



City of Margate

5790 Margate Boulevard
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Meeting Minutes

Special City Commission Meeting

Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Vice Mayor Joyce W. Bryan

Commissioners:

Lesa Peerman, Joanne Simone, Frank B. Talerico

City Manager Douglas E. Smith

City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

Tuesday, November 22, 2016

6:00 PM

Commission Chambers

CALL TO ORDER

Present: 4 - Commissioner Joanne Simone, Commissioner Lesa Peerman, Vice Mayor Joyce W. Bryan and Mayor Tommy Ruzzano

Not Present: 1 - Commissioner Frank B. Talerico

In Attendance:

City Manager Douglas E. Smith
City Attorney Douglas R. Gonzales
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

1) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2016-720](#) CONFIRMING CERTIFICATION OF NOVEMBER 8, 2016, ELECTION RESULTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Vice Mayor Bryan, that this Resolution be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Simone, Commissioner Peerman, Vice Mayor Bryan and Mayor Ruzzano

Not Present: 1 - Commissioner Talerico

2) PRESENTATION(S)

- A. [ID 2016-723](#) SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY ELECTED CITY COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO (SEAT #1)
- B. [ID 2016-724](#) SWEARING-IN OF NEWLY ELECTED CITY COMMISSIONER ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ (SEAT #2)
- C. [ID 2016-725](#) SWEARING-IN OF CITY COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO (SEAT #4)

RECESS - Cake and refreshments will be served.

THE MEETING RECONVENED FOLLOWING THE RECESS AND REFRESHMENTS.

1) RESOLUTION(S) - Continued

A. [ID 2016-721](#) ELECTION OF MAYOR

A motion was made by Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, seconded by Commissioner Arlene R. Schwartz, for unopposed Mayor Tommy Ruzzano to retain the Mayorship for one more year.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN asked why Commissioner Elect Caggiano wanted to go off the rotation and protocol.

COMMISSIONER ELECT ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO felt that Mayor Ruzzano deserved to be Mayor again because he ran unopposed.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE stated that the Mayor and Vice Mayor positions had historically been rotating positions. She explained that two years ago the Commission agreed not to break rotations. She explained that Margate did not have a Strong Mayor form of government, the Mayor did not receive an extra vote and there were no additional influences to being Mayor or Vice Mayor. She said that it was only a ceremonial position and title and it was disingenuous to treat it otherwise. She mentioned the Downtown project and said that it would be sad to deny someone from the rotation of the title because of having a different view or opinion. She reiterated that the Mayor and Vice Mayor positions should continue to rotate and differences should not be a factor. She stated that it was not fair play to not honor the rotation.

An amendment was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Commissioner Peerman, to nominate Commissioner Lesa Peerman.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN questioned whether she and Commissioner Simone should be voted down first to avoid the appearance of a Sunshine violation.

CITY ATTORNEY DOUGLAS R. GONZALES said that could be done if the Commission chose to do that.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN said that she would second the amendment and it could then be voted down.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES explained that there was a motion to amend the original nomination on the floor now, which had been seconded. He stated that there would be a vote on that motion to amend.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN explained that she would then amend to nominate Commissioner Simone and the Commission would vote that down to avoid the appearance of a Sunshine violation.

MAYOR RUZZANO explained that with regard to rotation, at a prior point he was supposed to be Vice Mayor; however, Commissioner Peerman and Commissioner Simone did not vote by rotation. He said that he was voted Vice Mayor, 3-2 against their

votes because they felt he did not have enough experience. He added that the Downtown project was not the topic of discussion tonight.

COMMISSIONER ELECT ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ explained that she seconded the nomination for Mayor Ruzzano because through normal rotation Vice Mayor Bryan would have been next to be Mayor, but she was no longer here. She added that because Mayor Ruzzano ran unopposed, the City had confidence in him. She said that it had nothing to do with the Downtown project.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN withdrew her second on the amendment.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES noted that BACK TO ORIGINAL MOTION

COMMISSIONER SIMONE said that she was unopposed when her time as Mayor came up in rotation, but at that time she let it go.

COMMISSIONER ELECT SCHWARTZ said that she understood the Charter indicated that the Mayor could succeed himself one time.

CITY ATTORNEY GONZALES said that was correct.

RICH POPOVIC, 6066 Winfield Boulevard, noted that the prior positions were not always rotated. He felt that the reason the motion was to keep Mayor Ruzzano as Mayor was because he did a good job.

MANNY LUGO, 1129 East River Drive, said that new ideas with newly elected people were needed.

The original motion carried by the following vote:

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

B. [ID 2016-722](#) ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR

A motion was made by Commissioner Peerman, seconded by Commissioner Simone, to nominate Joanne Simone as Vice Mayor.

An amendment was made by Mayor Tommy Ruzzano, seconded by Commissioner Anthony N. Caggiano, to nominate Commissioner Arlene R. Schwartz as Vice Mayor.

COMMISSIONER PEERMAN again noted that the Commission was not following rotation. She felt that Commissioner Schwartz could do the job; however, she was not here for the past 12 years. She noted that Commissioner Simone should be next for the rotation.

The motion as amended carried by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Commissioner Schwartz, Commissioner Caggiano, Commissioner Peerman and Mayor Ruzzano

No: 1 - Commissioner Simone

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Carol DiLorenzo



Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: 2/6/17