



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes City Commission Budget Workshop

Mayor Tommy Ruzzano
Vice Mayor Arlene R. Schwartz
Commissioners:
Antonio V. Arserio, Anthony N. Caggiano, Joanne Simone

City Manager Cale Curtis
City Attorney Janette M. Smith
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

Thursday, July 16, 2020

5:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86494031459>

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

Commissioner Caggiano attended via Zoom

Commissioner Simone attended via Zoom

Commissioner Arserio attended via Zoom

Vice Mayor Schwartz attended in person

Mayor Ruzzano attended in person

City Manager Cale Curtis attended in person

City Attorney Janette M. Smith attended via Zoom

City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh attended in person

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

A. [ID 2020-244](#) FY 2020-2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP.

MAYOR TOMMY RUZZANO introduced the Budget Workshop and thanked everyone for their efforts of putting together the 2020/21 Budget.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR KELLY SCHWARTZ gave a PowerPoint presentation of the 2020/21 Budget. She explained that they would be focusing on the general funds as the purpose was to set the Millage rate ceiling by the end of the meeting which would

be sent to the County. She discussed a variety of items, including the proposed 911 dispatch system and the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and how it would impact the City. She discussed the next steps which included going through the Budget book and she would discuss any questions or changes that may be raised. She advised that by August 15th, they would have a new proposed Budget book which would incorporate the changes that they discussed. She said they would have the first Public Hearing on Thursday, September 3rd and second Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 16th, where they would formally adopt the Millage rate and Budget.

MAYOR RUZZANO thanked Assistant Finance Director Schwartz for her presentation. He discussed property values in Margate being one of the lowest in Broward County and referenced the lack of revenue makers. He indicated that one of the ways they could improve home values in the City was highlighting and promoting their water ways. He was not a big fan of eliminating a Plans Examiner in the Building Department and said that he wanted Inspections to operate on Fridays. He referenced the bond money for Calypso Cove and expressed that he would have preferred to have seen some numbers before they made a decision. He questioned whether fund 334 was the Cellphone Tower fund.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR SCHWARTZ explained that they transferred money from the Cellphone Tower money to source the Capital Project fund for Parks and Recreation projects.

CRA COORDINATOR RITA RODI read a statement pertaining to the City's virtual public meeting pursuant to the Sunshine Law and Governor DeSantis' Executive Order.

COMMISSIONER ANTONIO V. ARSERIO requested a future Workshop to go over Calypso Cove. He agreed with Mayor Ruzzano's comments about the water ways and increasing property value but said that they would also need homes that were Code compliant.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ thanked Assistant Finance Director Schwartz, Finance Director Beazley and City Manager Curtis for reviewing the Budget Book with her. She referenced the Plans Examiner and questioned whether the three members of staff who work in Development Services who have planning as part of their background, could examine plans.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS said that they did but it was a different discipline and explained that the Plans Examiners in the Building Department were looking at plans for engineering, mechanical and plumbing. He said the Planners in Development Services were looking at issues such as zoning requirements.

Discussion ensued on the two Code Officer positions and whether it would have anything to do with the Plans Examiner.

BUILDING DIRECTOR RICHARD R. NIXON said he wanted to offer more services to the residents and community, and increase revenue for the Building Department. He also informed that he was working on a Landlord Registration program where property owners who rented could have their properties inspected and properly maintained. He hoped that this would keep the aesthetics of their community to a higher standard and would also hold the property owners accountable for what occurred at their properties.

Discussion ensued including the duties of a Code Compliance Officer, the request to review plans and conduct Inspections on Fridays, enforcing unlicensed activity and Homestead properties and a Renters program.

CITY ATTORNEY JANETTE M. SMITH explained that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, both she and the Building Director Nixon were working on the renters' program and staff were putting together the formalities. She advised that once the program was put together, it would be brought to the City Commission in the form of an Ordinance.

