that the following presentation pertained to why or why not the \$300 should pass. He noted that if it did pass, it was a maximum of \$75 per year in addition to the \$225.*

*SANDI WALKER, Government Services Group (GSG), gave a presentation and said that this was not the first year of the Fire Assessment Program. She stated that the Fire Assessment was implemented in the City since 1997, and was updated every 3 to 6 years to keep the City legally defensible. She noted that it was updated last year. She explained that the Fire Assessment was a fee charged against property to pay for Fire services. She noted that it did not include the EMS services or EMS transport, such as ambulances. She stated that it included up to the level of first responder services. She stated to be a valid Special Assessment there were case law requirements that must be met. She said that unlike taxes that could be used for any purpose, the Special Assessment was a dedicated funding source that could only be used for Fire services and not EMS services. She stated that the service must benefit property and must be fairly and reasonably apportioned. She explained that there were four primary data components; service, delivery, transport and benefits. She said that Margate also provided services to Coconut Creek, but when developing the Fire Service Assessment only the cost and services were included for Margate. She stated that there was an Inter-Local Agreement and Coconut Creek paid Margate a fee. She further explained that the service delivery and assessable budget were looked into, the call data and what the*

properties were with regard to what types of buildings, square footage and how many dwelling units. Ms. Walker stated that this methodology had been reviewed and upheld by the Courts. She explained that the cost was apportioned based on the history of calls and where they were going. She stated that 8.31 percent of the calls were going to nursing homes; institutional was 8.9 percent; industrial warehouse was less than 5 percent; commercial was 13.19 percent and residential was 69.96 percent. She said that a billing unit was then determined and for residential category, the charge was based on the dwelling unit basis; however, the non-residential category the charge was based on the square footage. She noted that the non-residential was capped at 179,446 square feet. She further explained that of the \$12.6 million dollar budget, 69.96 percent of the calls went to residential; therefore, the residential should pay \$8.8 million dollars, which calculated to \$367 per dwelling unit rate. She stated that the \$367 could be less but could not be any higher. She explained that commercial was \$.37 per square foot; industrial warehouse was \$.04 per square foot; institutional was \$.84 per square foot and nursing homes were \$2.66 per square foot due to the high demand and the low units. She explained that a buy down was estimated because the City was proposing that government parcels be bought down 100 percent. She said that institutional tax exempt parcels had to be of institutional use and tax exempt. She noted that the Veterans Administration (VA) exemption was for 100 percent disabled Veterans and their surviving spouses was a \$29,000 impact. She added that nursing homes were proposed to be bought down to the lesser institutional rate. She stated that the rate scenarios were at \$225 last year for the residential, with \$300 proposed for this year. She stated that commercial would go from \$.23 to \$.30, industrial warehouse would go from \$.02 to \$.03, institutional would go from \$.52 to \$.69. She noted that nursing homes could be at the \$2.17; however, the City proposed to bring that down to the institutional rate of \$.69. She stated that the gross would then be \$10.3 million dollars after the impact of the buy down. She clarified that to be a valid Special Assessment, the burden could not be shifted from those who pay to those who did not pay. She said that some other funds would have to be used to buy them down, such as general funds or unrestricted funds. She said that with the \$300 rate, the City would net \$8.8 million dollars.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES asked whether the Commission should be doing on vote on the residential rate with the others therefore approved, or were separate votes needed on each category.

MS. WALKER said that whether the Commission was voting for the \$10 million dollar budget or something less than that, it had to stay in proportion to be legally defensible. She clarified that the City could not keep the residential at \$300, but changing the non-residential to last year's rate.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY asked whether something could be done on the buy down rates, such as the institutional rate versus the commercial rate.

MS. WALKER explained that the City could go lesser but not higher, because the residents were not noticed for that.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that by Resolution, the nursing home was changed from the non-profit rate to institutional rate at the last meeting, and she questioned whether that would change.

MS. WALKER said that it was done by Resolution and would be confirmed the buy down tonight, along with the other rates being finalized tonight.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether the nursing homes would stay at the nursing

rates if the other rates were not approved, because she thought it was done by Resolution.

MS. WALKER explained that in the past, nursing homes were bought down the lesser of the commercial rates; however, this time they were bought down to the institutional rate.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES clarified that at the last meeting the buy down change from commercial to institutional was approved; however, tonight the amount would be approved.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO clarified that the correct rate to pay in full was \$367 for the residential category. He added that every penny that was bought down was money that that the City was paying from the General Fund to discount the service.

MS. WALKER agreed.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that the City was currently paying \$142 per household as a discount that came to over \$3 million dollars. He stated that the City was now increasing it to \$.20 a day or \$6 a month or \$75 a year to increase the fee from \$225 to \$300, with the City reducing its deficit to \$1.38 million dollars.

THE MEETING RECONVENED FOLLOWING A BRIEF RECESS. MAYOR RUZZANO reiterated that this was not an additional \$300 tax, and that the letter sent out should have been more explicit.

ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER ADAM REICHBACH gave a Powerpoint presentation. He stated that this was not an additional \$300 Fire fee. He stated that if approved, it would be a \$75 increase for residential properties. He explained that currently, in Fiscal Year 2017, the current residential rate was \$225 for the past six years. He noted that the proposed rate was \$300 for the upcoming Fiscal Year. He stated that the proportionate rates for commercial, industrial, institutional and nursing homes go up accordingly. He pointed out that the nursing home rate currently matched the commercial rate; however, the nursing home rate was proposed to now match the institutional rate. He noted that Coral Springs, Davie, Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Lauderhill, Miramar, Oakland Park, Pompano Beach and Tamarac based the fees on the institutional rate for nursing homes. He said that the Fire fee was collected with other Ad-Valorem Taxes; therefore, there were certain benefits received that included a 4 percent discount when paying early. He added that if there was a mortgage it would be paid through the escrow. He said that if it was not paid, such as with the Property Taxes, a Tax Certificate was offered for sale by the County. He explained that Tax Certificates were interest bearing first liens, though they were not recorded liens and were not reported to any credit bureau. Mr. Reichbach further explained that the Fire Fees would be used to replace Fire Station #58 that was constructed in 1974. He said that the anticipated replacement cost was about \$4.5 million dollars; however, at a residential rate of \$300, the anticipated budget revenue total to be received would be \$8.4 million dollars, which was a \$2.2 million dollar increase over the current year budgeted revenue. He noted that Coconut Creek paid the City of Margate a set amount per the Inter-Local Agreement. He said that in Fiscal Year 2017, it was \$8.5 million dollars that Coconut Creek paid Margate to provide them with Fire services. He noted that Coconut Creek determined how they wished to raise those funds to pay Margate. He explained that the Fire Assessment Fee was used to pay for a portion of the cost of providing Fire services as a First Responder level of service and not for ambulance services. He clarified that when transporting Margate residents, the

payment was sought from the individual's health insurance company, but there was no charge for any amount that was not paid by the health insurance. He added that if a resident had no health insurance, there was no charge for the ambulance. He explained that Margate had approximately 22,000 residential properties and had 1,800 or 8 percent of the properties that did not pay any Ad-Valorem Taxes. He said that 15 percent of the properties paid up to \$100, 29 percent paid \$200 and 40 percent paid \$300; therefore, in total 50 percent of the properties paid \$400 or less in Ad-Valorem Taxes. He noted that those figures did not include the Fire Fee and only pertained to the amount of money paid to the City and no other taxing authorities.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked whether due to the amount of complaints being received regarding the 911 System, would Margate be able to use any of the Fire Assessment Fees to offset the supplies and equipment to change the system.

MS. WALKER clarified that the 911 System was used for Fire and Police; therefore, around 2 percent could be used towards it. She said that a determination was needed with regard to the percentage that was used for Police and Fire. She added that the Fire percentage would then be broken down between EMS and first responder level.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that whatever the percentage was it would assist with bettering the 911 System.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES added that it would include Capital Projects if needed.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded for discussion by Mayor Ruzzano, to set the rate at \$300.**

**An amendment was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Commissioner Simone, to keep the rate at \$225.**

COMMISSIONER SIMONE stated that she was not in favor of the increase. She felt the City needed to cut unnecessary spending and prioritize things, rather than put the Fire Assessment Fee on the Tax paying residents. She noted that there was \$1 million dollars from the Resource Recovery Fund that could be used to build a new Fire Station.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO stated that there was deficit spending in the City and he stated that there was no hidden pot of gold with \$4.5 million dollars.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that Commissioners should not receive health insurance, which would provide funds towards the \$4.5 million dollars.

MAYOR RUZZANO stated that he had a pot of gold, which was the property across the street that the Commission sold for \$10 million. He agreed with Commissioner Caggiano that every year the City was dipping into its reserves and in two years a bill would be passed with regard to a third Homestead Exemption that would lower the Taxes again. He said that pulling from the reserves was not the answer to provide the services. He stated that it was fair for every resident to pay for the services, rather than only the single family homeowners. He said that the City needed to think about the future when the exemption was passed.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES clarified that the discussion pertained to the amendment

to keep the rate at the \$225.

ANDRE DELAND, 5821 South Sable Circle, said that he was here to file an official petition not to make the increase. He questioned who determined that Fire Station #58 needed to be replaced. He stated that in construction, when estimating \$4.5 million dollars, the cost could overrun. He said that the \$75 fee was actually \$1.875 million dollars going into the City. He noted that once the fee was locked in, he will be paying the \$300 forever. He stated that the \$225 was \$5.6 million dollars going to the City.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ clarified that the money could only be used for Fire and not into the City's pockets.

