

**MINUTES
WORKSHOP MEETING CITY OF MARGATE**

MAY 20, 2021

MARGATE CITY, NEW JERSEY

Call Meeting to Order – 3:00 p.m.

Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act:

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act for this meeting have been satisfied; a copy of the Annual Meetings Notice was sent to the Atlantic City Press, and the Star Ledger, posted on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building, the Municipal Website, and filed in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Johanna Casey: Reads the statement of compliance and the procedure for in person and telecommunication meeting, followed with the flag salute and roll call is taken.

Roll Call – Board of Commissioners:

Mayor Becker, Commissioner Amodeo and Commissioner Blumberg were present. Fred Verna, Chief Hankinson, Chief Adams, Ed Dennis, Scott Abbott, Rich Deaney and Johanna Casey were also present.

Discussion:

Scott Abbott: Speaks on the proposed Ordinances #08-2021 and #09-2021, both of which pertain to the sale and use of cannabis in Margate City.

Commissioner Amodeo: No questions on the Ordinances.

Mayor Becker: Inquires if either of the Ordinances include the non-smoking of cannabis on public properties.

Commissioner Blumberg: Speaks on the option of allowing businesses to be able to sell cannabis products in the future as revenue generating.

Rich Deaney: Requests Scott Abbott to investigate if the city would be able to amend the Ordinances in the future to allow cannabis businesses to operate.

Commissioner Amodeo: Speaks on concerns he has on the sale of Cannabis in Margate in regard to police enforcement. Feels Margate should not allow cannabis businesses to operate in Margate.

Scott Abbott: Reads the State's law on the passing of municipal cannabis Ordinances. He will still verify the amending of Ordinances.

Mayor Becker: At this time feels having cannabis businesses in Margate is not for the best of the City.

Commissioner Amodeo: States the State of New Jersey will receive the majority of the revenue generated from the sale of Cannabis. Inquires as to there being enough signage posted around the City pertaining to no-smoking of cannabis in public areas.

Scott Abbott: Seeks direction from the Commissioners on how and where to put signage.

Rich Deaney: Speaks on the posting of signs.

Commissioner Blumberg: Recommends treating the smoking of cannabis as the City does the drinking of liquor in public.

Commissioner Amodeo: Speaks on current signage stating “no smoking”.

Chief Hankinson: Speaks on some current laws regarding cannabis being vague and things may need to be updated as we move forward.

Commissioner Blumberg: Seeks to clarify if on the days where the City allows small fires on the beach, would the City allow smoking.

Commissioner Amodeo: No smoking and no alcohol is allowed on these days.

Ed Dennis: States there are three parallel tracks being work on currently for the Back Bay Dredging Project. The winning bidder of the Flood Proofing of Historic City Hall and Fire House #1 is still holding their bid price as the City waits for FEMA approval. The Risk and Resilience Assessment to be in compliance with water quality act is being prepared. A FEMA grant application has been submitted to cover the Adams Avenue Stormwater Pump Station Project. The Minnie Creek drainage analysis is complete and a review report is being done. Survey work for the 2021 Curb & Gutter program is being scheduled. June 10, 2021 is the bid opening for the 2021 Redevelopment of Well #5. The survey and design of the Ventnor Avenue Bridal Path Reconstruction will be done in 2021, and construction will be budgeted in the next Capital Budget. The survey is done and design plans are being completed for the Amherst Avenue Phase 2, so this project’s bid should be in the fall. The Edgmar Circle Utility Extensions Project’s survey work is complete and base plans are in progress. A meeting was recently held to discuss the Municipal Building’s Interior Renovation’s Project. The application for the annual CDBG grant was filed to cover the beach access at Union Avenue. What roads to include in the 2022 State Aid Application will be discussed with Public Works Superintendent Frank Ricciotti. The 2017 CDBG Beach Bulkhead Access maintenance bond will be expiring. Remington and Vernick inspectors will go over the punchlist for completeness of the 2017 State Aid Reconstruction of Atlantic Avenue Project. A punchiest for the 2018 & 2019 State Aid Reconstruction of Atlantic Avenue Project is being compiled to closeout this project. The closeout process for the Reconstruction of Thurlow Avenue and Bayshore Drive West is in progress. The electrical work involved with the Amherst Avenue Bulkhead Project is almost complete, then the closeout process will begin. Believes the 2019 CDB Beach Bulkhead Access at Argyle Avenue should come off the list of construction projects. Gives an update on the Reconstruction of Amherst Avenue Phase I. The 2019 & 2020 Curb and Gutter Program will be in closeout status soon. Gives an update on the Amherst Avenue Promenade Project. The Benson Avenue Water Tank Interior Painting Project is complete and in closeout phase. The Ventnor Avenue/Washington Avenue Intersection Project is nearing completion. The striping work and signage on Atlantic Avenue is still in progress. The notice to proceed on the Fire House No. 2 Addition has been given to Aliano Brothers General Contractors Inc., with a scheduled completion date of December 15, 2021.

