



# City of Margate

5790 Margate Boulevard  
Margate, FL 33063  
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## 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*  
*City Attorney Janette M. Smith*  
*City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh*

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Wednesday, June 2, 2021

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us  
Webinar ID: 864 5304 3988

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86453043988>

### CALL TO ORDER

### MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### ROLL CALL

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

All of the City Commissioners attended in person.

City Manager Curtis attended in person.

City Attorney Smith attended in person.

City Clerk Kavanagh attended in person.

### 1) PRESENTATION(S)

**A. [ID 2021-167](#)** POST-SESSION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE HUNSCHOFSKY, DISTRICT 96

DISTRICT 96 - FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTINE HUNSCHOFSKY said that she was honored to be at the meeting and to see everyone in person. She provided a brief update on the 60-day legislative session and advised that they had an additional special session dealing with the Seminole compact and gambling in the State of Florida. She detailed a list of bills that she had worked on, some of which were amended and heading to the State Governor's desk. She was thrilled to announce that the budget was signed today and that the sum of \$500,000 would be paid to the City's Utilities Supervisory Control and the Data Acquisition System upgrade was in the final approved signed budget. She also advised that the City had two Florida Recreation Development

Assistance Program (FRDAP) grants that they received for Coral Gate Park (\$50,000) and Winfield Park (\$50,000). She advised that overall, it was the largest budget in the history of the State of Florida. She also advised that the State was fortunate to receive an additional \$10,000,000,000 from President Biden for the Florida Rescue Plan. She said that there was also an additional \$20,000,000 in School Mental Health initiatives which she thought was important. She informed that it was not a good year for local government and referenced several preemption bills and home based businesses. She said that her office was available to help with anything and indicated that the City work with them on the appropriation requests at their earliest opportunity and advised that there would be grant funding available.

A question and answer session ensued with the City Commission and Florida State Representative Hunschofsky.

**B. [ID 2021-235](#)**

READINGPALS PROGRAM UPDATE (Presented by Kristen Lewis, ReadingPals Manager)

UNITED WAY OF BROWARD COUNTY READING PALS PROGRAM MANAGER KRISTEN LEWIS informed that they did not receive funding through the City for this program due to issues pertaining to the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). She provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining their request to apply for funds for this upcoming school year at Margate Elementary School.

A question and answer session ensued between the City Commission and Reading Pals Program Manager Lewis.

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ recommended leaving this as a line item in the budget and would await for Reading Pals to provide further information where it could be discussed at a future City Commission meeting.

**C. [ID 2021-240](#)**

PRESENTATION BY ETC INSTITUTE - 2021 CITY OF MARGATE COMMUNITY SURVEY

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS explained that a couple of months ago, the City engaged the services of ETC Institute which undertook a formal citizen survey for the City and that Mr. Ryan Murray was here to present those results to us.

ETC INSTITUTE PROJECT MANAGER, RYAN MURRAY said that they were the national leader in market research for government organizations across the country for approximately 35 years. He gave a PowerPoint presentation via Zoom providing detailed analysis from the results of the survey and recommended some top priorities for improvement. He summarized by saying that the ratings were excellent and that there were some great comparisons. He also explained that the performance benchmarks that they provided was something that they could work on over the next couple of years before completing another survey to see how priorities had shifted.

Discussion ensued pertaining to the results from the scientific survey including a question and answer session between the City Commission and ETC Institute Project Manager Murray.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS thanked the City Commission for their support in putting this survey out. He indicated that the survey would be a very valuable tool for the City to see where they were doing well and also where they would need to focus on resources into very specific areas which they were very excited about. He thanked Mr. Murray and his team and recognized City staff. He said that he was very proud of their customer service

results and that they would share the data from the survey on the City's website.

Discussion ensued including the possibility of the City Commission looking at some performance range data in comparison to other organizations and a suggestion that the City Commission reviewed the questions before any future surveys were distributed.

### **PROCLAMATION(S)**

D. [ID 2021-210](#) LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH - JUNE, 2021

E. [ID 2021-211](#) NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY - JUNE 4, 2021 (presented to Debbie Mendelson, Moms Demand Action for Gun Control Volunteer)

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO highlighted the problems with gun violence.

MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN CONTROL VOLUNTEER, DEBBIE MENDLESON, read a statement and thanked the City Commission for their unwavering support for addressing the causes of gun violence.

Discussion ensued on gun violence.

## **2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

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

PRESIDENT OF THE MARGATE LIONS, SYDNEY KING, highlighted an event on June 14th at Veterans Memorial Park. He expressed that Margate Lions fully supported the proclamation pertaining to violence with guns.

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ discussed the Margate Lions event.

