

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

JANUARY 16, 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, Lisa McLaughlin, Jim Galantino, Roger McLarnon and Pat Powers. Johanna Casey, Ed Dennis, Scott Abbott and Rich Deaney were also present.

Swearing In of Officers:

Commissioner Amodeo: Swears in Deputy Chief Patrick Armstrong, Captain Anthony Tabasso and Lieutenant David Funk. All positions are promotions within the Margate Fire Department.

Items For Discussion:

Steven Jasiecki of the Sustainable Margate Green Team: Invites people to attend on February 8, 2020 a Marine Mammal Stranding Center presentation at the Martin Bloom Pavilion at 10am. Introduces Monica Coffee and Ginny Gormley who will speak on the banning plastic bags.

Ginny Gormley of Sustainable Margate Green Team: Requests members of Sustainable Margate who are in attendance to stand up. Speaks on other municipalities invoking plastic bag ban ordinances. Looking for Margate to ban plastic bags. Thanks public works for all the trash cans at the street ends. Recognizes city employee Anthony Edge for his assistance with projects.

Monica Coffee of Sustainable Margate Green Team: Speaks on the growing number of municipalities adopting bag ban ordinances. Sustainable Margate does community outreach and offers educational programs. Requesting Margate City to consider banning plastic bags.

Mayor Becker: Yes to consideration.

Commissioner Blumberg: Inquires about how things are handled in Somers Point.

Monica Coffee: Customers have the option of no bag or purchase a bag.

Commissioner Blumberg: Requests information from other municipalities, who have bag ban ordinances, be sent to Municipal Clerk Johanna Casey.

Ginny Gormley: Speaks on the trash caused by new construction.

Scott Abbott: Requests that Attorney Christopher Baylinson be able to speak on the issue of his client's request to vacate the street end at Union Avenue and the bay.

Mayor Becker: This issue is not on tonight's agenda as an item for discussion.

Commissioner Blumberg: Speaks on changes being made to the Safe Routes to School Project to deal with issues raised on traffic flow.

Chief Hankinson: Signs along the route are being changed out and say "Share the Road".

Department Reports:

Chief Adams: Thanks the commission for holding the promotion ceremony. With the assistance of library officials, a historic record of Margate Fire Chiefs has been created. Requests a presentation of this historic record be done at the February 6th commission meeting.

Mayor Becker: Request coordinating the presentation with Johanna Casey, the Municipal Clerk.

Lisa McLaughlin: Speaks on required reports that have to be submitted to the state by January 31st. Annual Debt Statement is due by February 10th. End of the year finance report will be available next month.

Chief Hankinson: Speaks on signs associated with the Safe Routes to School Project being changed out. Some traffic concerns need to be addressed before the summer season.

Lisa McLaughlin: Speaks on employees having to take a training seminar on cyber security.

Rich Deaney: Speaks on changes happening in the municipal finance department. Speaks on a proposed agreement with the Longport Court System to share services and share the municipal courtroom located at 1 South Washington Avenue.

Ed Dennis: Nothing to add to his report from the Capital meeting. Winding down the 2019 Capital Program and working on the 2020 Capital Program.

Roger McLarnon: Gives an update to the Bike Rack Project. Speaks on the zoning revisions in the ordinances to be adopted at tonight's meeting. Looking at adding a second planning board meeting in March due to the amount of applications. Is encouraging those involved with the proposed waterpark to get an application into the planning board by Easter.

Jim Galantino: Requests Ginny Gormley to report un-kept construction sites and he will inspect. Three demolitions going on this week. There are currently 75 active job sites.

Pat Powers: Public Works is busy with projects. Ready for Saturday if anything comes up due to the weather.

Scott Abbott: Has been in contact with the lawyer for the Philips family, who want the city's orange fence be taken down next to their property. Speaks on the status of the vacation of Union Avenue on the bay side and conditions to authorize a cul-de-sac. Speaks about a homeowner on Union Avenue, who is trying to move and replace the bulkhead located on the beach. Speaks on the agreement with the Longport Court System. The homeowner next to the vacant city owned property on Quincy Avenue desires to purchase this vacant city owned beach front property and replace the bulkhead.

Commissioner Amodeo: Requests Roger McLarnon review for applicable zoning laws that would pertain to the purchase at Quincy Avenue. Both homeowners on each side of this city owned property have to be offered a right of refusal.

Scott Abbott: Believes the other homeowner has not been approached to purchase. Quincy property does not meet lot size. Speaks on a partial vacation of land being considered to be given to Lamberties. The Boardwalk Committee withdrew their request to put a non-binding question on the ballot.

Commissioner Blumberg: Thanks Jim Galantino for keeping work sites clean. Recommends the city no give warnings, but issue tickets for unclean work sites. Thanks the volunteers of Margate's Green Team.

Commissioner Amodeo: Speaks on all the great work Margate's Green Team does. Recommends residents be prepared for upcoming bad weather.

Public Comment:

Kathy Heightsman, 15 S. Washington.: Speaks on the no plastic bag ban in Somers Point.

Steve Jasiecki, 112 N. Lancaster Ave.: Mentions how Margate Business Association has provided reusable bags. Speaks on the increase of towns asking for a ban on plastic bags.

John Sewell, 22 West Drive: Speaks on health effects of using reusable bags. Recommends the use of brown bags.

Steve Altman: Questions the scientific evidence of the health effects of using reusable bags.

Steve Worner, 103 N. Sumner Ave.: Compliments the city on listening to the public regarding the signs along the Safe Routes to School route.

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 Blumberg and seconded by Commissioner Amodeo to adjourn the meeting. A unanimous voice vote was taken adjourning the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

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




Mayor, Michael Becker



Commissioner John F. Amodeo



Commissioner Maury Blumberg

Attest: 

Johanna Casey, RMC City Clerk