



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes Regular City Commission Meeting

Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz

Commissioners:

Antonio V. Arserio, Anthony N. Caggiano, Joanne Simone

City Manager Cale Curtis

City Attorney Janette M. Smith

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

Wednesday, March 4, 2020

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Caggiano attended via telephone.

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

ROLL CALL

City Manager Cale Curtis

City Attorney Janette M. Smith

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO read a statement from Edward A. DeCristofaro giving his condolences to a member of the Margate Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

- A. [ID 2020-109](#) SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR REGAN HENDERSON
- B. [ID 2020-102](#) 50 YEAR MARGATE RESIDENT - WILLIAM HOPPER
- C. [ID 2020-089](#) 2020 RELAY FOR LIFE (Presented by Brian Scott, Community Development Manager, American Cancer Society Inc., Southeast Region)

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

- D. [ID 2020-048](#) ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: ESPERANZA SWILLEY (Student), ; SAMANTHA HINCKSON (Teacher), (Mrs. Stacy Angier, Principal and/or Mrs.

Renate Ramirez, Assistant Principal)

ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY: VALERIA AGUIRRE-DIAZ (Student), ;
LESLIE FOX (Teacher),
(Mrs. Shereen R. Reynolds, Principal and/or Mr. William Hartner, Acting Vice
Principal)

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY: AUTUMN WATTERS (Student), ; ANN PHILHOWER
(Teacher),
(Mr. Matthew Whaley, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Styles, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE ELEMENTARY: MAE JUAREZ (Student), ; LORI BAILEY (Teacher),
(Mr. Thomas Schroeder, Principal and/or Ms. Vicki Flournoy, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE MIDDLE: ISABELLA CASTELLANOS JOA (Student), ; GABRIELLA
BENNETT (Teacher), (Mrs. Sabine Phillips, Principal and/or Assistant Principal)

RISE ACADEMY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: MATEO
PEREZ-ROMAN (Student), ; ANDREA HOLLENBAUGH (Teacher), (Dr. Adriana
Guerra, Principal)

WEST BROWARD ACADEMY: MELANIE BAUTISTA (Student), ; MARTHA
DAVILA (Teacher),
(Mr. Will Pickens, Principal and/or Assistant Principal Mr. Derrick Hugue)

PROCLAMATION(S)

- E. [ID 2020-107](#) US 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE FORMATION DAY -
MARCH 4, 2020

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

CHARLIE ARTNER, 6631 NW 22ND COURT requested a future Agenda Item on a
moratorium on green spaces such as the golf course.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO said that the City had addressed this in their
Strategic Plan. He also advised that the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Board recommended
the Commission to change the text amendment to add golf courses back in. He believed
that putting in a moratorium would be a detriment to the community and discussed
declining profit values due to the abandoned golf course.

Discussion ensued on the Strategic Plan, building a hotel on one of the golf courses,
putting in a moratorium on green spaces and developing and revitalizing shopping
centers.

JULI VANDERMEULEN, 2913 NW 68 LN. questioned who was going to pay for the
remediation and also referenced a previous City Commission turning down the offer of the
Fern Forest Nature Center. She continued to discuss Margate's green space and the
purchase of land.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO responded to Mrs. Vandermeulen's comments.

Discussion ensued.

CHRISTOPHER A. SNYDER, 2741 SW 81ST WAY, DAVIE discussed 13th Floor Homes and referenced transfer of rights to another developer. He thanked and credited the Commission for listening to the residents on this matter. He indicated that they would need to measure the owner's options as and when they arose. He thanked Mr. Artnr for his efforts.

MARILYN A. KNEELAND, 7955 NW 5TH CT spoke on behalf of the Keep Margate Green Committee pertaining to the Executive Golf Course. She thanked the City Commission and asked for an update on Alex Pappas from Lee & Associates South Florida.

Discussion ensued.

GRANT R. O'DONNELL, 3011 HOLIDAY SPRINGS BOULEVARD questioned that if there was a referendum, whether the City could re-open a golf course after it had closed for a six-month period. He thanked the City for their hard work and also for work that had been performed on the park and said that it looked great.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO responded to Mr. O'Donnell's comments.

ELSA J. SANCHEZ, 6930 NW 15TH STREET requested an update on the Firehouse on Rock Island and referenced a fire fee.

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO provided an update and advised that the architect had almost completed the drawings and the bid documents.

Discussion ensued.

RICH ALIANIELLO, 7631 NW 23RD STREET discussed water pressure.

CITY MANAGER CALE D. CURTIS said that he would have staff pick up where Mr. Griffin left off concerning his water pressure.

JULIE JONES, 7871 NW 1ST STREET referenced social media comments and discussed derogatory posts. She thanked Commissioner Arserio for allowing her to work on his election.

MAYOR RUZZANO discussed social media comments.

Discussion ensued.

DARA KUSTLER, 554 NW 76TH TERRACE discussed the golf courses and said that the City Commission was all doing a wonderful job. She also discussed and referenced fees being proposed for the fire station and requested a citizen's committee.

LAUREN BERACHA, PARADISE GARDENS III discussed a homeless person found at a shopping center at Winfield Boulevard and 441.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ highlighted the Police Department's Homeless Task Force. She spoke further on the homelessness in Margate.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO congratulated Mr. Hopper for his work for the City and wished him a tremendous retirement in his new location. He spoke about the importance of the 2020 Census.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE advised that residents should be mindful of personal hygiene pertaining to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO discussed Mr. Krell's behavior at this evening's City Commission meeting. He addressed misinformation on social media pertaining to the golf course. He discussed an email and correspondence sent to Michael Nunziata, the Principal of 13th Floor Homes. He gave kudos to the City Clerk for the online portal for the public records request. He also said that the City was looking at software where residents could look at capital projects.

