

A Work Session of the City Council was held Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room in City Hall, 111 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026.

Deputy Mayor Stanley J. Moskal 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 board, in City Hall.

Councilmembers Present: Joseph Delaney, Louis G. Aloia and Stanley J. Moskal
Councilmembers Absent: Tana M. Raymond and Frank J. Calandriello
Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, City Attorney Joseph J. Rotolo, Labor Counsel Joseph Randazzo and City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The City Council and Cabinet briefly discussed proposed City Council endorsement of a Bergen Community Development grant application proposed by the Margaret P. Muscarelle Child Development Center in the amount of \$49,150.00 for their outside storage project.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. He would like to withdraw his acceptance as a City representative to Bergen County Open Space Trust and recommend Councilmember Delaney as his successor.
2. The proposed Restaurant Zone along River Drive from Belmont Avenue north to the Elmwood Park border. He reported that prior to the Work Session, he met with Lois McAuliffe, the owner of DP's Pub on River Drive who expressed her concerns with the proposal and she will be kept abreast of when this matter is on the Council agenda for discussion and/or action.
3. The written Report from Water Consultant Willard Bierwas dated September 22, 2009.
4. The work being performed by Langan Engineering for the Garfield Board of Education concerning storm water drainage concerns if ownership of the City-owned "Railroad Property" abutting the west side of the High School Stadium is transferred to the School System.
5. The Bond Ordinance to authorize improvements to 20th Century Field in the amount of \$1,300,000.00.
6. The complaint made by Mr. Anthony Molinaro at the last Council Meeting concerning the fencing which was recently installed at a business located at the corner of Palisade Avenue and Monroe Street.
7. The encroachments by abutting property owners of the City Well Field in the Borough of Elmwood Park will be rectified in the next couple of weeks and then the City will receive the final \$25,000.00 from the County of Bergen for the sale of the Well Field property.
8. The City investigated whether it was worthwhile to pursue participation in the "Build America Bonds" program and the requirements are too financially steep to permit involvement by the City.
9. The letter he sent to the County Executive's Office objecting to a County proposal that excessive flood waters from the Borough of Fair Lawn be directed into Fleischer's Brook which flows through the Borough of Elmwood Park and then through Garfield and then to the Passaic River.
10. The bus shelter replacement agreement with New Jersey Transit for a new bus shelter at the bus stop located on Midland Avenue northbound at Elizabeth Street, near side.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

11. The proposed acquisition of an Overnight Parking Sticker Machine.
12. The objection by two retired Garfield Police Officers that their Prescription Plan with a \$1.00 co-pay and a \$0.00 co-pay for generic drugs, has been changed to a \$10.00 co-pay and a \$5.00 co-pay for generic drugs.
13. The proposed Restaurant Zone along River Drive.
14. His communication with Terry Dunn Egan of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority in regard to the James Madison School Parking lots near Marsellus Place and Passaic Street concerning the State paying for modifications required on the State plan.
15. The assistance provided to the School System by the DPW and the City Parks Department to repair DeVito Field located off Semel Avenue which was damaged by the excessive rain during the Circus PBA fundraiser held June 11, 12, 13 and 14, 2009.
16. In this trying economy, there were concerns expressed regarding the City tax collection rate, but a check of the numbers indicates that numbers have not changed excessively for the worst.
17. A review of the number of foreclosed homes in the City also indicates that the numbers have not changed excessively for the worst, at this time.
18. The request from the School System to utilize prison workers if the City is approved for participation in the Department of Corrections Prison Work Program.
19. The maintenance of the railroad spur that runs past the Early Childhood Education School off Ray Street.
20. The Bergen County Community Action Partnership Fashion Show to be held Tuesday, October 6, 2009 at the Venetian Restaurant located at 546 River Drive.
21. Proposed City Christmas decorations for this holiday season.

City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell reported on the following:

1. The written report of the City Engineer dated September 22, 2009.

ARRIVAL OF COUNCILMEMBER RAYMOND

At 7:35 PM, Councilmember Tana M. Raymond joined the Work Session during the Report of the City Engineer and it was duly noted for the record.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Aloia moved to adjourn the Work Session. Councilmember Raymond duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Mayor Calandriello