MR. DELAND said that he met with Coconut Creek that had a total of two Fire Stations manned by Margate and Margate had three Fire Stations. He noted that there was a total of five Fire Stations covering both Margate and Coconut Creek. He said that the Budget Director of Coconut Creek could not believe the increase, and she stated that the \$75 had to be the single largest increase ever of a Fire Rescue Assessment of any municipality in the history of Broward County. He said that their increase was \$4 or \$5. He noted that he was a 72 year old citizen relying on a fixed income of Social Security, and the Commission had no clue what that \$75 was going to cost him. He told the Commission to go to the Community Center in Margate around lunchtime where hundreds of senior citizens on fixed incomes who could not afford to buy food at Publix or Winn Dixie, but came there to get lunch for \$1.20. He noted that some of them only ate once a day. He provided a copy of the contract stating Margate received \$8.5 million dollars per year from Coconut Creek to provide services. He added that Coconut Creek recently purchased a brand new Fire Engine for \$558,000 and also recently opened the Fire Station for \$364,000 for an emergency rescue vehicle. He said that the Coconut Creek residents paid \$177 for Fire Assessment; however, Margate wanted to charge \$300. He added that the Millage Rate was also going to increase for 2018.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that Coconut Creek received money from the Casino and from Waste Management that allowed them to keep the resident's rate low; however, Margate did not receive that.

MR. DELAND said that in his petition he was requesting that the Commission consider not raising the fee and renegotiate in 2019, when the contract with Coconut Creek that paid \$8.5 million dollars.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that she wanted the Fire Assessment to remain the same. She stated that Coconut Creek had paid above what should be paid for fire. She said that there was always the possibility that Coconut Creek would not have a contract with Margate. She noted that Coconut Creek could not be compared to Margate. She said that there was more commercial property and more income coming into the City, which enabled them to keep the rate low for the residents. She noted that it would also be wrong to use Coral Springs as an example.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked how many Fire Department personnel did Coconut Creek have.

MR. DELAND said that Coconut Creek had one.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that Margate had over 100 Fire personnel.

MANNY LUGO, 1129 East River Drive, felt that this was not the time to raise the rate. He

stated that the Fire Assessment was a Regressive Tax that affected low income people more heavily than high income people, just like Sales Tax. He noted that Taxable Value provided by the Broward County Property Appraiser was \$2.4 billion dollars for Fiscal Year 2016, which was 7.9 percent from Fiscal Year 2015. He stated that this year property values continued to go up, which would make up for the loss from the Tax Exemption. He asked why the Fire Station cost \$5 million dollars, when it was originally budgeted at \$2.8 million dollars. He also questioned how a company was paid \$300,000 to make an Architectural Plan. He mentioned comments made by the Interim City Manager at a prior meeting with regard to not having any reserves left if including the price of the Fire Station and the \$2.5 million dollars for the draw down. He noted that the Florida Statutes indicated that the City needed \$11 million dollars in the Reserve Fund. He mentioned that the Mayor previously suggested a Credit Union, which he felt was a good idea. He stated that the public needed an accounting to what happened to the Reserve Fund.

MAYOR RUZZANO clarified that there was approximately \$25 million in the Reserve Fund; however, some of that money was assigned and some was not assigned.

MR. LUGO expressed concern regarding the possibility of a heavy hurricane season and whether the Interim City Manager would have enough funds to do his job providing emergency services.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN clarified that was what the assigned funds were for. She stated that the State required that the City had a certain percentage of the budget saved for disaster and hurricanes. She further explained that unassigned funds did not have anything earmarked; however, the funds could be used for increases that happen throughout the year, such as insurance.

MR. LUGO requested that the Commission keep the rate the same for a year and postpone the building of the new Fire Station.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked whether Mr. Lugo suggested raising the Millage Rate.

MR. LUGO said yes within reason. He stated that it seemed pressure was put on the Fire Assessment to make up for a Millage Rate that was too low.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN replied that the Millage Rate was not too low and was one of the highest in the County. He noted that she paid her Millage Rate, which was for Police, Fire, Parks and rescue; however, she felt that when she paid her Fire Assessment Fee she was paying twice for the services. She stated that she tried to lower the Millage Rate to balance what the single family homeowners paid, because the Fire Assessment Fee was a fair way to have everyone in the City pay. She spoke about the condominiums not paying more than \$200 into the City.

PASTOR SCOTT DIDRIKSEN, Cokesbury United Methodist Church, 1801 NW 65th Avenue, said that he was present on behalf of the Margate Initiative for Community Action and Hope (MICAHA). He noted that a couple of months ago, MICAHA began sending a Clergy representative to the Commission meetings to pray for Margate, the Commission, employees and the people. He also asked that the discussions at the meeting be respectful.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO reiterated that the City was deficit spending and the Reserve Fund was running low. He stated that the City could not keep digging into the

*Reserve Fund to run the daily business. He added the Commission was trying to work a middle ground; however, the residents needed to understand using the Reserve Funds was not the way for the Commission to do better for the residents.*

*MICHAEL LEBLANC, 1065 NW 74th Avenue, said that the people came to the meeting prepared to be against it, so they were blind to any reasoning or logical thinking about the increase. He stated that the citizens needed to be educated about why the Fire Station had to be built and why the Reserve Funds did not provide for the building of that Fire Station. He suggested that the Mayor and the Commissioners should get people to educate the residents and he was willing to volunteer. He stated that \$300 had a rationale behind it at only \$.20 a day. He recommended getting to the middle ground because nobody wanted the \$75 increase.*

