



# 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*

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Wednesday, March 18, 2020

7:00 PM

Commission Chambers

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**Please note that due to the COVID-19 situation, this meeting will be limited to essential matters that are related to the public health, safety and welfare.**

**If you wish to submit any comments to be read under Public Discussion, please email your comments to [JJKAVANAGH@MARGATEFL.COM](mailto:JJKAVANAGH@MARGATEFL.COM) no later than 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 3/18/20.**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Caggiano attended via telephone.

Commissioner Simone attended via telephone.

Commissioner Arserio attended via telephone.

Vice Mayor Schwartz attended via telephone

Mayor Ruzzano attended in person.

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

City Manager Cale Curtis (attended in person)

City Attorney Janette M. Smith (attended via telephone)

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh (attended in person)

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO read a statement for the City's State of Emergency.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

MAYOR RUZZANO advised that Abundant Life Church would conduct their services online.

A REPRESENTATIVE OF ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH repeated Mayor Ruzzano's comments and indicated that religious services would be available online.

## 1) PRESENTATION(S)

MAYOR RUZZANO thanked Broward County's School Board member, Mr. Gomez, for attending this meeting.

BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS ANGEL M. GOMEZ introduced himself and presented an update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and explained the impact it was having on the school system. He advised that temporarily, the schools were closed until April 15th. He also informed on child care facilities and that they were offering breakfast and lunch on the days that they were supposed to be open with students which was the Monday, Wednesday and Thursday that week, before Spring Break. He said that the rules for the fee based camps for Spring Break changed and was subsequently cancelled to prevent children from gathering. He said that this Friday, they were deploying computer equipment for any student in Broward County public schools who required the same for distant learning. He advised that online schooling would resume on March 30th. He said that the County had secured through Comcast, unlimited internet access that could be requested. He discussed grades and explained that they had asked schools to be ready to re-open until June 30th.

Discussion ensued including a question and answer session.

## 2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

OSVALDO ALBERTY, 400 SW 68 TER explained that he was having a problem with a neighbor and referenced a citation he received from the Building Department.

CITY MANAGER CALE D. CURTIS said that they would call Mr. Alberty to obtain all information.

RICH ALIANIELLO, 7631 NW 23RD STREET advised everyone to pay attention to what was going on pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

ARTHUR J. KRELL, EDWARDS ROAD discussed Section 8, Article 8 of the Margate Charter and referenced the Chief of Police, Code Compliance and 21 Code violations.

EDUARDO ACEVEDO, FLYNN'S ARCADE & MORE, 5869 MARGATE BLVD (via email) questioned what measures the City of Margate was putting in place to assist businesses that leased commercial real estate from the City of Margate.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that it was more of a CRA issue and that he would converse with the CRA's attorney.

JULI VANDERMEULEN, 2913 NW 68 LN. (via email) thanked the Commissioners and staff for doing such a great job in this time of crises.

JULIE JONES (via email) issued a statement pertaining to Keep Our Money in Margate Group (KOMIM) listing a selection of restaurants in Margate that were issuing free kids' meals for a paid adult meal.

## 3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO thanked the School Board for coming out.

He discussed the current COVID-19 pandemic and referenced City Manager Curtis and Assistant City Manager Vignola.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE thanked residents, business owners, City employees and families during this time of concern and wished them all well. She urged the community to heed the 15 days to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus and repeated and underlined the importance of compliance. She advised that UBER Eats was offering free delivery access across the US. She gave kudos to the Chief, Electrical Inspector Schepers, Fire Inspector Kelleher and Fire Marshal Wilson for being thorough leaders and partners and referenced an electrical fire in a meter room at a condo. She also thanked the City Clerk Kavanagh and Clerk Coordinator Jones for their hard work and organized planning for setting up the Commission Chambers for tonight's meeting and for being in compliance with the current guidelines. She thanked the maintenance crew for cleaning City Hall.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO thanked the First Responders, the Firefighters and Police Officers for putting their lives on the front lines. He also thanked City Manager Curtis, Assistant City Manager Vignola, City Attorney Smith and City Clerk Kavanagh pertaining to preparing for the pandemic. He read a comment on social distancing which he posted on Facebook. He also advised that he posted credible information on his website pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ echoed what the previous City Commissioners said pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed social distancing. She thanked the City staff for attending work every day.

MAYOR RUZZANO explained and discussed his recent conversation he had with the Florida Governor and referenced the operational hours of restaurants. He said that he also had a recent meeting with the Mayors of Broward County which the City Manager Curtis had listened into and highlighted one of their topics of discussion as to whether the beach should remain opened. He advised that he also conversed with US Congressman Ted Deutch on the subject of seniors who said that he would revert back to him with information from the Federal Government. He also said that he spoke to City Manager Curtis to see if he could possibly do something with Ace Hardware pertaining to the seniors. He provided an explanation as to why he conducted tonight's meeting.

#### **4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that the State had declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. He advised that they have cancelled or postponed all of their special events and that all City buildings would be closed to the public which would be effective from tomorrow. He also informed that all essential services such as the Police, Fire Rescue, Water and Sewer and Solid Waste and Recycling services would operate as usual. He continued to discuss other operational procedures which were affected by the COVID-19 virus which included water bill payments and building permits. He thanked the Commission, the senior management team and their Department Directors for the support and ideas they had put forward.

CITY ATTORNEY JANETTE M. SMITH thanked everyone in the City, especially City Manager Curtis, Assistant City Manager Vignola and Human Resource Director Meyer and referenced the COVID-19 virus. She also highlighted the work and flexibility from City Clerk Kavanagh and his office.

CITY CLERK JOSEPH J. KAVANAGH echoed the sentiments of City Attorney Smith, City Manager Curtis, the City Commission and the City of Margate pulling together during

this crisis.

## 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 2020-006](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING THE RECLASSIFICATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES POSITION FROM PAY GRADE 57 TO PAY GRADE 65; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 20-011

**APPROVED**

## Approval of the Consent Agenda

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Arserio, 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) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING

- A. [ID 2020-120](#) AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET (ORDINANCE NUMBER 2019-8); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2020-2

**A motion was made by Commissioner Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Simone, that this Ordinance, Second Reading, should be discussed.**

**An amendment was made by Commissioner Simone to reduce the CENSUS expenditure to \$5,000 and remove the special events line item of \$50,000 for the 65th City Birthday celebration. This motion failed for a lack of second.**

**An amendment was made by Commissioner Simone to reduce the CENSUS expenditure to \$5,000. This motion failed for a lack of second.**

Discussion ensued.

**An amendment was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, to remove \$50,000 for the City's Anniversary Celebration, should be discussed.**

Discussion ensued.

MR. ALIANIELLO spoke on this amendment.

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

**Yes:** 1 - Commissioner Simone

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

Discussion ensued.

**A motion was made by Vice Mayor Schwartz, seconded by Commissioner Simone, to lower the amount from \$50,000 to \$25,000 for the 65th City Anniversary Celebration and have the Celebration partner with another major City event.**

Discussion ensued.

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

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Arserio and Vice Mayor Schwartz

**No:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone and Mayor Ruzzano

Discussion ensued.

**The original motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**No:** 1 - Commissioner Simone

**7) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION****A. ID 2020-138 COVID-19 UPDATE.**

MAYOR RUZZANO indicated that this Item had already been addressed throughout the meeting but repeated the standard health and safety procedures.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ referenced the North West Focal Point Senior Center (NWFPSC) being closed and transportation for seniors. She explained that she had previously requested a telephone list from NWFPSC Director Karin Diaz via City Manager Curtis and questioned if they could contact those residents to see if they were okay and whether they required a meal.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that the area-wide agency had put together a great resource which the City shared on their Facebook page. He also advised that the agency was working in conjunction with Meals on Wheels to get meals delivered to the seniors that were on the list and that there was a contact number for seniors to call for further assistance.

Discussion ensued.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.

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.

PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 252.38(3)(5)(a): The City of Margate has declared a state of emergency which requires the City to take whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the community. For this reason, telephone conferencing or other telecommunications media technology may be used in the conduct of this meeting to permit members of the Commission to participate and to be heard by those persons in attendance, online or watching the City Commission meeting. The City is taking all necessary actions to ensure adherence to Sunshine Laws and provide the public with an opportunity to participate in all noticed meetings.