

**WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES  
CITY COMMISSION – MARGATE CITY**

**MARCH 5, 2020**

**MARGATE CITY, NEW JERSEY**

THE ATLANTIC CITY PRESS AND THE STAR LEDGER WERE NOTIFIED OF THIS MEETING AND A COPY OF SAME WAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND THE MUNICIPAL WEBSITE.

The Margate City Board of Commissioners held a work meeting on the above date at 4:00 p.m. The meeting began with a flag salute & roll call: Mayor Michael Becker, Commissioner John Amodeo and Commissioner Blumberg were present. The following department heads were also present: Chief Matthew Hankinson, Chief Daniel Adams, Andrew Miles, Lisa McLaughlin, Jim Galantino, Roger McLarnon, Fred Verna and Frank Ricciotti. Johanna Casey, Ed Dennis, and Tom Ciccarone were also present.

**Items For Discussion:**

**Lisa McLaughlin:** Presents a check for \$380.00 to Team Stevens Nation, an organization assisting individuals with ALS, in memory of William Walsh a former Margate City employee.

**Richard Helfant, Save Lucy Committee:** Speaks on the Air BnB promotion of an overnight stay in Lucy and the upcoming celebration of Lucy's 139<sup>th</sup> birthday and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of moving to its current location.

**Jeremy Bingaman, Director of Education for Lucy the Elephant:** Speaks on the upcoming exterior repair and painting project of Lucy. Will be a two phase project.

**Mayor Becker:** Proposes to the commissioners a referendum for the construction of a boardwalk in Margate be on the November election ballot.

**Commissioner Amodeo:** Agrees with this. The City Solicitor can guide the city as to the process of making this a referendum. Estimated costs to design and build and the tax to homeowners will have to be obtained, so taxpayers are aware of the monetary impact. The public has to know this is a non-binding referendum.

**Commissioner Blumberg:** In full agreement with doing.

**Department Head Reports:**

**Frank Ricciotti:** Speaks on additional landscaping that will be done on the parkway. Street sweepers are on the roads. The deck at Huntington Avenue is just about done. Fire hydrant flushing will take place March 23-27, 2020. The water department has a new pick-up truck.

**Jim Galantino:** The Flood Damage Prevention Amendment Ordinance is being introduced at tonight's meeting. Seventeen job sites inspected today. Four swimming pool were issued.

**Roger McLarnon:** Speaks on a hardship letter received about needing North Monroe Avenue opened to get a family back in their house after eight years. Asking the commission for consent to allow the street to be opened.

**Mayor Becker, Commissioner Amodeo and Commissioner Blumberg:** All in agreement to allow street opening.

**Roger McLarnon:** Makes recommendations for changes to the upcoming ice cream bid specifications.

**Commissioner Amodeo:** Speaks on the recommended changes to the ice cream bid.

**Mayor Becker:** Competition with vendor pricing may be beneficial.

**Roger McLarnon:** The water park will go before the staff committee, then most likely will go before the planning board in April.

**Ed Dennis:** Several construction projects are wrapping up and some projects are being scheduled for the fall.

**Tom Ciccarone:** Defer to chiefs to discuss some items.

**Andrew Miles:** Third and fourth grade tournament basketball games just finished. Margate teams all made the finals. Adult basketball league just started. Summer camp information is on website.

**Chief Hankinson:** Signs have been changed and lines repainted at the municipal parking lot on North Washington Avenue. Goes over the summer schedule for this parking lot. Additional parking spaces will be available this summer at the municipal lot located on Decatur Avenue. Parking space lines are scheduled to be redone on Atlantic Avenue. Speaks on meeting with New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal. Available parking areas will be posted on the city's website and Facebook page to notify the public.

**Commissioner Blumberg:** Inquires if there will be signage on Monmouth Avenue and Amherst Avenue to make drivers aware of the Benson Avenue parking lot.

**Chief Hankinson:** Signs are on order. Suggests having signs in busier areas to guide drivers to parking lots. Will make sure every lot has adequate lighting.

**Lisa McLaughlin:** Second reading of the Capital Ordinance tonight. Speaks on the 2020 Municipal Budget being introduced tonight. No increase in municipal tax rate. A budget hearing will be held on April 2, 2020.

**Chief Adams:** Gives an update on the renovations to Firehouse No.2. Renovations will eliminate the need for the trailer which is currently located next to the firehouse. Free smoke detectors are available for residents.

**Commissioner Blumberg:** Inquires if hand sanitizer and masks are being passed out

**Chief Adams:** Not passing out hand sanitizers or masks. The police and fire departments have plans in place to handle potential cases of the coronavirus. Working with the Atlantic County Health Department. Stresses washing hands frequently.

**Mayor Becker:** A representative from the Atlantic County Health Department will be speaking on the coronavirus at the next commission meeting.

**Commissioner Amodeo:** Proud of children who participated in the third and fourth grade basketball tournament. Information regarding the construction of islands at Huntington Avenue and Fulton Avenue will be posted on the city website.

**Commissioner Blumberg:** Nothing to report.

**Public Comment:**

**John Sewell**, 22 West Drive: Speaks on bleach being the only product with the ability to stop viruses. Recommends people go to the BBC website for updates on coronavirus.

**Steve Altman**, 9003 Amherst Ave.: Speaks on white dial soap has an antibiotic.

**Steve Worner**, 103 N. Sumner Ave.: Speaks on the ice cream vender being allowed to set prices. Speaks on the importance of getting the most accurate estimate for the cost of building a boardwalk to assist voters in making a decision when voting on the referendum. Speaks on the inconvenience the 2017 Atlantic Avenue Project is causing.

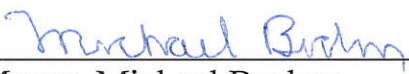
**Ed Dennis**: Gives an update on the 2017 Reconstruction of Atlantic Avenue Project. This project is to be completed by mid-March.

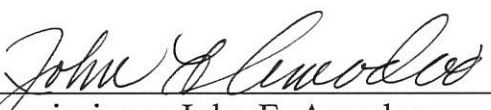
There being no further business, Mayor Becker called for a motion to close public portion. Whereupon, the motion was made by Commissioner Amodeo and seconded by Commissioner Blumberg to adjourn public comment, with a vote of three ayes.

**Adjournment:**


There being no further business, Mayor Becker called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Whereupon, the motion was made by Commissioner Amodeo and seconded by Commissioner Blumberg to adjourn the meeting. A unanimous voice vote was taken adjourning the meeting at 4:41p.m.

Board of Commissioners of the City of Margate City, New Jersey

  
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Mayor, Michael Becker

  
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Commissioner John F. Amodeo

  
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Commissioner Maury Blumberg

Attest:   
Johanna Casey, RMC City Clerk