*KEN MORRIS, Morris Southeast Group, said that he managed a building at 5100 West Cypress Creek Road and received an assessment for \$9,400 for a 28,000 square foot office building and commercial property, which was an outrageous number. He stated that if the leases allowed that, he was at a disadvantage tactically to any of the other properties in a 3 to 5 mile radius. He noted that he sent a letter with his Attorney stating that he was not in favor of this increase. He felt that there was not much transparency when he received the notice, because he did not know what the reason for the assessment was. He stated that he did not know about contracting with Broward Sheriff's Department. He said that there might be other options such as refurbishing the Fire Station. He noted that the hard metrics of office space and retail space in Margate was not great and the average time to rent vacant office space in the market was 18 to 24 months, which was getting worse. He noted that if the City was going to continue to add additional head wind to the commercial property owners by the assessment, there would be problems regarding property trading hands. He said that Margate would be seen as an environment going after big assessments with property values dropping.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ clarified that Mr. Morris was increasing from \$7,400 to \$9,400.*

*MR. MORRIS stated that the \$2,000 additional was a dramatic increase because this was not a Class A building, but was a Class B minus property. He noted that there was a terminal limit for rental rates.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ expressed concern with regard to Mr. Morris managing a property and considering that it was a B minus property. She said that if the building was below standard in her City then she had to ask why.*

*MR. MORRIS said that it was a fine building and Margate was what it was. He noted that he did not say it was not an A City, but he said that the City needed to be careful about these assessments because of what it did to other property owners. He stated that there was a limit to what the tenants were able to pay. He asked that the Commission be mindful of raising the assessments.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ clarified that Mr. Morris was increasing from \$.23 to \$.30 a square foot.*

*MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether Mr. Morris was representing a business that was for profit and whether he had his financials.*

*MR. MORRIS said that his business was for profit.*

MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether the increase would destroy his business, and he noted that the increase did not have to be passed down to the customers.

MR. MORRIS asked who would pay for it.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that it was all the cost of doing business.

MR. MORRIS asked that the Commission tell the residents more about what the money was for and where the financial analysis came from that enabled him to report back to his client about the differential.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ agreed that the City did a horrible job of informing everyone.

JESSIE STEINMAN, 5600 Lakeside Drive North, Brookdale Margate Nursing Home, stated that this was an assisted living property. He clarified that it was residential property where Brookdale provided additional services for the residents; however, it was not a nursing home where round the clock continuous care was provided. He stated that he was present at last year's meeting. He stated that the building was a for profit community that catered to lower income residents, many of whom were on Medicaid. He said that he had financials for this building if someone wanted to see them. He stated that Fire Assessments were paid in multiple properties that Brookdale owned or managed in Florida, but this one was the highest. He noted that tripling it was burdensome to the property. He stated that paying \$130,000 for the Fire Assessment, when the total Ad-Valorem Tax was \$200,000 was wrong. He said that because the residents were low income, Brookdale was unable to pass large increases onto them. He noted that the property was a lease property that was up in 2019, and as a for profit business, it was hard to say what this would mean for the longevity of this community under Brookdale's management and leadership. He understood that nursing homes were considered higher burdens than other properties; however, it was providing a service for those who were aged and had many needs. He said that the average age of the residents was 88 and many were disabled. He stated that Brookdale was amenable to cost of living adjustments or inflationary adjustments, but tripling the Fire Assessment was unreasonable.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked whether profits from other Brookdale's could help to defray the costs. She said that this allowed everyone to contribute for those who did use the service. She noted that as a single family homeowner her taxes were higher than the 11,000 people who did not pay more than \$400, and her insurance was higher than anyone in a multiple living facility. She stated that she lived in her house for 35 years and paid the assessment since it began in 1996. She said that the Fire Assessment had to be shared. She noted that she did not understand Mr. Morris' Ad Valorem amount.

MR. MORRIS said that \$200,000 for Ad Valorem seemed absurd. He noted that they were based on the value of the building, which was assessed at \$9.5 million dollars. He stated that Brookdale was losing money.

DIANA DICKSON, 31 year resident, requested that the assessment not proceed to \$300, because of the high percentage of senior citizens.

ALMA MYRICK, Brookdale resident, 5600 Lakeside Drive North, said that she was President of the Resident Council at Brookdale and she spoke about what residents were faced with in an Assisted Living Facility. She noted that in 2009, 2010 and 2015, there were no Social Security increases. She also provided information about the Medicare premiums taken from the Social Security check, which had a 3 percent increase last

year and this year. She stated that the cost of living was going up as well. She mentioned many people investing in the Stock Market because they were told they needed other income set aside besides Social Security; however, the economy went south in 2007 and 2008. She stated that seniors had no place to turn to. She noted that she came to Margate for safety, because boarding homes were horror stories.

