



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes City Commission Budget Hearing

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

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

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

1) PUBLIC HEARING(S)

- A.** [ID 2017-539](#) PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE AND BUDGET

CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES advised that pursuant to state Law, they would have the Resolution first and then they would call on the public as part of the Resolution process.

2) RESOLUTION(S)

- A.** [ID 2017-592](#) APPROVING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF MARGATE FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018 IN THE AMOUNT OF 7.0593 MILLS PER THOUSAND DOLLARS OF ASSESSED VALUATION (WHICH INCLUDES .5410 FOR VOTED DEBT SERVICE); THAT THE OPERATING MILLAGE RATE OF 6.5183 IS 8.31% HIGHER THAN THE ROLL-BACK RATE OF 6.0180.

RESOLUTION 17-118

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

3) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING

- A.** [ID 2017-535](#) ADOPTING AN OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2017, AND ENDING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018; PROVIDING FOR A BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, DEBT SERVICE FUND, CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, ENTERPRISE FUNDS, AND INTERNAL SERVICE FUND; PROVIDING FOR A MILLAGE RATE; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2017-16

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

INTERIM CITY MANAGER SAMUEL A. MAY explained that at the First Budget Hearing on September 6, 2017, it was based on a millage rate of 7.5093 and it was approved as presented with the exception of re-classified positions held within the City's Manager's Office and minor changes and performance measures in the City Manager's Office, Economic Development and the Road Funds.

COMMISSIONER LESA PEERMAN said that they did a good job on the budget. She said that the budget was approved at the meeting on September 6, 2017 but said that since then, there were a few changes to the current budget which she had not seen and sought clarification. She said that she thought that they got rid of the Assistant to the City Manager position and gave the City Manager and an extra media person.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ explained that they did not grant the City Manager to have two extra media positions in his department. She said that the budget was \$18,000,000 more than the year before and some of the items were Placeholders. She said that a budget should be a budget, that real numbers should be put in the budget and that the style and content should change

Discussion ensued on proposing how the Budget could change.

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO referred to Page 89 from the City Manager's section of \$182,571. He explained that he wanted to remove \$90,000 and transfer the money back into the General Fund. He indicated that \$80,000 was for the transfer of a job position to another department. He said that he wanted to eliminate the Media Specialist position for \$58,000 and that he also disagreed with the \$42,000 for pay raises.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MARY BEAZLEY confirmed that some of the money that Commissioner Caggiano was referring to was the dollar amount for the City Manager's salary and that it would be subject to the approval of his contract. She also advised that any monies that were not spent went back in the General Fund.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, to get rid of the Media Specialist position.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY confirmed that the starting salary for the Media Specialist position was \$43,842, which did not include benefits.

FINANCE DIRECTOR BEAZLEY confirmed that the additional money was for the Community Redevelopment Agency's (CRA) Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director. She explained that the City pays for the CRA and then they reimburse the City.

Discussion ensued regarding how the CRA was being paid and as to what benefits they were receiving and matters pertaining to Florida Retirement System (FRS).

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR KELLY SCHWARTZ clarified that when the Senior Center was made an independent district of the City of Margate in 2009, Senior Center employees had to become part of the FRS as State guidelines stipulate that all special districts which are under a city, those employees are required to be part of FRS. She also explained that those employees were allowed to participate in the plan and that the Senior Center paid the employer portion and the Senior Center employees paid the employee portion.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY explained that at the previous meeting, Commissioner Caggiano's motion to reduce the budget and City Manager's budget by \$40,000 failed for lack of a second. He said that at the end of the meeting, there was a \$2,900 difference, \$2,500 Mayor's Fitness Challenge and \$400 for picture frames from the Commission's budget and they decided not to change it monetarily. He mentioned those positions which were eliminated and said those dollars would go back into the General Fund. He confirmed that there were salary raises at 2.25% that was subject to the City Commission's approval. He said that the pay raises have to be negotiated through a number of different unions and authorities and he confirmed that Non-Bargained and Senior Manager raises would always go for approval before the Commission by November 2017.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that there should be regular budgeting processes similar to those at large organizations such as a school system or hospital and if deadlines were not met, there would be consequences.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR SCHWARTZ said that in a perfect world, it would be good to know what was locked in and what contracts were determined ahead of time but it did not always work that way. She advised that prior to 2012, the salaries were budgeted at current year numbers. She said Fiscal Year 2018 salaries would be budgeted at the 2017 amount and the amount for the raise was all put into contingency. She said it was more transparent to put the estimate within the departments themselves to show the true costs.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that at the last meeting, she requested the job description of the Media Specialist which she was yet to receive. She also said that the job descriptions for the Grants Writer and Grants Manager were identical. She said that she would prefer to have a Grants Writer or Grants Manager Writer. She also said that the current Public Information Officer's job description was to work and write for the CRA.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that he could put Grants Manager/Writer in the job description. He confirmed that the Grants Media Specialist position would be funded 50/50 by the CRA. He also advised that they the whole department would be working with the CRA and the City and that it would be very difficult doing it with one person.