RICH ALIANIELLO, 7631 NW 23RD STREET, referenced the ETC Institute survey and suggested tweaking Margate's 911 system.

JULIE JONES, 7871 NW 1ST STREET congratulated Commissioner Ruzanno's baseball team on winning the Championship.

## **3) COMMISSION COMMENTS**

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO commented on events over the Memorial Day weekend.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE sent her condolences to Juli Van Der Meulen for the passing of her father. She congratulated Battalion Chief Vassil for being honored by the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward for the Fire Chief Donald DiPetrillo Paramedic Lifetime Achievement Award. She asked for an update on a Tamarac initiative that she highlighted at a recent City Commission meeting pertaining to small family owned restaurants.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS referenced the Tamarac restaurant business initiative and advised that Communications and Marketing Manager, Maria Fallon, had been in contact with Development Services in putting together their own type of program.

COMMISSIONER SIMONE referenced a new garbage contract with Republic Services, Inc. from the last City Commission meeting and suggested using part of the Resource

Recovery money to help offset the difference that residents would pay for the increased rates for the first year. She indicated that the residents would be footing the bill for many expenses and said that some, of which, were on tonight's Agenda. She recommended a freeze on all expenditures that were not critical to the operations of the City until those ticket items were resolved.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO sent his condolences to the Van Der Meulen family. He thanked Ms. Jones for the compliment. He highlighted that Summer Camps would be available and Calypso Cove would be operating seven days per week. He referenced Commissioner Simone's comments pertaining to property values increasing in Margate and upward spending in the City. He said that he was always trying to increase revenue and that he was still waiting for a boat trip on the canals. He asked for a survey to be distributed to those residents who lived in the City in excess of twenty years. He asked why the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Chair abstained from voting at their meeting last night.

CITY ATTORNEY JANETTE M. SMITH explained that P&Z Chair Zucchini made a statement on the record and that he would be completing a form.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR ANTONIO V. ARSERIO said that it was good to be back collectively after approximately 15 months. He referenced Commissioner Ruzzano's comments and said that he was a huge advocate for the waterways. He discussed having a collaborative effort with the surrounding cities and suggested that they could work together. He referenced the survey and said that it was a work in progress. He spoke about another wonderful event at the Firefighters Park pertaining to the Cousins Maine Lobster food truck and said that he spoke to City Manager Curtis about making some minor tweaks.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that at 6:00 a.m., Police Officers Phanor and Druzbik were on Wake Up Margate and indicated that those were some of the outreach programs that many may not be aware of. She referenced the survey and recognized the City Clerk's Office for being an integral part of Margate. She also recognized the Department of Environmental and Engineering Services (DEES). She thanked Mr. King for the Flag Day event and also thanked volunteers and staff members from the Parks and Recreation Department for erecting the awnings and arranging the seating for Memorial Day. She indicated that it was the first time in years that their bills were not vetoed by the State Governor and she was thankful to receive the \$500,000 match and two grants. She referenced the City's boards and said that it was unacceptable to admonish staff as they followed the rules.

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

CITY MANAGER CURTIS gave a warm welcome to Information Technology (IT) Director, Patrick Garmon. He advised that they had already started the outreach for the Residential Rental Registration program through social media platforms. He said that on June 17th, Broward County was holding a public information virtual meeting pertaining to improvements on Royal Palm Boulevard and Rock Island Road and forewarned of the heavy construction in that area.

Discussion ensued on the Royal Palm Boulevard and Rock Island Road improvements.

DEES DIRECTOR CURT KEYSER discussed permit fees and said that they would not interfere with Broward County's job unless there was a complaint or an issue. He explained that they recently went to online permitting and that Broward County had



submitted the same digitally but that they refused to comply with some of the basic requirements. He said that he would probably need to converse with a Broward County staff member about their refusal.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that the store Five Below Zero, would be opening in mid-June in Lakewood Mall. He informed that the Parks and Recreation Department had put all the pieces together for the Gardening Club and that they were soliciting for volunteers on their website and Facebook post.

Discussion ensued on recruitment for the gardening club.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE requested an update about the restocking of carp in the canals.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS informed that he would follow this up with Public Works Director Collins pertaining to restocking.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE referenced the intersection of Royal Palm Boulevard and Rock Island Road and said that previously, they had spoken about trying to extend the left turn lane on 441 and Royal Palm Boulevard. She informed that the medium was too long/wide as vehicles going straight were blocking cars that wanted to drive onto 441.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that the storm water drainage was a key component which was in the center of the medium and that they were able to get either the County or the State to change the sequences of the lights at that intersection where the straight through lanes went first. He said that he would look at potential options for reconfiguring that intersection.

