



City of Margate

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

Meeting Minutes City Commission Workshop

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

Monday, June 7, 2021

5:00 PM

Commission Chambers and Zoom.us
Webinar ID: 870 3077 9475

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87030779475>

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 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 2021-251](#) BSO PRESENTATION ON FIRE RESCUE MERGER

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS introduced Broward County Sheriff Office (BSO), Fire Chief Holness and his team. He said that the City had been in discussions for a potential merger with BSO for approximately one year.

BSO DEPARTMENT OF FIRE RESCUE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, FIRE CHIEF GREGORY HOLNESS introduced BSO Sheriff Tony.

BSO SHERIFF GREGORY TONY advised that their discussions went back several months ago as they battled through Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and he highlighted the benefits of the City collaborating with BSO. He stated that there were numerous amounts of ancillary items that were not in the proposal that the City would absorb, such as BSO breaking ground on a \$50,000,000 training center and that Fire

Rescue had been deeply involved in the design concepts to enhance their fire rescue personnel. He also spoke about their state-of-the-art real-time Crime Center.

BSO FIRE CHIEF GREGORY HOLNESS introduced his team members, Deputy Chief Timothy Keefe, Assistant Chief, Benjamin Rudbeck, District Chief, Harris Henbest and Assistant Director Regional Communications, Tara Thomas. He presented a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the merger, the quality of life pertaining to the public and fire rescue, the City's image and identity and he also advised that they had seven contract cities, two enterprise zones and a regional service. He spoke about COVID-19 and vaccinations. He referenced the Port Everglades and the petroleum serving 12 counties and informed that they were responsible for protecting that infrastructure and also spoke about the Colonial Pipeline cyber issue. He gave kudos to the City's report from their recent ETC survey and advised that BSO measured their own data monthly and the criteria on how customer services scores were analyzed. He continued with his presentation which highlighted benefit and values, automatic accreditation, Insurance Service Office (ISO) ratings and explained what had occurred with municipalities, a dedicated fleet center, a health and safety division, a public education section and paying for regional services.

BSO FIRE RESCUE DISTRICT CHIEF HARRIS HENBEST said he was a former Margate firefighter. He spoke about the Emergency Management Division of the BSO and advised that the District Chief, that would be assigned to Margate, would have all the attention that all the other District Chiefs and the rest of command staff at the City could offer. He also spoke about grant funding and indicated that an apportion of that money was utilized for training purposes and exercises.

BSO FIRE CHIEF HOLNESS continued with his PowerPoint presentation.

COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO said that he looked at this as a pre-negotiation meeting then referenced BSO's Chain of Command and queried who would make the final decision if this merger occurred.

BSO FIRE CHIEF HOLNESS confirmed that as a Colonel, he would be responsible and the decision maker on Fire Rescue. He informed that BSO Sheriff Tony was the Chief Executive for the entire agency and that he had executive staff made up of different colonels.

Discussion ensued on the 911 system and a reference to having a dedicated Margate caller ID number.

BSO SHERIFF GREGORY TONY discussed the chain of command and the communication system.

COMMISSIONER TOMMY RUZZANO indicated that he was in favor of the merger but had concerns that he did not want any Broward County issues being a Margate problem. He referenced financial numbers with a possible \$3,500,000 increase for the residents.

BSO SHERIFF GREGORY TONY addressed Commissioner Ruzzano's concerns.

Discussion ensued including the recruitment of the City's 72 firefighters.

VICE MAYOR ANTONIO V. ARSERIO asked if it was still going to be a multi-million dollar increase to the City if they decided to be independent or to join BSO. He referenced long-term savings and questioned the financial impact it would impose on

possibly losing legacy liability costs, workers compensation claims and retirement.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS said they would still incur workers' compensation claims and payouts but over time, through retirements and settlements, those claims would end and new claims would then be the responsibility of BSO.

Discussion ensued including mutual aid versus a legit contract.

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY N. CAGGIANO thanked the BSO representatives for attending and expressed that it was tough to make those type of decisions and referenced giving up control. He conversed with a Hallandale firefighter at a pickleball tournament who shared his experience of working with BSO, which included the training being far more extensive, that there was increased back-up for the community and there was more of an opportunity for career growth within the organization.

MAYOR ARLENE R. SCHWARTZ read a list of questions pertaining to BSO's PowerPoint Presentation which included increased costs with the proposed contract and other expenditures in the City, International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Collective Bargaining Agreement pertaining to accumulative leave, capping the contract at 5% per year, BSO owning the City's fire trucks and being minimally staffed.

BSO FIRE CHIEF HOLNESS responded to Mayor Schwartz's questions.

BSO SHERIFF TONY responded to Commissioner Schwartz's concern about giving up the City's vehicles and referenced mileage, wear and tear.

Discussion ensued including an ISO Class One rated Fire Department, promotion and improving on technology pertaining to pinging a car or cellphone.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS, TARA THOMAS, explained that if someone rang 911 from a residence, it would automatically display the address. She advised that if an old telephone was used, it would ping to a cell tower but would not display the address and the system would automatically read it. She said within 30 seconds, they would receive the address and in another 30 seconds, the exact address of the caller would be displayed. She said that due to agency practices, they would have to ask the caller what that address was and they would require the correct information. She continued to explain the phases of their telephone system and advised what would happen if a mistake occurred in the Communication Division. She also highlighted the improvement in BSO's response times.

Discussion ensued including response times, whether money was put away for future liabilities, maintaining the City's ISO Class One accreditation if they were independent, evaluating and restructuring the organization to achieve costs savings and having sight of BSO's payment structure.

CITY MANAGER CALE CURTIS said that the City had two good options; they could operate a three station, City-run, Fire Department and that the other alternative was a merger with BSO, but the cost of the two would almost be the same. He explained that with the BSO system, they would receive all of the operational flexibility that was required to ensure that the three station system was always backed up. He recommended a merger with BSO and said that his next steps would be to obtain the information from the BSO Fire Department and finalize the contractual agreements that they had for the service and bring it back for a future meeting.

Discussion ensued which included gaining input from the Fire Union.

FIRE LIEUTENANT KEVIN E. DELACOVA said that he had a lot of pride in this City and said that change was not a bad thing.

BSO DEPUTY CHIEF TIMOTHY KEEFE discussed recruitment of 72 Margate Fire crew members and explained that they made provisions for reserve vacancies for any remaining members as an expedited hiring process to get them into the BSO family.

Discussion ensued.

VICE MAYOR ARSERIO requested that City Manager Curtis coordinate with BSO to obtain the information for Deerfield Beach, Hallandale Beach and other cities that merged in the last five years and establish what they paid now and then.

CITY MANAGER CURTIS confirmed that he could do that.


MAYOR SCHWARTZ ended the meeting by thanking all those who attended.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Transcribed by Salene E. Edwards



Joseph J. Kavanagh, City Clerk

Date: 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: 870 3077 9475 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 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.

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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 (all public comments that are three (3) minutes or less will be read into the record.)

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THROUGH ZOOM TECHNOLOGY:

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Topic: "Virtual Meeting - Margate City Commission Workshop "

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

Webinar ID: 870 3077 9475

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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.