MS. DICKSON continued by stating that the assessment was \$300 and the Millage Rate was also high. She said that the citizens felt abused due to the Fire Assessment Fee. She suggested letting the Casino carry Coconut Creek. She noted that the \$300 was unwarranted and was an additional expense the residents could not afford. She requested that the assessment be denied.

RICHARD PRESSER, Royal Springs North, stated that Royal Springs had one of the top Tax Rates in the City and had the highest Millage Rate. He noted that he was a 37 year postal worker and was upset about the City for the past two weeks. He said that he was a resident since 1989, and the assessment should either stay the same or be raised a little, but the building of the Fire Station should be delayed for two years. He mentioned that his Social Security had been clipped during the Reagan administration and lost 60 percent of his Social Security.

RICH POPOVIC, 6066 Winfield Boulevard, said that the Fire Assessment started at \$23.50 and went to \$300. He said that when the Fire Department wanted something they received it. He noted that he had nothing against the Firefighters, but nobody in the Fire Department was underpaid. He stated that the employees received a pension and health care. He questioned what was ever asked of the Fire Department. He noted that he sat through Fire Department negotiations, which were insane. He stated that the Fire Department was paid handsomely to do what they did, which was their jobs; therefore, the residents should not be ripped off. He mentioned how the City did away with Dispatch as well.

ROBERT KELLERMAN, 7708 Margate Boulevard, said that he was a resident over 25 years and asked where the limit was. He felt that the assessment should be a vote from the citizens rather than the Commission. He noted that he paid \$9,500 a year in drug prices. He mentioned Commissioner Caggiano discussing pennies, but he said the pennies did not stop here and it would continue to go up along with everything. He mentioned Commissioner Caggiano's comment regarding the City's deficit and stated that most people were living on a deficit in this Country. He reiterated that the assessment should be voted on by the residents.

DEBBIE STAPLES, 6570 Fern Street, said that she objected to the increase. She questioned whether the nursing homes were being decreased.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that it was not a decrease, but was lower than what the consultant suggested they be charged.

MS. STAPLES expressed confusion regarding changing from a nursing home rate to an institutional rate and she questioned why it was going to a lower rate if there was a deficit. She questioned why the business was receiving a break, but the residents were not.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that they were paying \$.23 per square foot; however, at the institutional rate they would pay \$.52 per square foot. She noted that they could be charged \$2.16 a square foot. She explained that was the buy down and that the difference between the \$2.16 and the \$.52 had to be paid for by the City.

MS. STAPLES said that the City should look to the businesses that were making a profit to provide the revenue, rather than asking the residents. She believed that the Fire Service was wonderful and necessary and she was very grateful for the service provided. She stated that her only concern was the funding and felt businesses should be asked to pay their fair share.

ARNETTA BROWN, 1680 NW 61st Avenue, said that she worked for a Broward County Commissioner and for a company called Community Partnership. She said that she was the type of individual who questioned everything. She stated that she had a lot of stress going on with her parents now and when she received the letter. She said that everyone was entitled to an opinion and knew what they could and could not afford. She stated that words were hurtful and people should be mindful of what they said. She said that when she first received the letter she was outraged at the \$300. She noted that the City could have asked for \$50 over the past six years with 57,000 residents to be allocated to the Fire Department. She asked who allowed the Firefighters to work in the Fire Station that had mold and mildew and someone needed to be held accountable. She said that if there was a need, services needed to be provided. She noted that she was against the \$300; however, if a new building was needed the funding needed to come from somewhere else. She stated that during the recession her salary was cut in half. She added that backup information should have accompanied the letter. She mentioned freezing the salaries for one year.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that could not be done incrementally and now had to be put on the Tax Bill.

ELENA MACHADO, 5800 Margate Boulevard, Margate Gardens resident, asked why nobody gave a presentation about the appearance, cost, etc., the Fire Department the City was planning to build. She said that nobody provided her any City Budget showing the current Budget did not have enough money to cover the Fire Station. She stated that the Fourth of July Parade was annoying and loud. She stated that she loved the Christmas lights, however, they were new Christmas lights. She mentioned having a Budget for Christmas lights, but no Budget for Firemen. She asked what was done so far with regard to cutting things, because there was still not enough money for the Fire House.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that the Fire Station had been discussed for the last two years. She noted that the design and logistics was put in the last Budget so it could go right into permitting this year. She noted that the Fire Station discussions for the past two years took place at public meetings. She explained that the City Manager was tasked with finding the money two years ago and not determining that the Fire Assessment Fees needed to be increased. She noted that the City Manager did not find the money. She felt that the City was not in need of a Fire Station on the backs of the residents. She noted that the Commission had the ability to raise the fee up to \$75, but did not have to raise it \$75.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that Ms. Machado made excellent points, such as why the money was not put aside in past year. He stated that he could not answer as he was not here then; however, it needed to be done.

MS. MACHADO said that she was not speaking of not charging the assessment at all; however, she was suggesting that it not be a \$75 increase and that other items be looked into to help with funding the cost. She asked for some type of compromise.

LUZ TAYLOR, 6176 NW 20th Court, asked whether the Fire Station could be refurbished

*with mold remediation.*

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the Fire Station had been remediated for mold.

