



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes City Commission Budget Workshop

Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz
Vice Mayor Antonio V. Arserio
Commissioners:

Anthony N. Caggiano, Tommy Ruzzano, Joanne Simone

City Manager Cale Curtis
Interim City Attorney Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

Wednesday, July 21, 2021

4:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 827 5043 4000

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82750434000>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

Mayor, Vice Mayor and City Commissioners attended in person.

City Manager Curtis attended in person.

Interim City Attorney David Tolces attended in person.

City Clerk Kavanagh attended in person.

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

[ID 2021-303](#) FY 2021-2022 BUDGET WORKSHOP.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS introduced the item and explained that the Finance Department put together a presentation for the proposed fiscal year 2022 Budget Workshop. He said that the presentation would incorporate an update on the state of the City and highlight the General Fund. He advised that today's goal was to set the tentative maximum millage rate which would be advertised on general notices. He welcomed Assistant Director of Finance Kelly Schwartz, Finance Director Mary Beazley and Budget Manager Decia Smith-Burke.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE KELLY SCHWARTZ presented a PowerPoint presentation and gave an overview of the state of the City. She highlighted that for the first time, the property values for fiscal year, 2021, actually exceeded the pre-recession value and the July Broward County Property Appraiser (BCPA) report reflected an

increase of 7.03%.

VICE MAYOR ANTONIO V. ARSERIO referenced the homestead exemption and questioned the amount of revenue.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SCHWARTZ explained that if there was a homestead exemption on a property, then the value was capped at 3%. She said that there were two parts that went into that calculation pertaining to revenue to the City. She advised that in the City, the assessed values was an Ad valorem and the second part was the millage rate for the taxable values. She continued to discuss the millage rate over the past 10 years and referenced the 7.7145 that they had proposed for fiscal year 2022 which was slightly down from the last two fiscal years. She said that fiscal year 2022 included an increase to the estimated revenue of 6.1%. She advised that when the City's property values increased, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) property values also increased and the City would be paying the CRA an additional \$400,000 next year. She advised that the \$1,500,000 increase was actually a net increase to the general fund of a little over \$1,000,000. She discussed the breakdown in the City's property taxes for their residents and highlighted that 8% of the properties in the City operated in Ad valorem. She also discussed how the homestead exemption affected the operation millage in the City, she compared the City's millage to neighboring cities, operating revenue per capita, Margate single homes fitting in with the rest of the County and full tax bills. She also touched on a few highlights of the fiscal year 2022 budget which included how the Fire Department's upcoming split with Coconut Creek impacted their budget, the Code Compliance proposed move from the Police Department to the Building Department as well as the eligible uses from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021.

COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO requested that for the next meeting, he would like to know what it would cost to run a 10 person Code Department and how much revenue they were recouping from Code Compliance and referenced the renter's license. He did not approve of the Code Compliance positions being in the budget book.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that the way the Code Department was being structured, it was anticipated that the revenue from the rental registration program would cover all of the additional new hires.

Discussion ensued on hiring personnel in the Code Department, considering outsourcing Code Compliance for the rental registration program and uncollected revenue.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SCHWARTZ discussed the new Code Compliance division with the Building fund and the ARPA of 2021. She moved onto the General Fund which she said was the most focused of the budget meeting as they were trying to set the maximum millage rate that would be reported to the Florida Department of Revenue (FDOR).

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ questioned the sum amounts in the revenue sources and also asked about the additional \$6,000,000.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SCHWARTZ indicated that the revenue sources were something they regularly spoke about when they had their budget workshops. She explained that they had budget numbers as well as having actual numbers and that they had to plan for the worst on the expenditure side.

Discussion ensued on budgeting over \$6,000,000 more than expected over previous years

to spend, the length of time to order a fire truck, cutting the purchase orders and rebudgeting money.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SCHWARTZ highlighted that the Ad valorem tax revenue was 8% of the budget pertaining to the proposed General Fund revenues. She discussed the impact of the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the State shared revenues which were starting to get back to pre-pandemic levels. She addressed the expenditure side, referenced the Fire and Police Departments using the most revenue as they made up 57% of the general fund budget. She advised that the City transferred \$4,600,000 to the CRA and that they received a number of capital requests this year and read through some of what was received.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE referenced that the City tried to raise the Fire Assessment Fee (FAF) on their residents but they were looking to spend approximately \$90,000 on a lobby renovation which she believed was a luxury item.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS discussed the proposed lobby renovation and received feedback pertaining to the first floor of the Police lobby which indicated that it was not very inviting or a comfortable place for the public.

Discussion ensued on the Police lobby renovations, City improvements such as updating the City Commission offices, repairing the water mains, FAF and the objective of having a media green room.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS discussed the budget.

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ suggested making the spare room in the Police lobby into an interrogation room.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SCHWARTZ continued with her PowerPoint presentation pertaining to the general funds.

Discussion ensued including renovations and using CRA funds for the City's budget.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SCHWARTZ continued with her PowerPoint presentation and discussed the Parks Bond funds.

Discussion ensued on Calypso Cove including the possibility of installing CCTV and a turnstile, implementing additional programs to increase revenue, renovations and upgrade, outsourcing the facility and possibly organizing a future Workshop to discuss the same.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SCHWARTZ concluded her PowerPoint presentation and repeated that the goal of this Workshop was to set their maximum millage rate and they would require a CONSENSUS on the same so that they could report it to the Department of Revenue's Electronic Truth in Millage (eTRIM) system and the draft proposed budget included the operating millage remaining the same at 7.1171. She read the debt service millages for the record and advised on the next steps. She informed that the final proposed budget book would be submitted by August 15, 2021. She read the dates of the next proposed public hearings.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE clarified the appearance of the City's fire trucks' exterior, the possibility of selling the Fire Administration building and referenced that only two bays could be sold.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS referenced the potential of selling the old Fire Administration building and said that he was reviewing a proposal from the property manager who did the listing. He explained that the properties had an estimated market value between \$425,000 - \$480,000, and that the City had no foreseeable use for it.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Vice Mayor Arserio, to have the millage limit set at 7.7145 as recommended by staff.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO suggested the following:

- Making more revenue and development for the City;
- Devising a plan for Calypso Cove;
- Removing dirt from Vinson Park and using it in the canal, making the park bigger and putting a co-op on Royal Palm to aid beautifying the City;
- Any accrued outstanding travel expenses should be rolled over to the following year for the City Commission.

He appreciated Assistant Director Schwartz for conducting her presentations over the last several years and said that the City was in a unique position but needed to have a plan.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO discussed the City's budget.

The motion carried as follows:

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

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ asked questions on the budget pertaining to the Program Coordinator, education training under the City Manager's budget, health and life insurance, page 91 pertaining to subscriptions and memberships, repairs and maintenance and Florida Retirement System (FRS) contribution.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS responded to Mayor Schwartz's questions.

FINANCE DIRECTOR MARY BEAZLEY responded to Mayor Schwartz's questions pertaining to the Annual Financial Report (AFR) software, annual maintenance and the year increase to the FRS rates.

Discussion ensued on updating the AFR software and the Florida Purchase Card system which provided a rebate based on volume.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE agreed that some costs needed to be cut and that they should find ways to bring in revenue. She questioned if they could look into doing some of the suggestions she made during the FAF.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced a payment box at a marina in Pompano Beach

to dock boats and suggested that they could do something similar at Margate. He asked Interim City Attorney Tolces if they could process traffic citations at the City.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY DAVID N. TOLCES indicated that they could look at that system to see if they could use the civil citation process and if they could go to the Special Magistrate for that as opposed to the County Courts.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ thanked everyone for attending the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards

Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: _____

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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.

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- A copy of the Agenda for this 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 City of Margate via the following e-mail address: JJKAVANAGH@margatefl.com.

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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.