

A Work Session of the City Council was held Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 6:05 PM in the Conference Room in City Hall, 111 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026.

Mayor Frank J. Calandriello presided. City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica announced that the Work Session was being held in accordance with provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice was provided by mail and fax to the official City newspapers and to other interested parties and by posting the meeting notice on the bulletin boards in City Hall.

Councilmembers Present: Louis G. Aloia, Stanley J. Moskal and Frank J. Calandriello
Councilmembers Absent: Tana M. Raymond and Joseph Delaney
Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, City Attorney Joseph J. Rotolo, Labor Counsel Joseph Randazzo, City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell, Superintendent of Public Works Sam Garofalo, Police Chief Kevin Amos and Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. The public hearing to be held Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at 5:30 PM, to discuss a proposed major diversion of Green Acres – encumbered park land and release of a NJDEP – held conservation easement from park land in connection with the proposed park along the Passaic River.
2. The meeting he had today with Bergen County CAP Executive Director Robert Halsch and Assistant Executive Director Allan DeGiulio concerning their plans to develop a playground in Columbus Park next to their building at 535 Midland Avenue.
3. The proposed transfer of title of the old City-owned “Railroad Property” along the high school stadium between Semel Avenue and new Fire House No. Four to the Garfield School System for the parking of school buses after storm water drainage concerns are adequately addressed before the area is paved with blacktop.
4. The \$82,000.00 in Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief money, which the State was delaying payment to qualifying municipalities, has now been authorized to be released to the City of Garfield.
5. The Heads of the City Collective Bargaining Labor Unions were presented a comparison of the current Traditional Health Insurance Plan and the Direct 10 Health Insurance Plan for City employees and shown how the Direct 10 Plan can help the City save money.
6. He recently spoke to Bergen County Community Development Executive Director Joseph Rutch who reassured him that the balance of the \$320,000.00 in Federal Stimulus Money to the City of Garfield is protected and that the deadline is March 31, 2010 to have the Palisade Avenue Improvement completed.
7. The proposed hiring of off duty Police Officers by the Wisla Center located at the corner of Main Street and Plauderville Avenue for New Year’s Eve.
8. Ms. Melissa Deemas from the Environmental Protection Agency has reported that all the homes tested in regard to the chromium leak years ago by EC Electroplating located at Clark Street and Lincoln Place, the best options would be for a Community Advisory Group or a Technical Assistance Grant for the eighteen properties which may need to be addressed in regard to this issue.
9. The proposed repairs and improvement to the Passaic Street/Wall Street Bridge over the Passaic River.
10. The City Health Insurance Consultant, Willis HRH, originally estimated a cost savings to the City of \$600,000.00 if the City employees were enrolled in the Direct 10 Health Insurance Plan rather than the Traditional Health Insurance Plan, however, they have now revised their estimate of cost savings to the City in the neighborhood of \$371,000.00.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

11. Since the encroachments of the abutting property owners of the Garfield Water Works Property located in Elmwood Park have now been adequately addressed, the County of Bergen has now released the final \$25,000.00 in connection with the sale of that property to the County for use as a passive park with the City retaining its water rights to the property.
12. The proposal by Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Marsh to better improve communications to City residents for general community notifications during times of emergencies by utilizing NIXLE, a text messaging and email alert system.
13. Since Ever-Wide, Inc., t/a Nice Food Kitchen, had violated their agreement with the City concerning their plenary retail consumption license, Police Officers seized their liquor license at 237 Palisade Avenue, in compliance with the agreement on Wednesday, December 16, 2009.
14. The City has applied to receive \$10,775.00 as part of the H1N1 Swine Flu immunization program as part of the \$28,000.00 grant awarded to the City for this purpose.
15. The complaint from Taxpayer Mark Wallace that he does not receive enough free leaf bags from the City, when an investigation of City records reveal that he has signed for 150 bags during November and December for six properties that he owns, which is above the average requested by the typical Garfield taxpayer.

ARRIVAL OF COUNCILMEMBER DELANEY

At 6:25 PM, Councilmember Joseph Delaney joined the Work Session during the Report of the City Manager and it was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

16. The installation of Streetscape Lighting by the Public Service Electric and Gas Company along Passaic Street at the South Garfield Redevelopment by the Spring of 2010.
17. The Passaic Valley Water Commission has sent a notice of a 4% water bill increase effective January 1, 2010.
18. Various noise complaints which have been received concerning Jimmy Jim's Grill located at 399 Midland Avenue and concerning La Cantina Mexican Restaurant located at 361 Midland Avenue.
19. The proposed establishment of a written Vehicle Operating Policy for City employees.
20. The meeting he had on December 11, 2009 with representatives of the local Knights of Columbus in which they are seeking City of Garfield assistance in their Wounded Warrior Project which raises money for those service men and women who have been injured in service to their country. On September 12, 2010, there will be a major fund raising event in the City of Clifton where a portion of Clifton will be closed for a tank pulling contest. They would like to borrow the armored personnel carrier that the City has on display in Columbus Park at the corner of Outwater Lane and Midland Avenue for use in this event. The Knights of Columbus have proposed re-mounting the gun on the armored personnel carrier and this event will provide the opportunity to improve the cement pad on which the armored personnel carrier normally sits.

ARRIVAL OF COUNCILMEMBER RAYMOND

At 6:35 PM, Councilmember Tana Raymond joined the Work Session during the Report of the City Manager and it was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell reported on the following:

1. The written Report of the City Engineer dated December 22, 2009.

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

21. The proposed 2010 Fire Department Budget.
22. The proposed increase in the \$15,000.00 HARP contract of 2% this year and 2% next year. Public Health Nurse Darlene Revielle is taking classes to become certified in connection with these services.
23. The Lighting Efficiency Program Audit Report for the City of Garfield that he is waiting to receive from the Public Service Electric and Gas Company.
24. The proposed resolution concerning the use of the old City-owned "Railroad Property" for the parking of Garfield School System busses.

2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The City Council and Cabinet discussed the 2010 Municipal Budget.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 09-416

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to exclude the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that such circumstances now exist,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey, that a "Closed Session" is hereby called at 7:40 PM on Tuesday, December 22, 2009, to discuss the following as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

- * Collective bargaining agreements including the negotiation of the terms and thereof with employees or representatives of employees of the public body, (collective bargaining negotiations involving saving money in the Municipal Budget concerning Employee Health Benefits coverage).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters so discussed will be disclosed to the public as soon as and to the extent that such disclosure can be made without adversely affecting the public interest or without violation of the confidentiality of personnel.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Stanley J. Moskal

ADJOURNMENT

After the City Council came out of Closed Session at 8:20 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Delaney moved to adjourn the Work Session. Councilmember Moskal duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK