



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

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 863 6592 2436

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86365922436>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION BY GINO GRIFFIN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

- A. [ID 2024-044](#) RECOGNIZING RACHEL ROBUSTE OF LIBERTY ELEMENTARY AS BROWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' 2024 SCHOOL-RELATED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

RACHEL ROBUSTE spoke on this Item.

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

- B. [ID 2024-043](#) ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: AMAYA LESS-BEEZER (STUDENT), AUREALLE HUGHES (TEACHER), (Ms. Latoya Dean, Principal and/or Ms. Renate Ramirez, Assistant Principal)

ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY: AAMIR HOSSEIN (STUDENT), DIONNE COLEY (TEACHER), (Mrs. Shereen R. Reynolds, Principal and/or Ms. Yahira Tamayo, Assistant Principal)

BROWARD MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOLS: EDRIANE MENDES (STUDENT), DEAJA O'NEAL (TEACHER), (Mr. Hasan Kose, Principal and/or Ms. Fabricia Santos Maraclo, Assistant Principal)

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY: TIFFANY TRINH (STUDENT), FLOR MELENDEZ (TEACHER), (Ms. Vicki Flournoy, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Styles, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE ELEMENTARY: ERIEL MCNEIL (STUDENT), MELISSA MILLER (TEACHER), (Mr. Thomas Schroeder, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Rucker, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE MIDDLE: ALBERTO MILIAN (STUDENT), JORGE MEJIA (TEACHER), (Mrs. Sabine Phillips, Principal and/or Mr. Roderick Daniel, Assistant Principal)

PHYL'S ACADEMY PREPARATORY SCHOOL: JAYLA CARTER (STUDENT), CARMEN HENRY (TEACHER), (Ms. Afua Baptiste, Principal and/or Ms. Jalaja Cooke, Elementary Director)

RISE ACADEMY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: JEREMIAH ZETRENNE (STUDENT), OMAR ARCHER (TEACHER), (Dr. Adriana Guerra, Principal)

WEST BROWARD ACADEMY: TESSANNE ASHMEADE (STUDENT), RANCENE GRIFFIN (TEACHER), (Mr. Derrick Hugue, Principal and/or Ms. Rossana Padron, Assistant Principal)

Students and Teachers of the Month was paused to allow for Proclamation(s) Item C. ID 2024-046. Students and Teachers of the Month continued thereafter.

PROCLAMATION(S)

- C. [ID 2024-046](#) IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH - MARCH, 2024 (presented to Hugh Matthew Higgins, Broward County Division Vice President of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Representative)

MR. HIGGINS spoke on this Item.

Meeting went into Recess.

Meeting Reconvened.

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO explained the protocol for this Item.

POLICE OFFICER, ANTONIO CARECCIA, referred to the recent Mayor's Challenge Kickball Championship where the Police Department won bragging rights over the Fire Department. He discussed the recent passing of colleague, Jeffery Arbogast and said that the Fire and Police respective Departments did an outstanding job.

Discussion ensued on the Mayor's Challenge Kickball Championship.

THE NORTH BROWARD HOSPITAL DISTRICT (NBHD) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CHAIR, STACY L. ANGIER, 1913 NW 79 TER, gave her condolences to the City pertaining to the loss of Police Sergeant Arbogast. She discussed the Broward Heart Project for qualified Broward County residents that

pertained to free preventive screenings for cardiac tests. She also discussed the Broward Health Hospital group.

Discussion ensued.

RICH ALIANIELLO, 7631 NW 23RD STREET, highlighted the importance of getting health checks.

ELSA J. SANCHEZ, 6930 NW 15TH STREET, addressed her concerns on political signs being displayed months in advance of an election.

TRACY VAN WINKLE, 1020 SW 61ST AVENUE, sent her love and prayers to the Arbogast family and City employees. She also sent her love to the Mariah Witherspoon's family who was the teenager who recently passed away at Margate Middle School. She repeated her plea for the City to pay attention to their employees.

JULIE JONES stated she was devastated for the loss of Police Sergeant Arbogast and discussed the same.

RICHARD ZUCCHINI, 380 LAKEWOOD CIRCLE E, #B, discussed comments from Mr. Alianiello and Ms. Angier's comments on health matters. He read a State statute which he alleged overrode community associations that stipulates that there was a right to put signs out within the year of the election.

LAUREN BERACHA, 6950 NW 14TH PLACE was appalled by the Margate Talk article and discussed the same. She said that she supported the Chief.

DONNA L. FELLOWS, 6108 NW 9TH COURT referenced power, terrorists and a City Commissioner.

NICOLE COLLINS provided her opinion on an article and said that Chief of Police Galaska was an amazing person.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO discussed the passing of Police Sergeant Arbogast and informed on how to donate to his family.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO questioned if they could put information pertaining to the passing of Police Sergeant Arbogast on channel 78.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE extended her deepest sympathy to the Arbogast family and discussed his funeral. She reminded that it was daylight saving time this weekend. She thanked Public Works and City departments for their responsiveness to their residents.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO concurred with Commissioner Simone's comments pertaining to Margate employees and shared a resident problem that was resolved.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE highlighted that Broward County had a new program for homeowners for hurricane hardening, minor home repair, sewer conversion and barrier free/special needs which was also available to Margate residents. She provided her comments on the Chief of Police Galaska's investigation, addressed her concerns on the Police Department and said that the City needed to take action. She always believed that the hiring and firing of the Chief of Police and Fire Chief should not come from the City Commission.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO echoed Commissioner Simone's comments on Chief of Police Galaska and discussed the same. He also addressed comments that were made in the Sun-Sentinel by the City Commission. He said that the City Commission was obligated to take some form of action and continued to discuss the report. He was concerned with a separate incident from a retired Police Lieutenant which alleged potential ethical and criminal violations which were unrelated to the text messages. He indicated that there were more allegations to come and that Chief of Police Galaska should resign or be terminated. He believed that the City Commission had an obligation to have a Special City Commission meeting to discuss three things:

- The course of action for Chief of Police Galaska;
- To conduct an additional investigation by a firm; and
- Need to discuss the report that was received and if no action was made, he would send it to the State Attorney.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that initially, he was going to add this Item pertaining to Chief of Police Galaska to the Agenda but found out that a City Commissioner was going to discuss it. He said that they only received one side of the story and referenced a City Commissioner blasting the Chief Galaska in a newspaper.

Discussion ensued on being polled by the City Manager Curtis pertaining to Chief of Police Galaska.

MAYOR RUZZANO agreed to scheduling a Special City Commission Meeting as soon as possible.

CITY ATTORNEY DAVID N. TOLCES outlined the procedure for calling a Special Commission meeting.

Discussion ensued on setting up a Special City Commission meeting and the report of Chief of Police Galaska.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ stated that she read all three volumes of what went on for the previous investigation. She continued to discuss the current report and said that the Investigator indicated that there could be a third investigation. She addressed the person and said that poor judgment was used but did not believe that it led to the level of firing. She indicated that this was not the night to discuss Chief of Police Galaska.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that the Publix of Palm Lakes was gone and highlighted that there was a Margate Inner-City Transit that used to stop there and take people to both Winn-Dixie and Walmart. She explained that the City Manager was going to review what he could do to reintroduce that route for the Palm Lakes community as it could not stop at a construction site.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO questioned whether the City Manager called everyone in regard to Publix being able to work on Sundays which he supported and indicated that it could speed up the reopening of the store. He explained that some non-driver seniors lived nearby and did rely on attending that Publix.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that it was to allow Publix to work with different hours.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE thought that City Manager Curtis did speak with her which she was in agreement with.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ was asked to look into people who were driving up the entire easement from Rock Island Road to the gate and used it as a personal parking spot. She requested that "no parking" signs should be implemented as it was City property.

MAYOR RUZZANO confirmed that the City was all set to have their Special City Commission meeting and indicated that it would be announced when they had the time certain although his preference was a 7:00pm start. He provided his own comments on the allegations made against Chief of Police Galaska and said that before he took that position, he never received a complaint. He hoped that everything would go well for Chief of Police Galaska and advised that he would stand by him 100%. He wanted a workshop as soon as possible on discussing fire and public safety. He referenced pushing the three men on a truck and the three men on a rescue and said that they were the only City in Broward County which did not do it. He liaised with the Fire Department about this initiative and said that one of their trucks needed a minimum of four people.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO agreed with Mayor Ruzzano about the fire truck initiative which he had discussed at length with a number of the firefighters and union leadership but said that it would come down to cost. He explained that if a fire fee needed to be raised, then the City could not shy away from raising the fee and indicated that he had some creative ways of doing if costs were an issue. He referenced that Coral Springs used old volunteers that were just equally or more certified than the hired firefighters and that they called them reserve or part time firefighters but they did not receive the full benefits. He would have to speak to the experts but would support that concept.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that in 2016, she always supported it as you would not put only two men on a fire truck.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO concurred with the City Commission's comments about appointing three firemen for the fire truck. He quoted an approximate fee of \$1,400,000 for the first year and explained that they would have to work out how they would raise that capital.