MS. TAYLOR questioned whether the mold came back and how long that would take to happen.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that South Florida was very humid, but she did not know the logistics. She stated that the new Fire Station was discussed because Coral Springs and Coconut Creek were building at the same time and we hoped to get the same pricing, but it did not work out.

LEWIS PINAGOTE, 601 SW 50th Avenue, said that he was a proud new homeowner and with regard to the new increase, he did not know how much further he could stretch himself. He noted that he currently had two jobs and was going to school. He stated that he chose Margate and wanted to continue to be an asset to Margate, but he did not want to find out about additional increases next year.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that the Margate Firefighters did not ask for this increase, and that the City of Margate was saying that the money needed to be found to build the Fire Station.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ clarified that the Fire Department, the Police Department and all the other unions over the last five years had seen a 12.5 percent increase in salary.

JONATHAN KRALJIC, 7357 Flores Way, Cypress Cove, said that he did not understand why a \$4.5 million dollar Fire Station was needed until he attended this meeting and discovered there was mold. He felt that the City should have been saving for this for years, but now the burden was going on the homeowners. He said he wanted the Commission to keep the assessment the same and then start saving. He felt that the Firefighters were the best and he was very proud of them, but with cost of living increases and now a \$75 increase for a homeowner was taking groceries from the residents. He said that once it went up it would not come back down.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO reiterated that the assessment was buying down from the City's General Fund. He said that the price should be \$367; however, it was being discounted to the residents for \$225. He noted that was a \$142 pay down out of the General Fund for a residential home. He stated that he was asking for the pay down to go from \$142 to \$67. He noted that it was a \$1.3 million dollar reduction and he felt that the right thing should be done while the opportunity was here. He reiterated that deficit spending and taking money from the General Fund had to stop before there was no more money.

THE MEETING RECONVENED FOLLOWING A BRIEF RECESS.

TERENCE CASTILLO, 6176 NW 20th Court, said that he was not yet a resident. He stated that everything looked good in his mind; however, his concern was for people with a low income or a fixed income. He noted that it was a lot of person for those individuals when the cost of living was always going up. He felt that it was not fair, and that to people with houses worth more, the \$75 was not a lot of money. He suggested judging the increase by the value of the home so the Millage could be increased equitable so the people without the money paid less and the person with more could pay more.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that because she had a home did not mean she could

*pay more than someone with a condominium. She stated that doing what Mr. Castillo was asking was illegal.*

*INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY clarified that he spoke with Mr. Castillo during the break about raising the Millage Rate to equal the Fire Assessment Fee, which would not be illegal to do.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that raising the Millage Rate was raising the Tax on the homeowners.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that the Millage Rate was based on the property value.*

*MR. CASTILLO questioned whether anything could be done so that those people who could not pay for it did not have to pay for it, but the people who could pay for it could pay a little more.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that was the reason why 11,000 of the 22,000 residential units in the City paid under \$400 a year in Taxes. She noted that she did not pay under \$400. She noted that the Fire Assessment Fee was the only fee that went across the board based on fairly and its amount of usage. She stated that 69 percent of the Fire calls went to residential.*

*MR. CASTILLO asked whether residents who called a lot were assessed a fee.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ responded no and explained that if she never used the service, she paid the same as someone who made several calls. She noted that it was an equal amount across the board and not based on usage or on the value of property. She clarified for Mr. Castillo that the Nursing Homes were based on square footage and not usage.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that it was the fairest way and it went to every property in the City.*

*FRANK DE LA BARRERA, 1553 West River Drive, said that he was a resident since 1974, and he found Margate to be the most congenial and cooperative City. He mentioned the tone of the letter and asked why the hesitancy to renegotiate with Coconut Creek's Fire Department on their up and coming contract. He said that the economy was increasing and everything was coming up; therefore, he felt that the opportunity should be discussed now. He stated that the City should have it ready and not wait until two weeks before.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ noted that the letter was a form letter and that the contract was not up for two years.*

*MR. DE LA BARRERA asked whether the millage rate was dropping in two years.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said no, but there would be an additional \$25,000 exemption that would be voted on in the 2018 election. She noted that when passed, the City would lose more tax revenue.*

*MR. DE LA BARRERA suggested waiting until then to reactive the idea of a new Fire House. He mentioned Coral Springs.*

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the existing Fire Station was built in 1974, and had nothing to do with Coral Springs. She noted that Margate did want to try to piggy back on the Coral Springs contract to save money.

MR. DE LA BARRERA questioned whether the plans were already paid for.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN agreed that the City had already paid to have the architect draw the plans. She noted that the plans would be in sections for two years.

MR. DE LA BARRERA said that he was against the increase because of the plight of the elderly in this community. He stated that the \$75 increase will impact them.

DOROTEA ALZAMORA, 3120 Holiday Springs Boulevard, said that she moved to Margate eight months ago from Fort Lauderdale because she understood it was less expensive. She suggested refurbishing the Fire Station until the City had money to rebuild it. She also felt that the Commission should listen to the people. She noted that even young people were struggling today due to the economy. She stated that she was living on a fixed income of Social Security and would appreciate the Commission's consideration on the matter.