The motion approved by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

An amendment was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Mayor Ruzzano, to remove the additional \$47,000 from the City Manager's account.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ sought clarification and asked if it was money budgeted for possible raises which would have to come before the City Commission for final approval.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said it was difficult to say what the money was for and said that he would have to do an analysis of those remaining positions. He also explained that it was easy to remove titles and positions but once numbers were removed, then the Finance Department would have to undertake an entire analysis based on the entire budget.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR SCHWARTZ said that the minimum salary for the Multimedia Specialist was \$43,832 but the Motion on the table was for \$47,000.

FINANCE DIRECTOR BEAZLEY confirmed that they could withdraw the money as part of the Budget Amendment in November to take it out.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano to withdraw his previous motion.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that he would prefer to see the Police Chief have choices of people who could replace him rather than an heir apparent in the position of an Assistant Police Chief. He explained that if they take out the position, they would not have the salary spent.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Mayor Ruzzano, to get rid of the Assistant Police Chief position.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked if the Assistant Chief was created due to a union problem. She also asked if the position was created for that line of succession.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY advised that the Assistant Chief would be a non-union position and the Captains were part of the Florida Police Benevolent union. He also confirmed that part of the reason why the position was created would be for that line of succession. He also confirmed that the Fire Department had one non-union person. He explained that it was the positions that determined whether they were union based and not the people who held the position and said that the employee would have to ask the

union if they wanted to leave.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that he was in favor with a five day work week and asked how he this could be organized.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER MAY said that it was an administrative call which could be discussed at a later time.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN referred back to the Assistant Police Chief's position and asked how that Motion would affect the current Police Officers' pay and positions held.

FINANCE DIRECTOR BEAZLEY explained that they were not adding a new position as only 10 of 11 positions of Assistant Chief, Captain or Lieutenant would be filled at any one time. She also advised that they could do a 2018 Budget amendment in November to show the reduction of any additional money held for that position.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ referred to the previous discussion at the first Budget Meeting on the financing of two vehicles for \$79,000 and asked whether they could be paid off.

FINANCE DIRECTOR BEAZLEY advised that the lease had a prepayment penalty. She also confirmed that with the 2018 Budget amendment in November, they were going to remove the Assistant Chief of Police and Multimedia Specialist and if they wanted to change it, they could advise them on the First Reading.

LORA STEARNS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER FOR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY thanked the City Commission for their constant support of the Relay For Life and annual donation of \$2,000.

JOAN RICHTER, BROWARD REGIONAL HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL thanked the City Commission for the match dollars of \$5,000.

The amended Budget carried by the following vote.

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

No: 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Peerman

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards

Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: _____

PLEASE NOTE:

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Commission with respect to any matter considered at this meeting, the person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone desiring a verbatim transcript shall have the responsibility, at his/her own expense, to arrange for the transcript.

[Appendix A – Zoning – Section 3.3] Any representation made before any City Board, any Administrative Board, or the City Commission in the application for a variance, special exception, conditional use or request for any other permit shall be deemed a condition of the granting of the permit. Should any representation be false or should said representation not be continued as represented, same shall be deemed a violation of the permit and a violation of this section.

Any person with a disability requiring auxiliary aids and services for this meeting may call the City Clerk's office at (954) 972-6454 with their request at least two business days prior to the meeting date.

DRAFT