

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

**JULY 18, 2019**

**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 Maury Blumberg were present. The following department heads were also present: Chief Matt Hankinson, Fred Verna, Frank Ricciotti, Chief Dan Adams, Roger McLarnon, Lisa McLaughlin and Johanna Casey. Ed Dennis, Scott Abbott and Rich Deaney were also present.

**Swearing In Ceremony:**

**Commissioner Amodeo:** Recognizes Ventnor Police Chief Biagi, Longport Police Chief Culmone, local police officers and former Margate Police Chief Wolfson for attending this meeting. Swearing-in ceremony of Matthew Hankinson as Police Chief.

**Chief Hankinson:** States his appreciation.

**Department Reports:**

**Chief Adams:** Clients of the Atlantic County Easter Seals program visited the fire house today. This Saturday, hosting with other municipalities, the Heart of Surfing event. Will be attending a meeting on Monday about an upcoming major road closing. Prepare residents that they may see Ventnor City response vehicles going through their neighborhoods due to the road closing.

— **Lisa McLaughlin:** Congratulates Chief Hankinson. Gives results of the food drive, which benefited the local Community Food Bank of South Jersey. Standard and Poor increased Margate's rating to AA+, the second highest rating a city can receive. Still waiting for release of pension figures for audit. Tax bills will be going out soon. Tax rate has a slight decrease.

**Chief Hankinson:** Reports on the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. There are two Class II Officers in training. The public auction was a success in selling vehicles that were in the former tow lot.

**Rich Deaney:** Thanks Lisa McLaughlin and everyone involved with achieving the AA+ rating. Tax bills going out the last week of July. There is a resolution on tonight's agenda about extending the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter tax payment date. Reviewing the policy on telecommuting to update the current policy.

**Ed Dennis:** Thanks everyone for appointing him as the City Engineer.

**Roger McLarnon:** Congratulates Chief Hankinson and Ed Dennis on their appointments. Wawa signs have been installed. Next Thursday night is the planning board meeting.

**Jim Galantino:** Congratulates Chief Hankinson and Ed Dennis. The rental registration form was updated to encompass Air BNB type rentals.

— **Frank Ricciotti:** Congratulates Chief Hankinson. Will be a pleasure working with Ed Dennis. Gives a report on cleanup of Beachstock and the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Work was done on the bathroom at the ballfield. Emergency work had to be done on a manhole located at Thurlow and Atlantic. Atlantic County is distributing a new door knocker with information on proper recycling.

**Scott Abbott:** Residents who have issues with rentals of nearby houses should contact the police department. Congratulates Chief Hankinson. Speaks on the new lease agreement with the Save Lucy Committee. Atlantic Coast Alarm informed him they will not be renewing their lease with the city. Speaks on the agreement with Remington and Vernick for Ed Dennis to become the City Engineer. Lamberti's parking lot is being used for public parking and financing is in place for the new building. Asking for approval of the resolution to notify the maintenance bond company regarding the old city hall boiler needing to be fixed. The extension of the fishing pier to include a public access area was on the front page of the Atlantic City Press today.

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**Fred Verna:** Spending a day with an Easter Seals' client is a positive experience everyone should have. \$60,000.00 was made on the on-line public auction held. Looking to schedule another auction in the next few months.

**Commissioner Blumberg:** Congratulates and good luck to Chief Hankinson. Thanks Frank Ricciotti and public works for taking care of the ballfield bathroom.

**Commissioner Amodeo:** Congratulates Chief Hankinson. Margate has been acknowledged as the best beach in Atlantic County, and the second best beach in the State of New Jersey. Police controlled the crowds over the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Compliments Beach Patrol Chief Smallwood and all the Lieutenants for the outstanding job they do. Gives dates of upcoming lifeguard races. Thanks the fire department for hosting the visit by Easter Seals. The AA+ rating is a testament to a well-managed city. Discusses future locations of the bench program, which has been a success.

**Mayor Becker:** Recommends finishing the current beach street locations before starting any new location.

**Commissioner Blumberg:** Suggests allowing a second bench at the current beach street locations.

**Commissioner Amodeo:** Agrees with this. There is a waiting list of people requesting a bench on specific beach streets.

**Frank Ricciotti:** There is enough space at some locations to add a second bench.

**Commissioner Amodeo:** Speaks on the success of the public auction.

**Mayor Becker:** Congratulates everyone already mentioned today. We live in a great community. Tax rate is down 2.1%. Thanks everyone involved with the Lucy lease agreement. The library board presented their annual audit to the commission. The library will be offering free concerts on August 14, September 11, and October 2.

### **Public Participation:**

**John Sewell, 22 West Drive:** Speaks on bonded indebtedness and the need for the commission to be financially responsible.

**Mayor Becker:** When dredging project costs are obtained it will be available.


**Lisa McLaughlin:** Gives a response to substantiate how the city is financially responsible.

### **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 Mayor Becker to adjourn the meeting. A unanimous voice vote was taken adjourning the meeting at 4:45 p.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:   
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Johanna Casey, RMC City Clerk