LUCY RICHARDSON, 6848 NW 3rd Street, felt that any Christmas bonus should not be paid this year.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ stated that a Christmas bonus did not exist.

MS. RICHARDSON said that a surplus was needed; therefore, the City needed to fire whoever needed to be fired. She noted that every time she attended a meeting, there were problems with the Budget.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN stated that Margate had been run for 30 years and more with the same people; however, when those people left, issues were found and the City was trying to fix those problems.

MS. RICHARDSON felt that a report needed to be done to inform the public.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN noted that the first Budget Workshop was scheduled for next Monday.

MS. RICHARDSON questioned whether different quotes were received for the Fire Station. She said that it was sad for the older people who could not afford to pay the \$300.

JOE AHNE, 6558 NW 2nd Street, said that he was a 23 year resident and retired City worker, who recently had a lung biopsy and expressed concern about the mold. He said that Firefighters came to homes to save lives. He stated that if there was mold, the people needed to get out of that building. He said that he was on a fixed income but he knew that Social Security could not be the primary income.

FIRE CHIEF DAN BOOKER noted that he was also a 7 year resident of Margate. He said that he was a neighbor and the Fire Chief. He stated that he had responsibility to the residents, the business community, the Commission, Administration, Employees along with himself and his profession. He stated that the Fire Department was not asking for the Fire Station. He noted that there was an Engineering Study done on the building because it was over 40 years old and was required to have one per the Building Code. He

stated that the report came back with the findings and issues. He said that it was known that there were issues with the building for a long time. He noted that when he started with the City, some of his partners built the building because they were volunteers before becoming paid Firefighters who had since died of Cancer. He stated that the reason for replacing the Fire Station was to bring it up to industry standards. He noted that the mold had been remediated; however, nobody knew Margate would grow as it did. He explained that there was currently an administrative office in the building, and a Rescue and Ladder Company was run out of the building. He noted that there were more people in the building than it was designed to house. He said that needing a new building could not be denied due to the Engineer's report. He added that the building was also deficient with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) and Co-Ed accommodations. He said that female Firefighters needed separate quarters for respect. He noted that the building also did not meet the Hurricane Standards. He said that as the Fire Chief speaking to his neighbors, he was concerned with the building standing up to any major storm. He explained that the Firefighters could not evacuate the Fire Station and had to remain there when the storm hit in order to respond to the residents. He added that the Fire Station did not meet the Cancer Standards of today's Fire Stations. He noted that the prior volunteer Firefighters he mentioned had died of Cancer and he himself had Cancer from the job. He said that the City was asking the Firefighters to expose themselves to chemicals that made them more likely to get Cancer. He stated that there were a lot of reasons for the Fire Assessment and the Fire Station did need to be replaced. He added that the Fire Department was not extravagant and operated within its Budget.

**The amendment to keep the Fire Assessment at \$225.00 failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

**No:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

*The following was public discussion on the original motion for \$300.*

*ROBERT KELLERMAN, 7708 Margate Boulevard, commended the City but felt that the issue was not about the raise, but how to cut the amount the City needed to cut. He felt that \$300 was going for the sky.*

*ARNETTA BROWN, 1680 NW 61st Avenue, said that the Firefighter's lives were just as important as anyone else and they should not be made to work in the building that was unsafe. She suggested splitting the amount.*

*FRANK DE LA BARRERA, 1553 West River Drive, stated that the Firefighters were covered in soot, etc., when they left a fire; therefore, a new facility would have its own threats that the Firefighters brought in.*

*FIRE CHIEF BOOKER explained that when the Firefighters came back from a fire, gear was put in plastic bags and cleaned. He noted that the difference in the building was where the gear was stored in the Fire Station. He stated that it was currently hanging on the walls and exposed to everything; however, in a new Fire Station, the gear would be stored in a separate room without causing contamination to the Fire Station.*

*JONATHAN KRALJIC, 7357 Flores Way, said that he was in favor of keeping the assessment the same. He stated that if the Fire Station was urgent he was in agreement; however, he asked whether the amount could come down from \$300 once the Fire Station*

*was built.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that it would probably not go back down; however, it could. She noted that \$385 was the fully funded amount for the Fire Assessment Fee.*

*MR. KRALJIC said that most residents were on fixed incomes and \$75 was groceries for low income residents.*

*ELENA MACHADO, 5800 Margate Boulevard, noted that the City asked for a clock and roundabout and she was not sure what the statistics were, but it was causing a mess of the traffic and was a big mistake and people still did not know how to drive it. She said that the City wanted it so badly they had an Architect make a beautiful presentation; however, because residents did not have to vote today, there was no presentation about the Fire Station. She said that the residents should have been educated more.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ felt that most people were in attendance because of what it was going to cost and not what the building was going to look like.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that the City's Engineers provided the cost.*