Discussion ensued.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO referenced the opening of the waterways and canals and said that if they did move motorized vehicles into the water, they had enough movements on the oil slicks to prevent fish from being killed and destroy the environment.

Discussion ensued on Palm Aire.

CITY ATTORNEY, JANETTE M. SMITH, extended her condolences to Juli Van Der Meulen and appreciated her attending last night's P&Z meeting. She referenced the property at 7714 NW 1st Court being discussed at a previous City Commission meeting pertaining to possibly foreclosing with all their fines and liens. She advised that as of today, she had received a power of attorney from someone on that property and she was trying to work with that individual moving forward.

CITY CLERK KAVANAGH thanked Mayor Schwartz's for expressing her kind words and all the City Commission for their support, motivation and other accolades that they had given to him and his staff. He said that it was a pleasure to work with all of them and to represent the City.

## 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 2021-200](#) A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE UTILITY AND ACCESS EASEMENTS FOR MAINTENANCE OF WATER AND SANITARY SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE AT 5510-5550 WEST COPANS ROAD; PROVIDING FOR A PUBLIC RESPONSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 21-040

### Approval of the Consent Agenda

**A motion was made by Commissioner Caggiano, seconded by Vice Mayor Arserio, 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

### 6) RESOLUTION(S)

- A. [ID 2021-204](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, RESOLUTION TO WAIVE BIDDING AND APPROVE AN AGREEMENT OF THE ACQUISITION OF PRODUCTS, WARRANTY, TRAINING, AND REPAIR SERVICES FROM AXON ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED FOR THE OFFICER SAFETY PLAN 7+ TO EQUIP OUR SWORN POLICE PERSONNEL WITH BODY WORN CAMERAS, REPLACE EXISTING TASERS TO THE UPGRADED MODEL, ACQUIRE UPGRADED INTERVIEW ROOM CAMERAS AND A NEWLY CONSTRUCTED REPORT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. THIS PROPOSED AGREEMENT IS OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD AT A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$1,499,996.30.

RESOLUTION 21-041

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

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO asked whether the money that was being appropriated was for the equipment, the data and warranty.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS believed the answer was yes.

CHIEF OF POLICE, JON SHAW, thanked the City for recognizing him in today's presentation and that it was very humbling to see those results during the COVID-19 pandemic. He discussed the all-inclusive package and referenced body worn cameras, replacing the tasers and storage for evidence.

Discussion ensued on body worn cameras including how the video footage would be utilized, applying for a grant, the length of the contract and warranty, implementing

operational expenses and whether this Item should be funded regionally by Broward County or by forfeiture money.

**The motion carried as follows:**

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

Meeting went into Recess.

Meeting Reconvened.

- B.** [ID 2021-234](#) A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA, RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF FIRE RESCUE SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS IN THE CITY OF MARGATE, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING THE ESTIMATED ASSESSMENT RATE FOR FIRE RESCUE ASSESSMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2021; DIRECTING THE PREPARATION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL; AUTHORIZING A PUBLIC HEARING AND DIRECTING THE PROVISION OF NOTICE THEREOF; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RESOLUTION 21-042

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

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO asked about setting the fee and whether this recommendation would be a final decision.

Discussion ensued.

**An amendment was made by Commissioner Ruzzano, seconded by Commissioner Simone, to leave the rates the same as the current rates.**

Discussion ensued.

MR. ALIANIELLO recommended the City Commission to leave it as it was.

Discussion ensued.

**The amendment failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Ruzzano

**No:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Vice Mayor Arserio and Mayor Schwartz

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

**Yes:** 3 - Commissioner Caggiano, Vice Mayor Arserio and Mayor Schwartz

**No:** 2 - Commissioner Simone and Commissioner Ruzzano

## 7) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. [ID 2021-224](#) SPECIAL EVENTS FUNDING/DONATION REQUEST PROGRAM - TUFF START, INC.

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

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO said that he did not believe that Tuff Start, Inc. had a representative at the meeting. He advised that he contacted them a few weeks ago and was pleased that they had applied again as they did incredible things for the youth and brought a lot of good positive attention to Margate, especially in the sports world.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ said that although this Item was a great idea, she indicated that she had a problem donating to those who did not attend to discuss their request at City Commission meetings.

Discussion ensued including creating a policy that future requestors would need to attend in person and failing that, the request could be turned down or tabled to the next City Commission meeting.

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

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

**No:** 1 - Commissioner Simone

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards



  
Joseph J. Kavanagh, City ClerkDate: 8/19/2021

## 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: 864 5304 3988 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](http://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](mailto:JJKAVANAGH@margatefl.com).

#### THROUGH THE CITY'S WEBSITE:

Go to [www.margatefl.com](http://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](mailto: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 - Margate Regular City Commission "

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

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

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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.