



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, May 20, 2020

4:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220128841>

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Caggiano attended via Zoom

Commissioner Simone attended via Zoom

Commissioner Arserio attended via Zoom

Vice Mayor Schwartz attended via Zoom

Mayor Ruzzano attended in-person

City Manager Cale Curtis attended in person

City Attorney Janette M. Smith attended in person

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh attended in person

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RITA RODI read a statement pertaining to the City's virtual public meeting pursuant to the Sunshine Law and Florida Governor DeSantis' Executive Order.

1) PRESENTATION(S)

- A. [ID 2020-106](#) RECOGNITION OF NICK CUCUNATO'S RETIREMENT EFFECTIVE CLOSE OF DAY MAY 28, 2020.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

- B. [ID 2020-114](#) MARK A. PATELLOS, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 30 YEARS
- NIRMALA SAMLAL, BUYER I - FINANCE DEPARTMENT - 25 YEARS
- ROBERT LOVINS, DRIVER/ENGINEER - FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT - 25 YEARS
- KARL TOOLEY, DRIVER/ENGINEER - FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT - 20 YEARS
- JONATHAN MOREJON, DRIVER/ENGINEER - FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT - 15 YEARS
- CARLO DELBRUNE, SERVICE WORKER - PARKS AND RECREATION - 15 YEARS
- BETHANY ANN LAMAR, RECREATION SUPERVISOR - PARKS AND RECREATION - 5 YEARS
- CARLI PAT ACQUAVIVA, LIFEGUARD - PARKS AND RECREATION - 5 YEARS
- LENNOX D. A. POWELL, UTILITY TECH - DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES - 5 YEARS

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

CITY CLERK JOSEPH J. KAVANAGH explained the options on how to submit a public comment.

"BILLY", 6325 NW 11TH ST #3 referenced the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and spoke of his hardship. He queried whether there were any possible employment options or opportunities within the City.

Discussion ensued including assistance from The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO discussed the serious nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and recommended that we continue listening to the doctors.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE C. SIMONE said she truly valued the employees that were recognized for their years of service. She requested the residents take ten minutes of their time to complete the 2020 Census and highlighted its importance. She received notification from Florida Department of Transport (FDOT) that on June 9th, they were going to start construction on the bridge over Sample Road on State Road 7/441.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO referenced the COVID-19 pandemic and thanked the first responders and City employees. He also thanked City Clerk Kavanagh for his help with Zoom. He said that this was also the first live stream on the City's Facebook page and that he was excited and happy on how the meetings were being conducted. He advised his followers that he started to use Zoom for Margate businesses and that they could contact him if they wanted their organizations to be showcased. He discussed the meeting's viewing figures through various broadcasting platforms.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ thanked the City staff and suggested that when the COVID-19 pandemic was over, the list of long serving employees should be congratulated in person at a future meeting. She indicated that it was probably the first time in the 65-year history in Margate that they were not having a normal Memorial Day service. She referenced the Noise Ordinance and queried if the City could change Saturday's start time from 7:00am to 9:00am. She discussed illegal parking and referenced a problem on her street and reminded drivers not to park over the City's side walk as it was an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) violation. She referenced that restaurants were now operating at 50 percent and thanked those people who were following the rules and highlighted the importance of wearing a mask.

CITY ATTORNEY SMITH advised on the Broward County's Ordinance which references The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) guidelines on facial coverings. She explained that there was the exception that masks should not be placed on small children and were not required to be worn by persons who otherwise had difficulties breathing or food service employees.

Discussion ensued on facial coverings.

MAYOR RUZZANO requested CONSENSUS for a couple of items. He referenced the problems with Facebook live for tonight's meeting. He highly recommended that they fix the internet or get a dedicated Wi-Fi so that they could stream and record videos in the City's Chambers without being booted off. He asked for CONSENSUS from the City Commission to let the City Clerk and City Manager look into a new system

Discussion ensued including purchasing a new video camera.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to research upgrading various technologies in the Commission Chambers.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he found out that there was a new Broward League of Cities president, Traci L. Callari. He referenced a wellness program for the City to partner with Stacy Angier. He highlighted that over 40 percent were deficient in Vitamin D and when they were diagnosed, many people had health issues such as diabetes. He referenced COVID-19 and asked for the support of the City Commission to sit down with the community leaders to find out where they could go with this.

NORTH BROWARD HOSPITAL DISTRICT (NBHD) BOARD MEMBER STACY L. ANGIER explained that over the last three months, she had seen a lot of statistics and the most vulnerable were the ones that they needed to protect. She indicated that those who got sick, were the ones with comorbidities and had other issues. She discussed with her Board on how they could promote wellness and spoke of the importance of being proactive and to minimize diabetes and heart disease. She stated that children needed to be educated on how to eat properly. She suggested that they should work together to make their community better and believed that they could start some form of initiative to get their residents to understand some of the things they could do. She hoped in the

next few weeks that they could return and share information with the City that would give them some framework of what they may be able to do to make the community better.

MAYOR RUZZANO asked the City Commission for CONSENSUS for moving forward with this.

Discussion ensued including the City's health insurance, fitness classes and a Wellness Committee.

NORTH BROWARD HOSPITAL DISTRICT (NBHD) BOARD MEMBER ANGIER clarified that Broward Health District was a public hospital and that they treated the uninsured. She also advised that if they knew of anyone who was uninsured or required medical care, they would see if they could qualify. She emphasized that the hospitals were not full and that they should not be afraid in attending their physicians.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to move forward with a plan for COVID-19 to promote wellness and better health in the community.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO explained that resident, Mrs. Van Der Meulen, brought a situation to the City Commission's attention by email and asked the City Clerk to show an image of two vehicles.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS requested if the email could be forwarded to him and he would ask Code Enforcement to address that situation.

Discussion ensued on Code issues being brought to the residents' attention as reminders.

MAYOR RUZZANO referenced targeting their kids and indicated that he needed to get them active. He said that he had discussed with the City Manager about the possibility of looking into how many kids from Margate were involved in sports programs. He asked the City Commission for CONSENSUS for sponsoring every child in Margate by using Margate's sports fields and the taxpayers' funds which would be utilized from the Citizens' Project Fund from the Resource Recovery Board. He indicated that the project would not exceed \$100,000.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to have the City Manager research sponsoring the participation fees for every child in the City's sports programs by utilizing the money in the Citizen's Fund.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he was considering doing a time capsule in the City, especially in the year of the COVID-19 virus which could be opened in 50 - 100 years.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to research a time capsule program to be opened in 50 to 100 years.

MAYOR RUZZANO discussed the Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday and that people should think about the real meaning for this day. He said that he had been very active

with some of the Mayors within the County pertaining to the COVID-19 virus. He highlighted a very long Broward County meeting where discussion included the reopening of gyms and referenced the CARES Act where approximately \$340,000,000 was received from the State. He approximated that Margate should receive their fair share due of \$10,200,000 and that a Board was being formed in June to review the money distributed by the CARES Act to the Counties. He discussed the utilization of this fund and that the County proposed enhancing Code Enforcement.

Discussion ensued including the effects on Special Magistrates pertaining to Code Enforcement, the consideration of taking litigation against Broward County on the distribution of the CARES Act funds.

MAYOR RUZZANO discussed a project by Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) on Atlantic Boulevard. He referenced a call last week and thanked City Manager Curtis and Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES) Director Curt Keyser for intervening with their knowledge. He said that he knew that the City was limited to these type of meetings and indicated that the Board of Adjustment (BoA), Planning and Zoning (P&Z) and the Development Review Committee (DRC) have important items to discuss and referenced a drive-thru for Dunkin Donuts. He questioned if there was a way of conducting these meetings during the pandemic.

Discussion ensued including extending Board members' time limits versus selecting new Board members.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to extend the current terms of the BoA and P&Z Board, due to the COVID-19, to the last two weeks of August by bringing back a Resolution at the next Regular City Commission meeting.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS highlighted the criteria for Broward County's Phase I reopening and referenced adequate testing sites in Margate through Innovative Transfusion Medicine (ITM). He asked for CONSENSUS from the City Commission for the sponsorship of a blood donation and COVID-19 antibodies testing at the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) property on 5701 Margate Boulevard on May 26, 2020.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was granted by the City Commission to proceed with this event.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that they were working on a testing site in Margate which would be at no cost to those that had no insurance or were on Medicare and that they were also setting up a testing site for City employees. He announced that in commemoration of Memorial Day and the City's Military Banner program, they would be hanging military banners on Margate Boulevard.

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 2020-169](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: MARCH 20, 2020 -

EMERGENCY CITY COMMISSION MEETING; APRIL 22, 2020 - REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING.

APPROVED

- B. [ID 2020-183](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING LICENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARGATE AND THE MARGATE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR DEBRIS STAGING.

RESOLUTION 20-023

APPROVED

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Vice Mayor 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 2020-181](#) A RESOLUTION APPROVING REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE BROWARD METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) SURTAX PROGRAM TO FUND THREE PROJECTS; WINFIELD BLVD. IMPROVEMENTS, CITY BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN GREENWAY SYSTEM AND THE FIRE FIGHTERS PARK / WINFIELD BLVD. BRIDGE PROJECTS.

RESOLUTION 20-024

A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that this Resolution, should be approved.

Discussion ensued.

"Billy" said that this was his first Commission meeting in Margate. He commended the Commission for their efforts and concerns and concurred with the Commission's thoughts on the CARES Act distribution of funds from the County. He believed that he was in better hands where he lived. He said that they should work on the Wi-Fi and camera.

Discussion ensued.

The motion carried as follows:

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

- B. [ID 2020-182](#) A RESOLUTION APPROVING REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE BROWARD COUNTY TRANSPORTATION SURTAX REHABILITATION AND

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS FOR CYCLE 1 (FY-2020) TO FUND FOUR PROJECTS; REPAIR BRIDGE ON NW 76 AVENUE, REPAIR BRIDGE ON MARGATE BLVD., REPLACE ALL DAMAGED OR NON-FUNCTIONING VALLEY CURBING IN SEVERAL AREAS OF THE PARADISE GARDENS SUBDIVISIONS AND MILL AND PAVE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF ROADS.

RESOLUTION 20-025

A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Vice Mayor Schwartz, 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

7) ORDINANCE(S) - FIRST READING

- A. [ID 2020-123](#) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AMENDING APPENDIX-A ZONING; ARTICLE XXVIII - OPEN SPACE S-2 DISTRICT; SECTION 28.2 USES PERMITTED; SECTION 28.3 USES PROHIBITED; CREATING SECTION 28.7 LANDSCAPING, SECTION 28.8 YARDS, AND SECTION 28.9 FENCES, WALLS, AND HEDGES; PROVIDING FOR OPEN SPACE S-2 DISTRICT PERMITTED USES AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ spoke on this Item.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that golf courses had previously been removed from S2 zoning and that this Ordinance would be amended to allow the use of golf courses.

Discussion ensued on grammar.

This motion carried by the following vote:

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

8) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. [ID 2020-184](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - DISPATCH COMMUNICATION

MAYOR RUZZANO referenced Margate's fire services partnership with Coconut Creek and explained that there had been discussions to go to a new 911 dispatch communication. He said that this matter was on Coconut Creek's forefront to move forward but at their last City Workshop, comments were made which needed to be addressed. He said that he discussed this matter with Coconut Creek's Mayor Lou

Sarbone who was seeking feedback from the City.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO was interested to hear what was discussed with Coconut Creek's Mayor Sabone and questioned if they had already made a decision.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that they both know that they have the best department but questioned how it could be improved. He also questioned Mayor Sarbone if there was any chance of his Commission doing anything different although he did not know of the City's intentions. He said that they needed a better dispatch but was unsure how they would get there.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO expressed that this matter concerned him. He explained that he contacted Coconut Creek's Commission and thanked Vice Mayor Joshua Rydell and Commissioner Sandra L. Welch for responding. He said that he understood both sides, that the relationship could be saved and that they could find a middle ground. He hoped that they did not separate from Margate and believed that the Commission would need to decide if they wanted to enhance their communications or maintain the status quo. He said that they could not stay under Broward County and questioned if the City was willing to increase their costs.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO agreed with Commissioner Arserio and said that they did raise the Millage with the expectation of moving over to Coral Springs. He also spoke about an increase in taking over the total cost of the third fire station that Coconut Creek would no longer be serving. He said that they should enhance their call system but leaned towards creating their own unique system. He said that they would be able to maintain control of their costs by having their own call center and this would not be possible if they partnered with Coral Springs. He continued to question whether Coconut Creek would still have a union, a contract with Step plans, salary increases and he also discussed staff working hours. He estimated that it would cost the City approximately \$40,000,000 to enhance Margate's call center.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained how the Millage rate was increased to raise approximately \$1,500,000 for enhanced public safety which was identified as dispatch communications. He informed that if they stayed with Coconut Creek, there would be increased costs for adding a sixth station to the system. He advised that earlier this month, Coconut Creek had approved and taken action to move forward with a dispatch service with Coral Springs and transition the fire services in-house. He said at that meeting, they discussed transitioning fire services in-house and that they also authorized their Mayor to contact the City's Mayor and discuss whether Margate was willing to improve the dispatch communication system and indicated that would be the way that they continue the conversation on fire services. He said that he had worked with both the Fire and Finance departments and believed that they could furnish a proposal to Coconut Creek that included adding a sixth station and an improved dispatch communication system which could be considered by both Cities.

Discussion ensued including creating a Communications Taskforce.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS recommended that the City Commission allow him to put together a proposal for Margate and Coconut Creek to stay together for Fire Services, including a sixth Fire station and improved Dispatch services.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to have the City Manager work on this item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, to form a Communications Committee that would research into going with Coral Springs and negotiating some costs on their end and the City looking at doing their own and reporting back in the next few weeks.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Ruzzano said that a Motion was not needed.

The Motion was withdrawn.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that she just wanted to allow the City Manager Curtis to advise them of his proposals. She suggested that City Manager Curtis and Mayor Ruzzano return to their counterparts at the City of Coconut Creek and say that they were better together than separate.

COCONUT CREEK VICE MAYOR JOSHUA RYDELL was aware that Margate's City Commission listened to their meeting. He referred to a previous City Commission meeting, they agreed that the dispatch system in Broward County was not what any of their residents needed. He believed that the future was for both Cities to stick together and form a regionalization of Coral Springs, Parkland, Coconut Creek and Margate. He said that the Fire Union had also had discussions on creating a passing district for all four Cities. He strongly believed there would be a future together if they could all go to Coral Springs.

Discussion ensued including contracts, a special taxing district, retaining the partnership with Coconut Creek, funding the costs for joining Coral Springs' dispatch system and creating a regionalized system and the Millage rate.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE explained that she discussed this issue with City Manager Curtis about the City having their own 911 communication system since Coconut Creek had their Special Workshop. She informed that she had been a proponent of leaving Broward County 911 Dispatch System when it became evident that their system had major flaws and that she was still in favor of leaving if it could be done as the safety of their residents and first responders was paramount and should not be compromised. She indicated that their biggest mistake was leaving their own system. She elaborated that she had been diving deeply into this system with both City Manager Curtis and City Attorney Smith who were responsible for overlooking the Coral Springs' Dispatch contract. She explained that previously, she was all in for going with contracting services of Coral Springs but she recently learned that the conditions of their contract were not in the best interests of the City at this time. She suggested a Workshop with Coconut Creek and Coral Springs. She expressed that she would like to continue her partnership with Coconut Creek's fire service. She said that they had to be in charge of their own destiny and not be forced to be dependent upon the decisions of other cities. She questioned if Coral Springs was able to change their contract language and continued to

highlight the same. She also questioned the use of the revenue from the increased Millage rate.

CHARLIE ARTNER, 6631 NW 22ND COURT agreed with Commissioner Simone on Coral Springs' contract language. He spoke about Coral Springs' clause that they could raise the fee at any time and said it was very dangerous and was also unsure if they had paid off their debt from last year. He was concerned about the possibility of Margate residents having to pay for transport to the hospital if they had no insurance as the service that they were providing now may not be guaranteed. He believed that a regionalized service would suffer over time. He requested a return to the old system by being independent.

EDWARD A. DECRISTOFARO, 7805 WEST ATLANTIC BOULEVARD spoke from experience as being a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) member and suggested that the current 911 dispatch system needed to go. He said that moving to Coral Springs would be a better solution as they already had the background, the training and expertise which was needed. He strongly believed that staying with Coconut Creek would be the best solution.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO addressed and agreed with Mr. DeCristofaro's viewpoint on training and referenced Broward County Sheriff Gregory Tony's comments at a past City Commission meeting. He also addressed Commissioner Simone's points including meeting with Coral Springs and Coconut Creek for further discussions.

MANNY LUGO, 1129 EAST RIVER DRIVE referenced Coconut Creek's Vice Mayor Joshua Rydell's comments and indicated that they should look to the future instead of dwelling on the past. He discussed possible issues if they raised the Millage rate and said that Commissioner Arserio had the clearest thought process and understanding on this matter. He also highlighted the need for Coral Springs to raise their rate if required.

Discussion ensued including contracts, the 911 system and recommendations.

CITY ATTORNEY SMITH recapped that on September 5, 2019, they had their Ordinance on First Reading when they set the Millage and confirmed that the first time the language pertaining to the separation between the City of Margate and Coconut Creek was on September 11, 2019. She explained that they worked on the contract with Coconut Creek and Coral Springs for several months.

Discussion ensued on clarification as to where they were and forward thinking.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS recommended that the City Commission allow him to put together a proposal for Margate and Coconut Creek to stay together for Fire Services, including a sixth Fire station and improved Dispatch services.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to have the City Manager work on this item.

B. [ID 2020-185](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - JULY 4TH EVENT

MAYOR RUZZANO explained that July 4th was approaching and they would usually have an Agenda of proposed items.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained what had taken place in previous years at this event and that it attracted approximately 15,000 people. He informed that due to COVID-19,

they could probably not hold the typical July 4th event that they previously had. He advised that he had undertaken a survey of other cities and the majority have cancelled. He said that he also had a recommendation to cancel this event but was aware of some considerations for a modified fireworks show or parade.

Discussion ensued on having a modified or post-dated parade or party.

MR. ARTNER agreed with Commissioner Arserio and said that they should do the Parade. He indicated that it was the public's constitutional right if they wanted to attend this event.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that he wanted to handle this as two separate items of the fireworks and the parade.

Discussion ensued on a modified parade and floats.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to have the City provide a parade with music and lights, including participation by the Fire and Police Departments, by driving around the City on 4th July, with logistical plans to be provided at the next Regular City Commission meeting.

Discussion ensued on fireworks, costs and vendors.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR MICHAEL A. JONES explained that the price was for the vendor of their choice, Zembelli Fireworks, who also provided previous displays for Coconut Creek's Butterfly Festival and the Seminole Casino. He advised that the firework shoots were customized and that they had been the most successful in Margate. He said that they had always looked at cost effective ways for fireworks but indicated that other companies have not performed to the high quality as Zembelli. He recommended that if they did move forward with the firework display, the City Manager should put this out for solicitation of a bid which perhaps could be fast tracked and see what they come back with.

Discussion ensued on including reviewing other vendors, time scales on an open solicitation, social distancing and safety measures and that the event would not exceed 10 - 15 minutes which would be live streamed.

MR. ARTNER repeated his stance on the constitutional right of continuing the 4th July celebrations. He also discussed Broward County's previous decision on not allowing gyms to reopen.

MARILYN A. KNEELAND, 7955 NW 5TH CT, APT 108 spoke on the global effects of COVID-19 and said that she was in favor of the firework display with a live stream. She also voiced her concerns on the proposed Parade.

Discussion ensued on where the fireworks could be streamed.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to provide fireworks for 4th July including a discussion regarding using the existing vendor, soliciting other vendors and possibly bringing back three firework proposals for the next Regular City Commission meeting.

C. [ID 2020-186](#)

DISCUSSION - VETERAN'S CARE FACILITY IN MARGATE

MAYOR RUZZANO explained that there were reports that Margate did not want to

support a Veteran's Care Facility. He expressed his support for those facilities but said that they wanted to do it in the right way.

Meeting went into Recess.

Meeting Reconvened.

MAYOR RUZZANO read approximately 19 questions from residents on this Item.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO had the upmost respect for first responders and veterans and thanked them for their service. He also highlighted family members who have served in the military. He said that the Veteran's Care Facility had been tossed around loosely and questioned if there was a specific location in Margate or were they discussing the matter in general.

MAYOR RUZZANO clarified that it was Veteran's Care Facilities in general but there were locations in the City and that it could be opened up under a CF-1 area.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO did not have any problem with a Veteran's Care Facility but questioned what it meant, whether they could designate a property for veterans or was the business promising just to help veterans. He further questioned whether it would be for an assistant living facility that catered towards senior veterans, to help those who have returned from Afghanistan or Iraq or those that suffered post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He said that he would not have a problem if a detox facility was at a hospital setting. He continued to provide different scenarios.

Discussion ensued including adding this into the City's Code.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the Mayor received good questions and indicated that the City was very patriotic. She indicated that the City Attorney Smith would be able to advise them where the areas where certain things were zoned and where they would not have the opportunity to change them. She said that she was glad that this topic was being discussed due to the circulation of rumors.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO explained that the City was patriotic due to the voting of 100 percent tax exemption for veterans in Margate. He said that he spoke on the importance of helping veterans on Veterans' Day. He advised that he asked City Attorney Smith what it meant to have a Veteran's Care Facility

Discussion ensued on what the City did for veterans.

MR. LUGO explained that there was a big difference and that they should refer to it as a veteran's residence as it stated where they lived. He said that many veterans live in nursing homes and that they received coverage from the government. He advised that President Trump passed a law in 2019 for veterans to receive private support due to homelessness and the suicide rate. He said that it was positive for Margate but the federal application needed to be fast tracked.

MR. DECRISTOFARO explained that he conducted a research with US Department of Veterans Affairs and referenced that a Veteran's Care Center was different to that of a detox or alcohol rehabilitation.

Discussion ensued.

MR. ARTNER discussed a person who wanted to open a veteran's clinic in a specific location and also referenced focusing on PTSD.

Discussion ensued including a possible facility and zoning change.

MIRIAM E. JIMENEZ referenced Melaleuca Drive and said that they had a facility and contract with Veterans Health Administration (VA) and discussed the treatment for PTSD but sought consent from the City to work together. She provided further information about the potential facility.

Discussion ensued.

RICHARD ZUCCHINI, 380 LAKEWOOD CIRCLE E, #B explained that they were speaking about a specific property that was built for a medical use. He further elaborated on the history and zoning of the facility and thanked the Mayor for raising the consciousness of PTSD.

Discussion ensued including a veteran's task force.

CITY ATTORNEY SMITH clarified that they were still in litigation and that there was a proper process that needed to be followed which was in their Code. She explained that if she was looking to rezone that property, then the process would be to rezone it to a CF-1 and that currently, there were not in receipt of an application to do so. She said that on May 5th, they received an application for a Local Business Tax Receipt (LBTR) asking for the City to approve the medical use facility which was not allowed in the R-3 zoning. She said that the opportunity was to submit the rezoning to CF-1 to the City and let it go through its course.

Discussion ensued.

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC ATTORNEY KYLE B. TEAL said that he agreed with Commissioner Arserio. He advised that he was Counsel for the property owner, confirmed that the litigation was over and that they were not pursuing anything further. He said that it was not for a detox and that they wanted to have a collaborative productive discussion with the City about the facility. He continued to talk about the facility, the litigation case, the fee motion, creating jobs in Margate during the current economic crises and a business proposal to the City. He said that he would discuss re-zoning with his client.

Discussion ensued including Ms. Jimenez's case and application and the proposal of a shade meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY SMITH spoke further on Ms. Jimenez's case, application and zoning R-3 code.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that this Item may come before the Planning and Zoning Board. He thanked everyone for attending and also thanked CRA Coordinator, Rita Rodi, for her services at this meeting. He referenced the fireworks and said that he was advised that they would have to shut down a section of State Road 7/441 and suggested that this may help control the crowd. He spoke on the importance of wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:56pm.

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.

MARGATE REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING
FINDINGS AND PROCEDURE FOR VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

The Margate City Commission ("MCC") is holding a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. This statement explains the MCC's findings related to the need to hold the virtual public meeting, and the ability of the public to access the virtual public meeting.

The MCC's findings and procedure for the virtual public meeting are as follows:

- Pursuant to Governor DeSantis' Executive Orders 20-51 and 20-52, in which the Governor declared a public health emergency and a state of emergency, there is a recommendation to limit public gatherings.
- On March 20, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-69, suspending the quorum requirements for public meetings held by a local government body, and the requirement that a local government body must meet at a specific public place.
- Consistent with the authority contained in the Governor's Executive Orders, and in order to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the MCC's clients and employees, the MCC finds that it is in the best interest of the MCC to hold this virtual public meeting.
- Therefore, the MCC will be holding this virtual meeting through the use of electronic communication. Members of the public are invited to join the MCC meeting by accessing the meeting through this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220128841> or can listen in via telephone by calling one of the following phone numbers: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 - Webinar ID: 882-2012-8841
- A copy of the Agenda for this Virtual Meeting is posted on www.MargateFL.com and on the main bulletin board outside City Hall located at 5790 Margate Blvd, Margate, FL 33063.
- Any comments related to any item on the agenda can be submitted to the MCC via the following e-mail address: JJKAVANAGH@MARGATEFL.COM

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE CITY OF MARGATE'S VIRTUAL REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH, 2020 AT 4:30 PM

THROUGH THE CITY'S WEBSITE:

Go to www.margatefl.com

Go to "Agendas & Minutes" > Find the respective meeting date and click "Agenda Summary" to view the agenda items and see the Zoom meeting website address

THROUGH COMCAST CHANNEL 78:

If you are a Comcast/Xfinity customer, please go to Channel 78 to view the meeting.

PRIOR to the start of the meeting, email Public Comments to JJKAVANAGH@MARGATEFL.COM (all public comments that are three (3) minutes or less will be read into the record.)

ALTERNATE OPTION FOR VIEWING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING:**THROUGH ZOOM TECHNOLOGY:**

Instructions for Attendees\Participants:

Topic: "Virtual Regular City Commission Meeting"

Enter the following link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88220128841>

Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: 1-669-900-6833 or 1-929-205-6099 or 253-215-8782 or 301-715-8592 or 312-626-6799 or 346-248-7799

Webinar ID: 882-2012-8841

To virtually raise hand and be acknowledged to speak:

1. Users who call in can dial *9 to raise their hand
2. If going through mobile (phone\tablet) app, to raise hand select "Participants", then see option to raise hand.
3. On the computer users should click "Participants" then see option to raise hand
4. Once you have been selected to speak, you will be prompted to unmute your device or stay muted.