*RICHARD PRESSER, 2104 NW 73rd Avenue, asked how much do we owe in the City and whether it could be done as a bond.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ noted that if asking for a 20 year bond, there would be more Fire Stations needed in 20 years. She stated that the Fee started at \$26 in 1996, but people earned a lot less then too.*

*MR. PRESSER asked whether this was a vote to go to a district.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that it was a lawsuit with Broward County.*

*MR. PRESSER asked whether the City was forced into this.*

*COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said no and clarified that the City's did not have to have Fire Assessment Fees, but it was a tool that the Cities could use.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ clarified that every City, all 32, had a Fire Assessment Fee, which was a user fee.*

*MR. PRESSER felt it would have been better to keep it in the Tax Base.*

*VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that if Mr. Presser was a single family homeowner he might have felt that it was an undue burden on him because his home was worth more. She stated that it was not right for the 11,000 people who paid taxes over \$400 to bite the bullet on this one.*

*MR. PRESSER felt that the increase should be no more than \$50 because of the upcoming Hurricane Season.*

**An amendment was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, to set the Fire Assessment Rate to \$275, which died for lack of a second.**

**An amendment was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, to set the Fire Assessment**

Rate to \$250, which died for lack of a second.

The original motion for \$300 carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**No:** 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

#### 4) 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. Anyone wishing to comment on any item on the Consent Agenda should approach the podium now. Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.

- A. [ID 2017-455](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING MULTIPLE AWARD OF RFP NO. 2017-002 - AUTOMOTIVE PAINT AND BODY WORK SERVICES TO JOEY ACCARDI CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM SUBARU AND XPRESS AUTO SERVICE AND TIRES, LLC; PER THE RATES PROPOSED BY EACH FIRM AS NOTED ON THE ATTACHED RATE SCHEDULE SPREADSHEET.

RESOLUTION 17-090

APPROVED

- B. [ID 2017-456](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING A LIMITED THREE MONTH TERM RENEWAL FROM THE CURRENT EXPIRATION DATE OF AUGUST 18, 2017 FOR THE MULTIPLE AWARD OF BID NO. 2015-015 - AGGREGATES, TOP SOILS AND SAND (CO-OP BID) WITH FLORIDA SUPERIOR SAND, INC. AND SOIL TECH DISTRIBUTORS, INC.; PROVIDING FOR PRICING AND ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPROVED UNDER RESOLUTION 16-240 TO REMAIN UNCHANGED.

RESOLUTION 17-091

APPROVED

#### Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

#### 5) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAM MAY stated that in March 2017, Richard Nixon accepted the role of the Acting Building Director. He noted that in a short time, Mr. Nixon and his team made a tremendous improvement to the image, level of service to the residents and contractors and overall performance of the Building Department. He named Richard Nixon

*as the Building Director and Chief Building Official for the City of Margate. He noted that he and Mr. Nixon would be going to the house previously discussed and would be addressing the issue immediately.*

*MAYOR RUZZANO asked whether he could also go, and Interim City Manager May agreed.*

## 7) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2017-461](#) AMENDING THE SPECIAL EVENTS FUNDING/DONATION REQUEST PROGRAM FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.

*RESOLUTION 17-093*

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded for discussion by Vice Mayor Schwartz, that this Resolution be approved.**

**An amendment (A) was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, to remove Individual Donations from the Policy.**

**An amendment (B) was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, to change Individual Donation amounts to \$500 each.**

**An amendment (C) was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, that whenever possible, the donated funds would be distributed to the organization responsible for holding said event, as opposed to the individual themselves.**

**The amendment (C) carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Peerman and Vice Mayor Schwartz

**No:** 2 - Commissioner Caggiano and Mayor Ruzzano

**The amendment (B) carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Peerman, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**No:** 1 - Commissioner Simone

**The amendment (A) failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

**No:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**The original motion, as amended, carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Peerman, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**No:** 1 - Commissioner Simone

## 8) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING

- A. [ID 2017-440](#) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 19 - SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLES COLLECTION, PROCESSING AND DISPOSAL; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, that this Ordinance - 2nd Reading be approved.**

**The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Peerman and Mayor Ruzzano

**No:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone and Vice Mayor Schwartz

- B. [ID 2017-441](#) APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9 - BUILDINGS, AMENDING ARTICLE III - FEES, SECTION 9-21; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

*ORDINANCE 2017-11*

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, that this Ordinance - 2nd Reading be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**Not Present:** 1 - Commissioner Peerman

- C. [ID 2017-442](#) REPEALING ARTICLE II SECTIONS 2-25 THROUGH 2-31, AND 2-39; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 2-23 THROUGH 2-33 AND 2-39; PROVIDING FOR PURCHASE OF MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, SERVICES, EQUIPMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND PROJECTS; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR

AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2017-12

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that this Ordinance - 2nd Reading be approved.**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, to revise the threshold amount in Section #1 from \$25,000 to up to \$15,000. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**Not Present:** 1 - Commissioner Peerman

**The motion as amended carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**Not Present:** 1 - Commissioner Peerman

#### ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:41 AM.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Transcribed by Carol DiLorenzo*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk*

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