Discussion ensued on putting a process together for a City's renters program and comparing it to Broward County and Coral Springs, to provide training to Code Enforcement on educating the public and issuing on-the-spot fines for citations.

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO said he spent time with the Finance Department and did not have any further questions. He thanked Assistant Finance Director Schwartz and Finance Director Beazley.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE noticed that they were receiving \$0 from Aztec where they used to receive \$300,000. She questioned whether they needed to conduct a Workshop on recycling, referenced page 91 and highlighted the different revenues. She questioned and discussed the future of recycling. She also suggested a Workshop on Calypso Cove and whether they were going to move forward with the Lazy River project and proposed implementing a water themed mini golf/putt-putt at that site if the Lazy River was not possible. She disagreed with the continuation of \$15,000 to the ReadingPals program. She referenced the \$25,000 for Neighborhood ID signs and suggested that it could be postponed for this year. She said that the City's focus should be on safety and infrastructure. She said that the Police Teletype with the 24-hour window was good. She indicated that the revenue from the ReadingPals program and Neighborhood ID signs could go towards the Police Teletype program, infrastructure and safety and referenced the 911 dispatch. She referenced General Donations and questioned why it had doubled from \$7,225 to \$15,000 and she raised the same question pertaining to the doubling of money for Promotional Activities.

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR SCHWARTZ said that the first two columns of fiscal year 18 and 19 were actual numbers and the 20 and 21 were budgeted. She said in those years, they would have had higher budgeted numbers but they would actually spend less and they showed the actual numbers.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that in prior years, the City Commission had approved a limit on that budget of \$15,000. He asked the City Commission for CONSENSUS if the General Donations and Promotional Activity line items were something that they wished to lower.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE asked about the league dues which were steadily increasing every year which now stood at \$20,650 and referenced additional costs for gala events. She believed that the budgeted amount for the League dues should cover everything for the various leagues.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said he was taking a list of the City Commissioners Items to add or decrease from the Budget which he would sum up towards the end of the meeting and would ask for CONSENSUS on the same. He said that some of the Items that were specific to the Budget which the City Commission spoke about were not necessarily going to make an immediate impact on next year's Budget.

Discussion ensued on a cancelled gala event.

COMMISSIONER ARSERIO addressed Commissioner Simone's comments. He also discussed Mayor Ruzzano's comments on citations.

MAYOR RUZZANO said that they would make sure that they had a Workshop between now and the next Budget meeting to include Recycling and Calypso Cove.

Discussion ensued including Aztec, ReadingPals, joining the National League of Cities and recycling sites.

CITY CLERK JOSEPH J. KAVANAGH explained the protocol for submitting a Public Discussion.

There was no public comment.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that their goal was to receive as much feedback as possible from the City Commission so that they could incorporate those changes into the final proposed Budget that would go before them at the Public Hearing in September. He said that he heard a number of different requests for City Commission Workshops on Park Bonds, Code Enforcement and Recycling. He repeated that anything that came out of those meetings would not necessarily impact the Budget. He listed the specific Items with the City Commission in terms of increasing and decreasing. He read from the list and asked the City Commission for CONSENSUS for the City to incorporate those changes and present it back to them in September at the Public Hearing. He discussed the suggestion of incorporating a membership with the National League of Cities which was estimated at \$6,000 per year. He asked whether there was support from the City Commission to add that into the Budget or replace it.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to join the National League of Cities and increase the line item from \$20,000 to \$26,000.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS referenced the ReadingPals program budgeted at \$15,000. He said that City Clerk Kavanagh informed him that they were continuing the program through virtual means and asked if it was something that the City Commission still supported as a whole.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR SCHWARTZ said someone should contact United Way to establish whether the ReadingPals program took place from March, 2020 to June, 2020.

Discussion ensued on the practicalities of ReadingPals conducting this program virtually.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS suggested that they leave the ReadingPals Item in there until they received more information as to how they were administering their program and

before any donation was made to the program. He said that the next Item on his list was a discussion on increasing a potential Code Officer position and possibly seeking a partnership with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) on that Item.

