



# 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 Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman*  
*City Clerk Jennifer M. Johnson*

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Wednesday, February 7, 2024

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us  
Webinar ID: 862 3361 3189

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86233613189>

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 4 - Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, Commissioner Joanne Simone, Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz and Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

**Not Present:** 1 - Commissioner Antonio V. Arserio

### MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION BY LATOYA DEAN, PRINCIPAL OF ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 1) PRESENTATION(S)

**Commissioner Arserio arrived at 6:50 pm**

- A. [ID 2024-032](#) RECOGNIZING RICHARD UBER'S 5 DECADES OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO MARGATE'S WATER TREATMENT PLANT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (DEES)  
DIRECTOR CURT KEYSER paid tribute to Richard Uber.

DEES PLANT MANAGER, RICHARD M. UBER, spoke on this Item.

### STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

- B. [ID 2024-021](#) ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: SEBASTIAN MARTINEZ (STUDENT), NICHOLAS VARSALONA (TEACHER), (Ms. Latoya Dean, Principal and/or Ms. Laura Hennebery, Assistant Principal)

ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY: KAMILA SANDOVAL (STUDENT), LINDA CHALAS (TEACHER), (Mrs. Shereen R. Reynolds, Principal and/or Ms. Yahira

Tamayo, Assistant Principal)

BROWARD MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOLS: MARLINA AZARIA (STUDENT), STEPHEN JAY MATTHEWS (TEACHER), (Mr. Hasan Kose, Principal and/or Ms. Fabricia Santos Maraclo, Assistant Principal)

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY: ALEXIS HUMPHREY (STUDENT), BURCIN YALCIN (TEACHER), (Ms. Vicki Flournoy, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Styles, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE ELEMENTARY: KYRIE DAVIS (STUDENT), LAUREN JEDWAB (TEACHER), (Mr. Thomas Schroeder, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Rucker, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE MIDDLE: JULIA ANUNCIACION (STUDENT), GEMINNA DEL ROSARIO (TEACHER), (Mrs. Sabine Phillips, Principal and/or Mr. Thomas Morgan, Jr., Assistant Principal)

PHYL'S ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL: KYLEIGH AIKEN (STUDENT), CLAUDIA LAWRENCE JUNOR (TEACHER), (Ms. Afua Baptiste, Principal and/or Ms. Jalaja Cooke, Elementary Director)

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION FOR YEARS OF SERVICE**

- C. [ID 2024-034](#) RALPH C. SCAPERROTTA, POLICE OFFICER - POLICE DEPARTMENT - 30 YEARS

POLICE OFFICER SCAPERROTTA spoke on this Item.

**PROCLAMATION(S)**

- D. [ID 2024-026](#) AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH - FEBRUARY, 2024 (presented to Joyce Williams Bryan, Retired City Commissioner of Margate)

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO introduced, congratulated and presented Andy and Taylor Golfin with a Certificate of Recognition as the Couple of the Year for Valentine's Day.

TAYLOR GOLFIN spoke on this matter.

Discussion ensued.

Meeting went into Recess.

Meeting Reconvened.

**2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

MAYOR RUZZANO explained the protocol for this Item.

NINA CULVER read a statement on transparency and referenced the Fire Department.

JULIE JONES said that she would put her comments in writing and thanked Mayor

Ruzzano on the influence he had made in the City.

### 3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO apologized for not attending the last City Commission meeting. He wished everybody a Happy Valentine's Day and said that his sister would be turning 70 on February 15th.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE advised that the Fire Department was partnering with the Red Cross to install free smoke alarms for Margate residents on Saturday, March 9th.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO informed that his time spent driving around North West Margate with members of the City Manager's Office, Building and Building Code Director Nixon was very positive and interesting. He believed that overall, the Property Improvement Grant Program (PIP) was extremely successful and explained why those residents were successful in receiving the same. He indicated that many residents were not aware that there were other grant programs and sources of funding available. He highlighted the importance of the City Commission and staff having an "open door policy," especially towards the public. He referenced the last City Commission meeting where he announced that a Police Officer was giving out teddy bears and sought CONSENSUS (or a head nod) for a two hour City event where members of the public could bring a stuffed animal or small toy to give to the Police or Fire Department in return for a free ice cream or a Dandee Donut which he said he would pay for from his office account. He referenced that in the past, the City provided service to other cities such as Cape Coral and Ft. Myers during the storms and said that in order to get funding from the State and potentially a federal government, they needed to have certain criteria. He indicated that they were looking for a Pro-Pac Disaster Inflatable Structure to assist in hurricanes and storms.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ wished everybody a Happy Valentine's Day and thanked the members of the Fire Department who were in attendance. She questioned if the alarms were available to Margate residents without being installed.