Commissioner Blumberg: Inquires as to if the Amherst Avenue Promenade can be temporarily open to the public. Inquires as to parking still being available along the Amherst Avenue Promenade during the construction.

Ed Dennis: Explains why the promenade will not be open to the public until fully completed.

Commissioner Amodeo: Explains how parking will be available during the continuation of construction of the promenade. Line striping for making Amherst one way will start May 24, 2021.

Commissioner Blumberg: Suggests putting electronic signs on Atlantic Avenue and Amherst Avenue to let people know about the new traffic lanes.

Ed Dennis: Will take care of doing this.

Department Head Reports:

Chief Adams: Beach Patrol season starting with lifeguards receiving training. Fire Department call numbers are up.

Chief Hankinson: States it will take a while for the public to get used to the new traffic patterns.

Rich Deaney: Margate City's electronic newsletter going out May 21, 2021. People can sign up for the newsletter on Margate's website. Requests department heads to submit suggestions to include in the upcoming Green Acres application. States a Storm Management Plan Ordinance needs to be adopted.

Fred Verna: Municipal Roof project is wrapping up. The Municipal Building Interior Building Project should be completed by end of year. The railings in front of Historic City hall have been destroyed and will need to be replaced.

Mayor Becker: Thanks Fred Verna for his supervision of the roof project.

Public Comment:

Kathy Heitzmann, 15 S. Washington Ave.: Inquires as to how the public will be able to access businesses in the area of the Promenade construction. Inquires if the Fire House #2 Addition Project has started. Inquires as to what is the plan to handle the late night activity along Washington Avenue.

Commissioner Amodeo: Access to businesses along Amherst Avenue will only be unavailable on Monday, June 24, 2021 for the striping. Additional Class II Police were hired to oversee this area. Speaks on bike presentations being done in the schools to teach proper bike riding.

Perry Zimmerman, 17 S. Washington: Speaks on improving signage to let people know which streets are one way. Gives examples of incidents of tempers flaring with drivers and bicyclist and potential accidents.

Seeing that there were no more comments, a motion to close Public Comments was put forth by Commissioner Blumberg, seconded by Commissioner Amodeo, with a vote of three ayes.

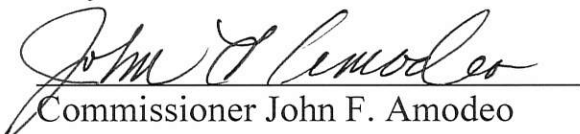
Adjournment:

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 4:00 p.m.

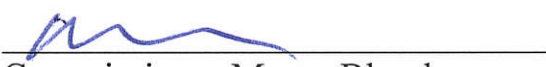
Board of Commissioners of the City of Margate City, New Jersey




Mayor, Michael Becker



Commissioner John F. Amodeo



Commissioner Maury Blumberg

Attest: 
Johanna Casey, RMC City Clerk