



City of Margate

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

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
Interim City Attorney Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman
City Clerk Joseph J. Kavanagh

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us

Webinar ID: 885 7727 4995

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88577274995>

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioner Caggiano attended via telephone.

Commissioner Simone attended in person.

Commissioner Ruzzano attended in person.

Vice Mayor Arserio attended via Zoom.

Mayor Schwartz attended in person.

City Manager Curtis attended in person.

Interim City Attorney attended in person.

City Clerk Kavanagh attended in person.

MOMENT OF SILENCE - INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1) PRESENTATION(S)

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE MONTH

- A. [ID 2021-446](#) ABUNDANT LIFE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: GABRIELLE ANDERSON
(Student); RENATE RAMIREZ (Teacher), (Mrs. Stacy Angier, Principal and/or Mrs.
Renate Ramirez, Assistant Principal)

ATLANTIC WEST ELEMENTARY: IVAN GONZALEZ (Student); LOURDES RIVERA WHALEY (Teacher), (Mrs. Shereen R. Reynolds, Principal and Dr. Latonya Cooper, Assistant Principal)

LIBERTY ELEMENTARY: SARAH HORTA (Student); KIMBERLY MCKINNEY (Teacher),
(Mr. Matthew Whaley, Principal and/or Ms. Donna Styles, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE ELEMENTARY: ANDRES MENDEZ ANDRADE (Student); AMANDA ALLEN (Teacher), (Mr. Thomas Schroeder, Principal and/or Ms. Vicki Flournoy, Assistant Principal)

MARGATE MIDDLE: REYAUNA COTTON (Student); KIMBERLY FOSTER (Teacher), (Mrs. Sabine Phillips, Principal and/or Assistant Principal)

RISE ACADEMY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: CARLOS HUNT JR. (Student); MICHELLE HARRIOTT (Teacher), (Dr. Adriana Guerra, Principal)

WEST BROWARD ACADEMY: MATTEO MIRANDA (Student); GARFIELD DENNIE (Teacher),
(Mr. Derrick Hugue, Principal and/or Assistant Principal Ms. Rossana Padron)

PROCLAMATION(S)

- B. [ID 2021-461](#) DIWALI FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS DAY - NOVEMBER 4, 2021 (presented to Victor Swaroop Coalition of Hindu Organizations - Founding Member)

2) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ confirmed that Commissioner Caggiano and Vice Mayor Arserio were attending the City Commission meeting remotely as they were at a conference.

ELSA J. SANCHEZ, 6930 NW 15TH STREET, sought an update on the investigation for the Police Department and asked whether a third party had been hired. She questioned whether the recycling contract with Republic Services would be identical to Waste Management.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS advised that the City could not comment on the Police investigation and once the report was completed, it would be fully transparent. He said that Republic Services should be identical to Waste Management and indicated that they were researching the recycling markets on how they were rebounding as to whether they were going back to a more traditional route via a sort facility.

Discussion ensued on recycling.

JULIE JONES, 7871 NW 1ST STREET, questioned who owned the Glindmeyer property.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY DAVID N. TOLCES, advised that the Glindmeyer property

was currently the subject of a foreclosure proceeding and that the City had filed on the Code Enforcement liens.

RICH ALIANIELLO, 7631 NW 23RD STREET, highlighted his concern about money spent on recycling and spoke of potential hurricanes.

NAME INAUDIBLE, 523 SW 61ST TERRACE, congratulated Mayor Schwartz on her position. She was concerned about the location of a bus stop near a Wendy's restaurant on State Road 7/441 and Atlantic Boulevard. She referenced the possibility of an amphitheater opposite Ace Hardware and Southgate Park and questioned whether they planned implementing any future projects nearby.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ explained that the City did not place the bus stops but indicated that they could discuss her concern with Broward County Transit. She advised that the Director of Development Services heard her suggestion on projects.

TRACY VAN WINKLE, 1020 SW 61ST AVENUE, spoke about the City's 911 system and highlighted a recent incident. She referenced Southgate Boulevard and 61st Avenue and also discussed tree trimming by Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). She said that the Trunk or Treat had a nice turnout and that she heard about the Broward County Fair on the radio.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS advised that they could review the situation with the tree and would make contact with FPL.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ spoke on the 911 system.

3) COMMISSION COMMENTS

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO asked the public to join them on Veteran's Day and thanked everybody who attended Margate's Fall Festival. He highlighted the City's Winter Festival.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE SIMONE was saddened to learn that the City was losing three members of staff; Public Works Director Collins, Assistant Director of Finance Schwartz and North West Focal Point Senior Center (NWFPSC) Project Director Diaz and wished them the best in their endeavors. She said that the City's Trunk or Treat event had a tremendous turnout and thanked those who participated in that wonderful event. She sent her condolences to J & J Towing's, Mrs. Cammarata and the rest of her family. She received an email concerning the trees on the median on Royal Palm Boulevard. She said that she was still receiving requests for lights at the Dog Park.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said that he was aware of the complaints pertaining to Royal Palm Boulevard. He said that he would follow up with Parks and Recreation Director Jones regarding the Dog Park's lighting.

COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO sent prayers to J & J Towing's Cammarata family. He thanked and wished the best to the three employees who would be leaving the City. He said that he also received calls concerning the lights at the Dog Park. He made inquiries pertaining to a resident who was building a pool in their back garden and referenced a removal of an Oak Tree.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (DEES)
DIRECTOR CURT KEYSER explained the process of replanting and replacing trees in the City.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced a settlement of approximately \$500,000 from Aztec.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY DAVID TOLCES advised that a lawsuit was filed about a month ago and they were able to settle the case for the sum of \$503,000, which was wired to the City on Monday.

COMMISSIONER RUZZANO referenced the public discussion pertaining to the bus stop outside Wendy's and suggested that some of them should be moved. He discussed adult refreshments being introduced at Calypso Cove next year and requested the possibility of doing a walk-thru or a preliminary park opening. He also spoke of ideas of introducing a new 2022 Calypso Cove pass and a possible Workshop on the Park Bond. He discussed the possibility of receiving approximately \$10,000,000 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and asked if they could contact other cities in the US to find out what they were doing with their respective funding. He referenced the last City Commission meeting where there were requests from the residents to vote for a Mayor and said that there were only three cities in Broward County that operated an identical system to Margate. He said that they may discuss a pet adoption at the Margate Sports complex in the near future.

VICE MAYOR ANTONIO V. ARSERIO paid tribute to the three City employers who were parting ways from the City. He spoke about the importance of paid family leave and referenced Hallandale Beach being the first City in South Florida to do it. He referenced a \$10,000,000 funding and suggested that it should go towards projects. He indicated that City Manager Curtis had CONSENSUS from the City Commission to move forward on the lighting improvements at the Dog Park.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ referenced the American Rescue Plan pertaining to the funds which Vice Mayor Arserio was referring to. She expressed her condolences to Mrs. Cammarata and her family. She highlighted the Sounds at Sundown on Saturday and spoke on the recent Trunk or Treat event. She reminded that the clocks would go back on Sunday. She said that staff from Walmart Pharmacy were very willing to visit condominiums and homeowners associations and any group that required a booster or flu shot. She wished the three staff members who were leaving the City the best of luck.

4) CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

CITY MANAGER CURTIS explained that the City had team events that the staff put together and referenced the recent Trunk or Treat event. He provided information on the forthcoming Margate Police Department Holiday Telethon event.

Discussion ensued.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS advised that he would speak to them individually as there was some form of disparity relating to former and current City Commissioners in terms of pension contributions and retirement benefits for the Florida Retirement System (FRS).

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES referenced Commissioner Ruzzano and explained that they were very pleased with the results of the litigation that the City filed against Aztec RV Park.

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. 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 2021-450](#) MOTION - APPROVAL OF CITY COMMISSION MINUTES:
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021, CITY COMMISSION BUDGET HEARING;
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021, REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING;
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021, SPECIAL CITY COMMISSION MEETING;
OCTOBER 6, 2021, REGULAR CITY COMMISSION MEETING.

APPROVED

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 Ruzzano, Vice Mayor Arserio and Mayor Schwartz

6) ORDINANCE(S) - FIRST READING

- A. [ID 2021-449](#) AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET (ORDINANCE NUMBERS 2020-4 AND 2020-7) AND FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET (ORDINANCE NUMBER 2021-12); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, that this Ordinance, First Reading, should be discussed.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO referenced lowering the Strategic Planning budget proposal.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS clarified Commissioner Caggiano's request to reduce the amount for the Strategic Planning budget proposal. He also confirmed that they were going to postpone the Strategic Planning meeting with the current organization and research other options for the City.

Discussion ensued on the budget for the Strategic Planning meeting.

An amendment was made by Commissioner Simone, seconded by Mayor Schwartz, to change the Strategic Plan budget to \$15,000.

INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY TOLCES provided advice if the City Commission wanted to approve the amended motion.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO approved the amendment.

COMMISSIONER CAGGIANO approved the amendment.

Discussion ensued including the general fund.

DIRECTOR OF BUILDING RICHARD R. NIXON discussed Structural Inspectors and vacancies within his department. He highlighted that if he was absent from the office, there was no personnel to take over the duties as a Building Official as currently, he needed somebody from a different city to fill in for him.

Discussion ensued including the hiring of personnel for the Building Department, revenue source and a request for a Review Board.

The original motion as amended carried by the following vote:

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

7) DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. [ID 2021-445](#) SPECIAL EVENTS FUNDING/DONATION REQUEST PROGRAM - JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Arserio, seconded by Commissioner Caggiano, to approve the donation of \$1,000.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO explained he supported the donation and that he had attended this facility in the past and that they did a wonderful job.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ highlighted Charity Navigator's 100% rating for this organization.

Discussion ensued.

MR. ALIANIELLO questioned the amount of the donation.

MAYOR SCHWARTZ responded to Mr. Alianiello's query.

The motion carried as follows:

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

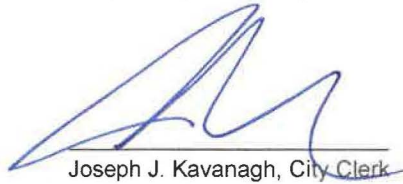
No: 1 - Commissioner Simone

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards



Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date:

12/9/2021

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.

CALL TO ORDER