



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes Regular City Commission Meeting

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, September 1, 2021

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 822 7528 4533

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82275284533>

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 Schwartz attended in person.

Vice Mayor Arserio attended via Zoom.

Commissioner Caggiano attended in person.

Commissioner Simone attended in person.

Commissioner Ruzzano attended in person.

City Manager Curtis attended in person.

Interim City Attorney Tolces attended in person.

City Clerk Kavanagh attended in person.

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

PROCLAMATION(S)

- A. [ID 2021-321](#) BROWARD MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT DAY - SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
(presented to Dr. Marsha Brown, Diann Geronemus, and Tim Curtin- Broward Mental Health Summit Committee Members)

- B. [ID 2021-365](#) SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH - SEPTEMBER 2021 (presented to Deborah Davis, Co-Chair of the Gun Safety Committee - League of Women Voters of Broward)
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF BROWARD COUNTY MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, PEGGY THOMAS, spoke on this Item.

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MANUELA COLON, 1370 NW 67 TER. said that he was a US Navy Veteran with two honorable discharges and was a volunteer for the military at Purple Heart City. He explained that in January 2015, he made it his mission to get all the cities, including Broward County, to become a Purple Heart City and read a statement on the same. He asked if the City would consider becoming a Purple Heart City.

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ asked Mr. Colon to give his handouts to City Clerk Kavanagh to distribute to the City Commission.

VICE MAYOR ANTONIO V. ARSERIO thanked Mr. Colon for his service and informed him that he was onboard with being a Purple Heart City.

COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO thanked Mr. Colon for attending.

Discussion ensued.

ELSA J. SANCHEZ, 6930 NW 15TH STREET, paid tribute to former Police Captain, Laura Sudman, on her retirement. She highlighted social media comments pertaining to Broward County's fair and requested more clarity on the same.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO responded to Ms. Sanchez's query on the Broward County fair.

Discussion ensued pertaining to social media comments and creating a news page/tab on the City's website so that the residents could obtain factual information on hot topics.

JULIE JONES, 7871 NW 1ST STREET, thanked Commissioner Ruzzano for saying that seniors were important. She discussed a Board of Adjustment meeting and referenced being intimidated as she alleged that a City employee asked her to turn her microphone off twice during the meeting.

TRACY VAN WINKLE, 1020 SW 61ST AVENUE, wanted advice on cancelling a contract for hurricane windows and referenced a permit being pulled. She thanked Fire Rescue for taking good care of her husband to the hospital last Sunday.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ requested that Ms. Van Winkle speak to Building Director Nixon.

Discussion ensued.

RICH ALIANIELLO, 7631 NW 23RD STREET, applauded Ms. Van Winkle for helping a resident. He spoke about parking issues in his neighborhood. He requested that people should get vaccinated.

MARILYN A. KNEELAND, 7955 NW 5TH CT, APT 108, publicized the next Keep Margate Green meeting pertaining to the future of the golf course.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ responded to Ms. Kneeland's comments.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO responded to Ms. Kneeland's comments.

Discussion ensued.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO highlighted the Sounds of Sundown event returning this Saturday and a 9/11 tribute at Firefighters Park. He highlighted that September 15th was the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month. He gave kudos to staff for doing a wonderful job on putting out a guide for hiring home contractors and obtaining City permits.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE said Happy Rosh Hashanah and congratulated Police Department's former Captain, Laura Sudman, on her retirement and wished her the best. She said that she could not find the strategic plan on the City's website and requested that it should be uploaded onto the same.

COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO said that the Police Department's former Captain, Laura Sudman, would be missed. He referenced the Pledge of Allegiance not being said in some school classes. He received letters from several residents pertaining to requests for installing speed humps on 31st coming off of State Road 7 near Arbor View. He wished his daughter, Sophia, a Happy Birthday. He encouraged people to get vaccinated.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that he had received the requests pertaining to the speed bumps and confirmed that they were in receipt of the studies and data completed on the area. He said that he wanted to discuss alternative traffic calming devices.

VICE MAYOR ANTONIO V. ARSERIO wished Police Department's former Captain, Laura Sudman, well in her retirement. He spoke about the traffic problems by the Charter School on 31st and Coral Springs and referenced Margate resident, Mr. Hall. He questioned who decided how the funds for The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was distributed.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that they were still awaiting the formal guidance from the treasury on what their eligible expenditures were. He advised that they knew what their allocation was and that they had received 50% of the funding which was booked as an unearned revenue. He explained that the simplest and easiest action they intended to use for the funds were for revenue replacement.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO spoke about the Code violations from the golf course and that the same had not been maintained. He repeated his request for residents to receive information and share hot topic items on the City's website.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS confirmed that there had been no indication from the City's side that the golf course had been sold.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ spoke about the Police Department's former Captain, Laura Sudman's dog. She said that for the last five years, Commissioner Ruzzano had requested information from the City on new businesses arriving in Margate and referenced the new and improved Communications Department. She spoke about traffic issues at schools in Margate and suggested a meeting with Coral Springs' Mayor Brook. She highlighted the 9/11 service at Firefighters Park. She referenced the American Rescue

Plan Act and requested conversations as to where the monies should go. She thanked Development Services Director Taschereau and her department for putting on a quality presentation pertaining to the Quasi-Judicial Public Hearing at the last City Commission meeting. She spoke about the Golf Course coming up in front of the Special Magistrate and referenced about two other golf courses that would be watching to see what was handed down.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO spoke about people buying homes in Margate and referenced liens on property and being Margate certified.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY DAVID N. TOLCES explained the process of the responsibility of title companies.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ advised that Walgreens were giving flu shots as well as vaccination and booster shots.

Discussion ensued on the booster shots.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Curtis said that Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Tony requested a meeting with a Commissioner and the City Manager to discuss fire rescue services.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS highlighted the grand opening of their covered sports field on September 18th, hosted by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). He followed-up a City Commission request to contact BSO Tony regarding Fire Rescue Services and sought direction from the City Commission for a meeting to take place which would include a member of the City Commission.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to have Mayor Schwartz attend the meeting with City Manager Curtis and BSO Tony.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS provided clarification on the Broward County fair.

Discussion ensued.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES explained that they filed a lawsuit to address a nuisance property on NW 1st Court seeking that it should be cleaned up and that he would provide updates as the lawsuit proceeds. He advised that they were getting up to speed and working with staff on all types of issues.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ wished everyone a Happy Rosh Hashanah.

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 2021-362](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: JULY 7, 2021 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING; JULY 9, 2021 SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING; JULY 14, 2021 REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING.

APPROVED

- B. [ID 2021-337](#) RESOLUTION - APPROVING AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH BROWARD COUNTY FOR COST SHARE SUPPORT OF A WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVES PROGRAM.

RESOLUTION 21-063

APPROVED

Approval of the Consent Agenda

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

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

MAYOR SCHWARTZ asked for CONSENSUS to move 8B up after Consent Agenda.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission.

8) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- B. [ID 2021-353](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - LINE ITEM FUNDING REQUEST BY UNITED WAY OF BROWARD COUNTY FOR READING PALS PROGRAM

Item 8B was heard immediately after Consent Agenda.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO expressed why he was a huge fan of this program.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE explained why she was opposed to this program and suggested that it should be funded by either the School Board or by sponsors. She recommended that United Way should contact the corporate office of Wawa and see if they could help them with this program.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO agreed with some of Commissioner Simone's and Caggiano's comments but said that any kind of outside help was better than nothing. He commented on flags not being in class rooms and also repeated that the Pledge of Allegiance was not being said at schools.

Discussion ensued including the lack of geometry teachers in schools.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO questioned whether there was any back-up. He said that he agreed with Commissioner Simone and suggested that they should put a pause on this program. He explained that they needed to put more pressure on the School Board.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that it had been a tough year and believed that there were no reading specialists anymore in elementary school. She understood both points of view and explained that she would fund it for one year but sought feedback from Margate Elementary School.

Discussion ensued on receiving data on reading levels and whether the City was burdening residents to fund this program.

UNITED WAY OF BROWARD COUNTY READING PALS PROGRAM MANAGER KRISTEN LEWIS confirmed that they would not be able to fund the program for Margate Elementary School if the City Commission voted against this item.

Discussion ensued on seeking funding from corporations such as Wawa.

MR. ALIANIELLO asked if any other City was supporting this in any way or form.

UNITED WAY OF BROWARD COUNTY READING PALS PROGRAM MANAGER LEWIS responded to Mr. Alianiello's question by listing the City of Hollywood, Miramar and that the City of Deerfield Beach was on their docket for approval for three schools in their community.

MR. ALIANIELLO continued to discuss this Item.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Ruzzano, to approve the line item funding for the United Way Reading Pals program of \$15,000 in Fiscal Year 2022. This carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Ruzzano and Mayor Schwartz

No: 2 - Commissioner Simone and Vice Mayor Arserio

6) ORDINANCE(S) - SECOND READING

- A. [ID 2021-345](#) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 33-POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT; OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, ARTICLE VI - TRAFFIC CONTROL, SECTION 33-69.50 REGULATING TOWING OF VEHICLES FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY AND SECTION 33-69.52 SUPPLEMENTAL LOCAL REGULATIONS; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF TOWING, IMMOBILIZATION, AND VEHICLE STORAGE RATES AS ESTABLISHED BY BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA; PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE 2021-11

MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned if this was to put our language in compliance with that of Broward County.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES confirmed that these were the towing rates.

A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, 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 Ruzzano, Vice Mayor Arserio and Mayor Schwartz

7) RESOLUTION(S)

- A.** [ID 2021-363](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING AN EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA AND J & J TOWING, INC. FOR PROVIDING TOWING AND WRECKER SERVICES TO THE CITY; PROVIDING FOR SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE FEES AND REMITTANCE; PROVIDING FOR TOWING RATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH RATES ESTABLISHED BY BROWARD COUNTY AS MAY BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME; PROVIDING FOR AN INITIAL FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION AND AN OPTION FOR ONE ADDITIONAL FIVE-YEAR RENEWAL SUBJECT TO ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 21-064

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Ruzzano, that this Resolution, should be discussed.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO said he was in favor of this item and believed that the company they were using had a good reputation with the City.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE was a proponent for Requests for Proposal (RFP) but said that there were no requirements in this case and having spoken to staff, they believed that there was no advantage to this. She continued to explain why she did not have a problem with approving this Item.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO questioned whether there were still any problems with the towing company parking on Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) property.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS was unaware of any current issues with the tow company.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO queried that as the City gave the towing company a one year extension last year due to COVID-19, he assumed that they were going to go out to bid.

MS. SANCHEZ said that they have used J & J Towing Inc. in her community for approximately eight years and never experienced any problem. She highlighted a misunderstanding with the company which was easily resolved.

MS. VAN WINKLE referenced Keep Our Money In Margate (KOMIM) and that they

should keep J & J Towing Inc.

Discussion ensued on the use of J & J Towing, Inc. and using a RFP.

The motion carried as follows:

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

- B.** [ID 2021-364](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING ITS SUPPORT OF THE BROWARD COUNTY AUDIT OF THE ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION DIVISION, REPORT NO. 21-05, DATED DECEMBER 16, 2020; PROVIDING FOR ITS SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES BY THE ANIMAL CARE AND ADOPTION DIVISION WITH THE GOAL OF PROVIDING BETTER CARE FOR THE DOGS AND CATS MAINTAINED AT THE SHELTER; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 21-065

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

Discussion ensued.

The motion carried as follows:

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

8) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION (CONTINUED)

- A.** [ID 2021-338](#) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - CALYPSO COVE AQUATICS FACILITY

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR, MICHAEL A. JONES, conducted a brief PowerPoint presentation which included providing recommendations for the project, illustrating images of proposed improvements as well as discussing some other topics of conversation that had been brought up in the past.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO had concerns about the amount of revenue that was lost from Calypso Cove and that this should be reviewed. He said that as they were losing money, he could not commit himself to putting more money into this facility.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE echoed Commissioner Ruzzano's sentiments and said that they should not put any more money into this park and should leave it as it is for now.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ suggested that they could remove the basketball court out of the playground and put in extra parking. She said that she would not spend \$25,000 each for a cabana and that they would need to redesign the pool and beyond that, she indicated that she would not put any more money into this park.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO agreed with all the City Commission's comments. He said that they should probably not put anything further into that Park apart from cameras and auditory measures. He suggested that they should fix up the park, emphasizing on safety but would recommend not to put any more money into it. He said that they should really look into the park and referenced outsourcing this facility.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JONES advised that he had made contact with an association about the potential of outsourcing the facility.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ continued to provide her suggestions on parking, better food and events at this facility.

Discussion ensued on a wide variety of issues regarding Calypso Cove.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS asked for CONSENSUS from the City Commission to proceed on the following items:

#1 Remove Basketball Courts, and playground, and replace with an expanded parking lot.

CONSENSUS was not given by the City Commission for #1

#2 Remove/Replace water playground in the activity pool with new Water Playground.

CONSENSUS was not given by the City Commission for #2

#3 Remove/Replace pool tiles in all three (3) pools.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission for #3

#4 Renovate pool surfacing and new Diamond Brite in all three (3) pools.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission for #4

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to proceed with installing loss prevention measures and bathroom renovations.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS listed the items to be considered and said that they would revert to the City Commission with a revised sculpt of work for them.

Discussion ensued.

MR. ALIANIELLO spoke about problems with the Diamond Brite process for pools.

MS. JONES spoke about the water pressure and electric hand dryer at the ladies restroom, a faulty shower and the concession stand at Calypso Cove.

MS. VAN WINKLE questioned if the pool at Calypso Cove was heated and if the facility

could be opened all year.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JONES responded to Ms. Van Winkle's comments.

Discussion ensued including if Calypso Cove could operate all year round which would then give consideration to the possibility of an annual pass.

MS. SANCHEZ had concerns about spending more revenue on Calypso Cove and discussed the condition of the ladies restroom.

JULI VAN DER MEULEN, 2913 NW 68TH LANE, compared a New York pool to Calypso Cove and said that it was not being utilized like a pool should be.

Discussion ensued including the size of Olympic pools.

MS. KNEELAND said that they should consider opening Calypso Cove at weekends during the winter.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:47pm.

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.

The City of Margate will be holding this meeting through the use of electronic communication. Members of the public are invited to join the City of Margate meeting by accessing the meeting through Zoom using Webinar ID: 822 7528 4533 or can call in via telephone by calling one of the following phone numbers: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099.

- 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.

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

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.)

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THROUGH ZOOM TECHNOLOGY:

Instructions for Attendees\Participants:

Topic: "Virtual Meeting - Margate Regular City Commission "

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To virtually raise hand and be acknowledged to speak:

1. Users who call in can dial *9 to raise their hand and dial *6 to toggle mute/unmute
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.