FIRE CHIEF ROBERTO LORENZO explained that the American Red Cross (ARC) chose to conduct the installation of smoke alarms and he recommended that the residents should let the professionals perform this. He advised that alternatively, the residents could email the Fire Department to request that they install the device instead of the ARC.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the City was closed on Presidents' Day and highlighted that the Sounds at Sundown received their largest attendance to date. She thanked Fire Marshal Scholl for showing up at the Margate Association of Condominiums to discuss fire safety.

MAYOR RUZZANO thanked the Fire Department for attending this meeting. He said that he received an inquiry from a Margate resident and owner of a pressure cleaning company as to a cleaning project on Winfield Boulevard. He indicated that they could get the community involved in a project and clean up the streets. He informed that when he ran for City Commissioner in 2012, his goal was to make Margate a better City which he was still trying to accomplish and referenced properties on the water being more expensive. He said that his big goal was that five cities could all go by the waterway and said that City Manager Curtis informed him that there was a project on the Metropolitan

Planning Organization (MPO) that could implement something similar which could lead to their downtown.

CITY ATTORNEY DAVID N. TOLCES referenced the situation with the contract for Fire Station 58. He recommended that the City move forward and file some type of complaint in the circuit court seeking a type of clarification from the Judge in respect of the City's rights and the change orders which were still pending. He said that unless there was an objection, his office would proceed to file that complaint very shortly and hopefully be able to come to a resolution.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission for City Attorney Tolces to proceed with the filing of the complaint.

Discussion ensued.

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

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS informed that this weekend, Information Technology (IT) and their software vendor would be migrating their servers over to the cloud.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ highlighted her concerns about putting everything on the cloud and preferred if the City maintained this in-house.

IT DIRECTOR, PATRICK GARMON, explained that the cloud would be hosted by Central Square which was their vendor for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) in their main data center in New Jersey with another back-up in Las Vegas.

Discussion ensued on the cloud.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS was informed by Parks and Recreation Director Jones that Vinson Park's upgrade had been highlighted in The Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA) Journal.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO explained that there was still an abundance of Homestead fraud in Broward and Miami Dade's respective counties and referenced homes that were being rented. He questioned whether there was any potential software available that they could review to use and prevent this from re-occurring.

MAYOR RUZZANO informed that there was a bill to receive an additional Homestead exemption.

CITY CLERK JENNIFER M. JOHNSON explained that the City was still receiving applications year round and highlighted that from next month, they would be conducting appointments for the Planning and Zoning Board and the Board of Adjustment and encouraged everyone to apply if interested.

Discussion ensued.

#### **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.

No items under Consent Agenda.

## 6) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2024-029](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, AWARDED RFP 2023-016 - STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTING SERVICES TO BERRY, DUNN, MCNEIL & PARKER, LLC; PROVIDING FOR TOTAL COMPENSATION NOT TO EXCEED \$78,600; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that representatives from Berry Dunn (BD) were available via Zoom.

BD'S PRINCIPAL, SETH D. HEDSTROM, introduced himself.

BD PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT MANAGER, MICHELLE KENNEDY, introduced herself.

A question and answer session ensued between the City Commission and BD's representative.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ requested an overview of how they would review goals and objectives. She also questioned the length of time completing this and how it would be effective as they ran their organization from another State.

BD PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT MANAGER, KENNEDY, informed that they often saw a lack of discipline of measuring progress omitted from local government strategic plans. She explained that upon reviewing the City's existing plan, one of things they noticed was missing were performance measures which BD included in all their plans so that they were actionable and people could be held accountable for making progress and reporting results. She informed that the typical timeline for strategic planning, regardless of its size, was anywhere from six to 12 months. She explained that their team members were located all over the country and proposed project manager, Karen Whichard, who was unable to attend, was nearby and based in North Carolina. She confirmed that a lot of the representatives that would be onsite at Margate were East Coast based as well as having a very strong presence in Florida where they have worked with four different cities or they would represent virtually.

Discussion ensued on "smart goals" and measurement.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO believed that this was needed and expressed that he was excited to do this. He said that although there was a lot of good to come out of the last strategic planning, he was not entirely happy with it and it could have been conducted much better. He was content if BD had to travel to Margate or if it had to be conducted virtually. He referenced data gathering and questioned whether this would include public surveys.

BD PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT MANAGER, KENNEDY, confirmed surveys but explained that it would not involve a third party and would not be statistically valid.

Discussion ensued on surveys.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that BD used a web based program called Social Pinpoint but this poll was in addition to but not the same as the community survey.

MAYOR RUZZANO expressed that although he was for this Item if it was successful, he did not want to see them going into a strategic planning meeting and asking "what their top five priorities were" as he was concerned that nothing else would get completed. He was not keen on virtual meetings.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that with any strategic planning, they have a variety of input from the community and the City Commission and that they would have only so much capacity to accomplish everything for everybody. He explained that they would try to focus on key priorities, goals and have a core group of objectives that the City would strive towards. He advised that the majority of things that the City should do was to tie back with one of those objectives and it was intended to keep them strategically focused on moving in a direction that the City Commission envisaged.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO said that the City needed a strategic plan as they have to have a direction and path as otherwise, they would just stagger from one situation to another.

MAYOR RUZZANO wanted to hear from the public and listed his priorities as:

- Public Safety
- Water
- Sewer

and everything else could be dealt with on a code or Ordinance level. He discussed his dislike of a discussion pertaining to pressure washing sidewalks at a previous strategic planning meeting.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she was on the fence with this Item due to her past experience and as there was no presentation, she did not know what they would be receiving and would therefore be voting on something that they did not fully understand.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO responded to Commissioner Simone and suggested tabling this Item so that she could get those answers.

Discussion ensued on tabling this Item.

ELSA J. SANCHEZ, 6930 NW 15TH STREET, did not understand this Item.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that this Resolution should be tabled to the next City Commission meeting scheduled for February 21st, 2024. This carried as follows:**

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

- B. [ID 2024-035](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE WAIVER OF BIDDING, PERFORMANCE, AND PAYMENT BOND REQUIREMENTS FOR A CRITICAL PORTION OF BID NO. 2024-002 - CALYPSO COVE AQUATIC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS DUE TO NO BIDS BEING RECEIVED DURING THE OPEN FORMAL BIDDING PERIOD; AWARDED SAMMET POOLS, INC. THE WORK RELATED TO REMOVAL OF EXISTING PLAY STRUCTURES AND INSTALL PREPARATIONS FOR NEW PLAY STRUCTURES, POOL DECK REPAIRS AND POOL SURFACE REFINISHING AS PER SAMMET POOLS, INC. PROPOSAL DATED JANUARY 1, 2024; NOT TO EXCEED \$165,000 FOR MAIN SCOPE OF WORK; ALLOWING FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY PERCENT CONTINGENCY FOR POSSIBLE POOL DECK EXPANSION AT \$23.50 PER SQUARE FOOT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

**A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Arserio, that this Resolution, should be discussed.**

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR, MICHAEL A. JONES, explained that this Item was for the demolition of the existing equipment and the previous Items that they had already been approved were for the purchase of the material for the new equipment.

Discussion ensued including a question and answer session between Parks and Recreation Director Jones and the City Commission.

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

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

- C. [ID 2024-036](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR NEW LED LIGHTING AT FIREFIGHTERS PARK AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$495,000; APPROVING THE WAIVER OF BIDDING REQUIREMENTS AND THE UTILIZATION OF A PIGGYBACK CONTRACT FROM CLAY COUNTY, FLORIDA WITH MUSCO SPORTS LIGHTING, LLC; PROVIDING FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

MAYOR RUZZANO questioned why the City had to piggyback off of Clay County when they had already used Musco Sports Lighting.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JONES indicated that the City had never formally organized anything in terms of awarding the standardizing of parts or any kind of agreements and that they had to always go out for competitive bids. He informed that

Clay County's contract was already completed and anything that the City received would be a discount which is evident from the back-up that there was a deduction from their contract.

Discussion ensued.

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

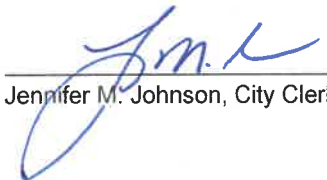
**Yes:** 5 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Arserio, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards

  
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Jennifer M. Johnson, City Clerk

Date: 3/21/2024

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.

Members of the public are invited to view this meeting through Zoom using Webinar ID: 862 3361 3189 or can listen 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](http://www.MargateFL.com) and on the main bulletin board outside City Hall located at 5790 Margate Blvd, Margate, FL 33063.

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