CITY CLERK JOSEPH J. KAVANAGH explained that they had extra money budgeted in the City Clerk's account for various software packages.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO continued his discussion of misinformation pertaining to the golf course and questioned if they could have a section inserted on the City's website for regular updates.

MAYOR RUZZANO indicated that if the Board was willing to do that, they could look into providing an update on the golf course.

Discussion ensued on initiating software and updating residents pertaining to the golf course.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO said that he wanted to start an Information Task Force.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ highlighted the problems of receiving Margate Matters one month too late due to the billing cycle and referenced communication. She discussed the proposed new Fire Station and compared it to surrounding cities. She advised on the upcoming Daylight Savings and thanked the members of the Fire Department for attending the meeting.

MAYOR RUZZANO wished his in-laws a Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary. He said that the first turf project at the soccer field at Southeast Park looked incredible. He highlighted the upcoming State of the City meeting on March 25th. He discussed a Facebook post from a Margate resident pertaining to green space and said that he wished that the City could do a twice per year tree giveaway.

Discussion ensued on trees.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO discussed the City's Strategic Planning procedure.

Discussion ensued on residential priorities for the City's Strategic Planning and the City's parks.

MAYOR RUZZANO highlighted that the Margate United Soccer League was taking reservations for the forthcoming season.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ highlighted the St Patrick's Day Parade at Oriole Gardens III.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that since the last City Commission meeting, Waste Management had subsequently reversed their decision to eliminate paper from their recycling program. He explained that City staff met with Broward County Highway & Bridge Maintenance Division pertaining to the intersection at Rock Island and Royal Palm Boulevard where they had plans to improve that area which was currently going through design. He said that the Police Department were selected as first place winners for a photo contest with Graphic Designs International. He said that under the resident's tab, a link had been added to the City's website on the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

5) CONSENT AGENDA

Items listed under Consent Agenda are viewed to be routine and the recommendation will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. If discussion is desired by the Commission, the item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately. 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 2020-057](#) MOTION - ACCEPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2019.

APPROVED

- B. [ID 2020-085](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: JANUARY 22, 2020 - REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING.

APPROVED

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

6) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2020-091](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SENATE BILL 1174, RELATING TO LOCAL COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TAX RATES; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 20-008

A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that this Resolution, should be approved. This carried by the following vote:

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

- B. [ID 2020-092](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, OPPOSING SENATE BILL 1302, RELATING TO SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 20-009

A motion was made by Commissioner Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Simone, that this Resolution, be approved. This carried by the following vote:

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

- C.** [ID 2020-100](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 519, RELATING TO PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS PROTECTION; PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 20-010

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

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

7) ORDINANCE(S) - FIRST READING

- A.** [ID 2020-056](#) AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET (ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-8); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Simone, that this Ordinance, First Reading, should be discussed.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she had concerns with two of the items and would like to discuss them before voting. She was against spending \$50,000 on the City's 65th Anniversary and also said that she had an issue with the advertisement fee of \$25,000 for the 2020 Census. She explained that she would prefer to reduce the Census down to \$1,000.

Discussion ensued.

An amendment was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Mayor Ruzzano, to add AT&T U-Verse streaming services in the amount of \$10,000.

Discussion ensued.

MR. ALIANIELLO spoke on the streaming service and camera.

MS. JONES said that if they were going to use AT&T, then they should also include Dish Network.

Discussion ensued.

MS. KUSTLER questioned the date of Margate's 65th anniversary. She said that it was unfair that they only had one service provider pertaining to the streaming service.

Discussion ensued.

The amendment carried by the following vote:

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

Discussion ensued regarding the Community Redevelopment Agency Board (CRA) picking up some of the costs of the City of Margate 65th Anniversary event and to have it discussed at the March 11th, 2020 CRA Board meeting.

MS. KUSTLER said that goals could be measured but they needed to do the job. She said that she agreed with Commissioner Simone regarding the \$50,000 for the 65th Anniversary party. She also disagreed with the \$25,000 for the 2020 Census.

Discussion ensued.

MR. ALIANIELLO indicated that he did not see any problem with the monetary amount for the 65th Anniversary party.

MS. SANCHEZ said that she agreed with Commissioner Simone that \$50,000 was too much money. She also questioned who the CRA was.

MS. BERACHA said that she agreed with Commissioner Simone and discussed sponsorship.

Discussion ensued.

VALERIE PERRY 6812 DOGWOOD LANE suggested that at the July 4th party, they should commemorate the City's anniversary by encouraging the pyrotechnics company to do a big "65th Happy Birthday Margate" which would cost far less than \$50,000.

Discussion ensued.

The original motion as amended carried by the following vote:

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

8) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING

- A.** [ID 2020-087](#) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA AMENDING CHAPTER 2 - ADMINISTRATION, ARTICLE I - IN GENERAL, SECTION 2-11 - REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING OUTSTANDING LIENS; PROVIDING FOR FEES; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR

CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2020-01

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Simone, that this Ordinance, Second Reading, should be approved. This carried by the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:19pm.

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.

One or more members of the City of Margate advisory boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting.