



City Commission

Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano
Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Antonio V. Arserio
Arlene R. Schwartz
Joanne Simone

City Manager

Samuel A. May

City Attorney

Janette M. Smith, Esq.

City Clerk

Joseph J. Kavanagh

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

6:00 PM

City of Margate
Municipal Building

PRESENT:

Richard Zucchini, Chair
Rob Reiner
Juli Van Der Meulen
Donald Fritz

ALSO PRESENT:

Janette Smith, Esquire, City Attorney
Robert Massarelli, AICP, Director Development Services, City of Margate
Andrew Pinney, AICP, Senior Planner, City of Margate
Lorraine Mayers, Regional Representative, South Florida Water Management District
Michael Worley, Superintendent, South Florida Water Management District
Susan Bodmann, Acting Director, Water Management Division, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services
Carolina Maran, Water Resources Manager, Broward County Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division

ABSENT:

Todd Angier

The special meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board of the City of Margate, having been properly noticed, was called to order by Chair Richard Zucchini at 6:07 p.m. on Tuesday, July 30, 2019. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a roll call of the Board members.

Chair Zucchini began by thanking everyone for their attendance and explained that this meeting is an informational workshop on water management.

Ms. Janette Smith, City Attorney commented on the multiple Commissioners in attendance this evening stating that if they do decide to participate in public speak that pursuant to Chapter 286(Sunshine), they speak to the Planning and Zoning Board or to the Panels directly. She recommends to not have further debate or discussions with fellow Commissioners, and cautions them as she is unsure if any of these items will come in front of them at a later date under quasi-judicial.

Development Services Department

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1) NEW BUSINESS*ID 2019-382***1A) PRIMARY SYSTEM OVERVIEW (presentation by South Florida Water Management District)**

Lorraine Mayers, Regional Representative, South Florida Water Management District, introduced herself and gave a PowerPoint Presentation on both the history and an overview of what they do at the South Florida Water Management District. She concluded by introducing Mr. Mike Worley to discuss his operations within Fort Lauderdale.

Mayor Caggiano had a question about salt water intrusion, asking how tough is it to keep pushing with fresh water to keep the salt water from coming in? Mr. Worley responded by explaining the process to create the pressure needed to prevent the salt water intrusion.

Mr. Mike Worley, Broward Superintendent, South Florida Water Management District introduced himself and thanked everyone for their attendance this evening. He then gave a brief PowerPoint Presentation on the areas of responsibility throughout Broward County.

Chair Zucchini inquired about the history of the C-14 canal asking if there has been a history of water levels and has that changed over time. Mr. Worley responded that the protocol is to meet with the Army Corp of Engineers, and that the canal is approximately seven feet above the gate line, he said the lowest limit mandated by the Army Corp is just under six feet. Mr. Zucchini asked about the run-off from agricultural areas? Mr. Worley responded that the water that comes from the agricultural areas goes through the cells of the storm water treatment areas.

Mark Collins, Public Works Director spoke on the district lowering the canals prior to hurricane season, this is in order to make room for capacity. He said that Margate's canal system flows into the C-14 canal, in which some of those canals are currently depleted. He asked what other canals beside the C14 that the district controls. Mr. Worley replied that they do not lower the canals prior to hurricane season, explaining that they are low due to dry season and nature, saying that they are always within the range of the recommended by the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Collins asked if there is anything that can be done by the City to retain the water within our areas? Mr. Worley responded that he is unable to answer that.

Vice Mayor Tommy Ruzzano, asked in regards to Margate's canals being gravity fed. Mr. Worley responded that the C14, G08, C13, C12, and New River (C15) do not have pumps; clarifying that the C14 is a gate/water control structure. Vice Mayor Ruzzano asked how water is pumped in? Mr. Worley stated that if there is a differential enough then they open the gates to let the water in, explaining that this is done in the control through telemetry.

Commissioner Arlene Schwartz mentioned "No Wake Zone" signage on the canals asking if those signs can be installed. Mr. Worley responded that the City of Margate would have to obtain the permit and install the sign.

Mr. Steve Wherry inquired about the interrelation between the local drainage system and the canal system, asking if the drainage system is designed with the expectation of the canal to be a certain level, and if this is factored into water level decisions or if this is a design function of older systems more sensitive drainage systems vs. newer system. Mr. Worley responded that this is a question that an engineer would have to answer, stating that the main function at the field station is maintenance.

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1B) SECONDARY SYSTEM OVERVIEW (presentation by Broward County Water and Waste Water Services)

Ms. Susan Bodmann, Acting Director, Water Management Division, Broward County Water and Wastewater Services introduced herself and gave a brief presentation on the secondary canal systems. She concluded by showing a slide of the canal systems prior to the development of the City of Margate, which has been incorporated around the City. She said that the characteristic of the City that causes it to be controlled by the C-14 Canal is the fact that all of the canals that come down to the C-14 is open to it, meaning that when the C-14 is up, the canals are up; and if the C-14 is down, it is draining into the C-14.

Vice Mayor Ruzzano inquired about reverse osmosis, asking if this is the way to go in Margate? Ms. Bodmann replied that she does not have an answer for that. Vice Mayor Ruzzano then asked about going through the County if Margate wanted to fill in a canal. Ms. Bodmann responded that the City would need to go through the County and possibly get a Surface Water Management Permit.

Mr. Mark Collins wanted to comment on the Cocomar Water District, stating that they are doing a wonderful job.

Mayor Anthony Caggiano wanted to say thank you to the presenters and the board, as well as to everyone else that came out to share valuable information and knowledge.

Mr. Manny Lugo, asked if Broward County Water and Waste Water Services is responsible when a canal wall fails and blocks the canal. Ms. Bodmann responded that if it blocked the canal then yes; explaining that if the canal is blocked then water cannot move, in which their goal is to move water in and move water out. She said that they are not responsible for the banks, stating that is the responsibility of the property owner.

Chair Zucchini mentioned the set-back for properties located on the canal. Stating that there may be situations where owners are building swimming pools next to sea-walls, which could weaken the structure of the sea-walls; he suggested that the City reconsider set-backs when building on the sea-wall.

Vice Mayor Ruzzano inquired about a canal located just North of Parkland, asking who paid for the embankment project. Response was received stating that was a capital project. Vice Mayor Ruzzano asked about the C-14 Canal. Response stating the C-14 is currently on the project list.

Dara Kustler, asked in regards to the flow easement and who determines the size and functionality. Ms. Bodmann responded that they vary, explaining the process.

Chair Zucchini introduced a member of the audience who has extensive experience in structural engineering, Mr. Lakdas Nanayakkara, inviting him to the podium to ask him a series of questions in regards to canal wall integrity. He first asked about what kind of maintenance needs to be done. Mr. Nanayakkara explained the different types of sea-walls and what could happen in they are not maintained; referencing construction that is being completed right now in neighboring North Lauderdale. Chair Zucchini asked in regards to tie-backs. Mr. Nanayakkara explained in detail how the system works, he also explained how the design of sea-walls work. Discussion ensued. Ms. Van Der Meulen asked who built the sea-walls? Mr. Nanayakkara responded that depending on the City, clarifying that those on private property are built by the homeowner.

Chair Zucchini asked what the lifespan is for both a tie-back and a deadman? Mr. Nanayakkara responded by explaining that a tie-back has a lifespan of forty-five to fifty years; where a deadman, depending on the anchoring connections, is rarely seen. Chair Zucchini asked if a failure of one concrete wall would cause other concrete walls to fail. Mr. Nanayakkara replied that sea-walls can last forty-five to fifty years with little maintenance depending on how it was built. He further explained how they are built and how they affect adjacent properties, stressing that it is recommended that they not be tied together.

Manny Lugo asked about replacing concrete walls with pylons? Vice Mayor Ruzzano responded that the wall is a separate entity form the pylons, explaining the process.

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1C) FUTURE CONDITIONS AND FLOOD MAP SERIES (presentation by Broward County Water Resources)

Carolina Maran, Water Resource Manager, Broward County Water Resources, introduced herself and gave a PowerPoint Presentation. She explained water assessment initiatives, and how those programs both inform and assist other efforts throughout Broward County. She explained the modeling efforts to evaluate water supplies and flood risks. Ms. Maran then discussed the map series, explaining the three maps and how they work along with their individual projections. She concluded by discussing a study by the Army Corp of Engineers to evaluate flood risks, which was based on scenarios of sea- level rise, high tide, and storm surge. Ms. Maran thanked the board for the opportunity to present this evening.

Chair Zucchini asked if raising the level of fresh water discharge and charging the aquifer at a better rate will keep the water level higher. Ms. Maran responded "yes". Chair Zucchini then asked about studies affecting the potable water supply in the aquifer and pollutants at the ground water level. Ms. Maran replied that there have been many studies investigating aquifer recharge and alternatives to our water supply and how aquifer recharge would work. Chair Zucchini asked about negative effects from agricultural or golf courses. Ms. Maran stated that she is not aware of any studies. Ms. Bodmann also replied referencing FDEP guidelines.

Vice Mayor Ruzzano asked about the L36 canal. Response received stating that it is a seepage canal for the levy.

Commissioner Schwartz commented on open space for more water retention, when taking one-hundred and twenty acres out of that system and building on it, asking if Broward County would provide information on that? Ms. Maran stated that there are pre-conditions to be met when developing any site; explaining the process. Commissioner Schwartz then asked about the process where a Developer would need to go to the County. Ms. Maran replied yes, they would have to go to the Storm Water Department.

Dara Kustler, 551 NW 76th Terrace, referenced the issues of erosion on either side of a canal, asking who is in charge of maintaining and inspecting this? Chair Zucchini responded that in this particular case it is not private property but that of South Florida Water Management District.

Chair Zucchini concluded the meeting by thanking all the presenters.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Prepared by Melissa M. Miller

Richard Zucchini, Chair