Discussion ensued on the additional Code Officer position.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS referenced Neighborhood ID signs that were budgeted at \$25,000 which had been in the City's budget for years. He asked the City Commission for CONSENSUS on this Item.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to approve the Neighborhood ID signs program at \$25,000.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS referenced the General Donation Budget at \$15,000 and explained that historically, they had spent \$7,000 and \$9,000 and whether they wanted to lower it down to something within that range.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to decrease the General Donation Budget to \$10,000.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS referenced Promotional Activity budgeted at \$8,000 and said that historically, it was approximately \$4,000 which was a similar concept to the General Donation Budget.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to keep the Promotional Activity Item at \$8,000.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that they increased the league dues by \$6,000 so he did not think they would decrease it. He said that the last Item was setting the tentative maximum of the Millage rate which was proposed as an operating rate of the same as last year of 7.1171. He advised that if you added in the debt service that decreased of 7.7383 for a total millage of 7.7383, this was a slight reduction of total Millage of year over year which he recommended carried out Margate's Strategic Plan that the City Commission put forward.

He asked the City Commission for CONSENSUS on the Millage rate so that he can inform Broward County Property Appraiser and that they can put it out on Notice.

Discussion ensued.

CONSENSUS was given by the City Commission to agree the Millage rate at 7.7383.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS recognized Assistant Finance Director Schwartz for the PowerPoint presentation and the work that she put into the Budget behind the scenes. He also praised Finance Director Beazley and Budget Manager Smith-Burke and that it was a job well done.

Discussion ensued on the phenomenal and tremendous job that the Finance Department

did and gratitude was also expressed to other City staff.

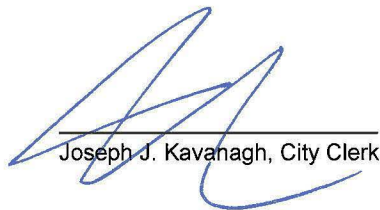
FINANCE DIRECTOR MARY BEAZLEY thanked the City Commission for their time and questions and that they would have a new proposed draft before August 15th and then they would be waiting for their Budget Hearings in September. She thanked Assistant Finance Director Schwartz and Budget Manager Smith-Burke for all their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards



Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: 8/28/2020

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's procedure for the virtual public meeting are as follows:

- Pursuant to Governor DeSantis' Executive Orders 20-51 and 20-52, in which the Governor declared a public health emergency and a state of emergency, there is a recommendation to limit public gatherings.
- On March 20, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-69, suspending the quorum requirements for public meetings held by a local government body, and the requirement that a local government body must meet at a specific public place.
- On June 23, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-150, extending Executive Order 20-69 regarding local government public meetings until 12:01 a.m. on August 1, 2020.
- Consistent with the authority contained in the Governor's Executive Orders, and in order to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the City of Margate's residents and employees, the City of Margate finds that it is in the best interest of the City of Margate to hold this virtual public meeting.
- Therefore, the City of Margate will be holding this virtual 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: 864-9403-1459 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 Virtual 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.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE CITY OF MARGATE'S VIRTUAL CITY COMMISSION BUDGET WORKSHOP

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M.

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

THROUGH COMCAST CHANNEL 78:

If you are a Comcast/Xfinity customer, please go to Channel 78 to view the meeting.

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.)

ALTERNATE OPTION FOR VIEWING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING:**THROUGH ZOOM TECHNOLOGY:**

Instructions for Attendees\Participants:

Topic: "Virtual Meeting - City Commission Budget Workshop"

Enter the following link to join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/86494031459>

Telephone:

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

US: 1-669-900-6833 or 1-929-205-6099 or 253-215-8782 or 301-715-8592 or 312-626-6799 or 346-248-7799

Webinar ID: 864-9403-1459

To virtually raise hand and be acknowledged to speak:

1. Users who call in can dial *9 to raise their hand
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.