MAYOR RUZZANO suggested installing a camera at the back at Margate's Sports Complex to livestream Sounds at Sundown on channel 78. He referenced building a driveway for a client in Coconut Creek and was informed that he had to plant five trees on the person's home to get the final inspection and was unaware of that Code. He highlighted a similar situation of a resident installing a pool in Coral Bay and asked if there was an alternative to planting five trees on a property and questioned if they could put in a Code that they could donate the tree.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS would research to see if it was only applicable to commercial properties and would revert back.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO requested City Manager Curtis to inform the City Commission if it was commercial only so they could possibly amend the Code which he had concerns with and referenced that it could be problematic with a certain canopy.

Discussion ensued.

MAYOR RUZZANO received positive feedback as well as an increase in registrations for the Margate Baseball League that started recently and thanked the Parks and Recreation team.

Discussion ensued.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

There was no City Manager's report.

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.

- A. [ID 2024-048](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES: JANUARY 31, 2024
REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Approval of the Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, 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 2024-050](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE AWARDING THE FIRE STATION 98 RENOVATION PROJECT TO LLORENS CONTRACTING, LLC AT A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$247,256.00, PLUS A CONTINGENCY PROVISION OF 10% TO COVER UNANTICIPATED EXPENSES; AUTHORIZING THE UTILIZATION OF CITY OF MARGATE FIRE IMPACT FEES FOR THE FIRE STATION 98 RENOVATION PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ questioned what provisions the City had if the contractor omitted to include items on the original contract.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS hoped that this was a simple renovation project but they could never be sure of unforeseen circumstances so they have included a small contingency to cover those types of things.

Discussion ensued.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

- B. [ID 2024-052](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, APPROVING, WITH CONDITIONS, A TEMPORARY USE PERMIT FOR HILDEBRAND AMUSEMENT RIDES, INC., FOR PERMISSION TO HOLD "A SPRING FAIR" AT 1000 NORTH STATE ROAD 7, FROM MARCH 15, 2024 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ referenced an extra week when the children were in school and that people go to work and that the applicant should be mindful of the volume being turned down from the music. She realized that there had not been a complaint pertaining to noise.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO said that although he understood that small children may be in school during those times, he explained that Margate was a city for all ages and there were other people that were in town and that Spring break was at various times. He understood keeping the noise down during the late hours.

MS. FELLOWS requested extra Police on the street and indicated that the tournament would coincide with Broward County tournament at AMF Bowling due to anticipated increased traffic.

MS. SANCHEZ said that she was against the length and late hours of the Spring Fair and referenced breaking the times of the fair which continued to get approved.

JOSHUA D. RYDELL LAW OFFICE, JOSHUA RYDELL, 101 SW 6TH STREET, FORT LAUDERDALE, who was the applicant's representative said that when this item passed by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) board, they talked at the end of the meeting about having some banners from CRA businesses on the fence if they wanted to. He also discussed this with Development Services and confirmed that any of the CRA businesses could erect a banner, they were more than welcome to which he assumed the City was okay with. He said that if they were successful this evening, they would be prepared to provide the Students of the Month with 100 entry tickets and if the bowlers wanted to attend, the applicant would offer a discount. He advised that it would be a smaller event and that he had spoken to Chief of Police Galaska that they would be putting in a supplemental security plan. He addressed Mayor Ruzzano and said that they had a tree mitigation fund which would essentially permit cities to write checks which allowed for trees, shrubbery and planting to put into associations so that it was not an additional rise to some of those businesses.

This motion carried as follows:

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Arserio, Vice Mayor Schwartz and Mayor Ruzzano

No: 1 - Commissioner Simone

7) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. [ID 2024-062](#) ~~DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION - KOMIM KARES FOUNDATION, INC., IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FOR PAUL FOUNDATION, REQUEST FOR WAIVER~~

~~OF FEES AND STAFF COSTS TO CONDUCT A BINGO AND MUSIC EVENT TO
PROVIDE DONATIONS TO THE ARBOGAST FAMILY~~

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards


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: 863 6592 2436 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 and on the main bulletin board outside City Hall located at 5790 Margate Blvd, Margate, FL 33063.

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 information

ALTERNATE OPTION FOR VIEWING AND LISTENING TO THE MEETING THROUGH ZOOM.US

Instructions:

Topic: "Margate Regular City Commission Meeting"

Enter the following link to join the webinar: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86365922436>

Telephone:

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

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099