

A Work Session of the City Council was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 6:50 PM in the Conference Room in City Hall, 111 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026.

Mayor Richard Rigoglioso presided. City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica announced that the Work Session was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice was provided by mail, fax and email 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, Frank J. Calandriello and Richard Rigoglioso
Councilmembers Absent: Erin N. Delaney and Joseph Delaney
Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, City Attorney Robert Ferraro, John Ferraro of the Law Firm of Bruno and Ferraro, Labor Counsel John Lavin and City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell

CUTS IN THE DEFEATED 2018-2019 SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET

The City Council and Cabinet discussed holding a Special Joint Council Meeting with the Board of Education and other School Officials on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, concerning proposed cuts in the 2018-2019 School Board Budget defeated at the polls during the School Board Election held Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The Mayor and City Council briefly discussed the 2018 Municipal Budget and the Public Hearing to be held later this evening during the Regular Meeting to be held after the conclusion of the Work Session.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. The Public Hearing to be held later this evening concerning the Green Acres Grant application of \$1,000,000 for the Historic Dundee Dam Pedestrian Walk – Phase II.
2. The 60 day termination notice served on New Jersey Animal Control and Rescue, LLC and the proposed engagement of the services of the Bergen County Animal Shelter.
3. The two meetings he had with the Scirocco Group, the new City Insurance Risk Managers.

ARRIVAL OF CITY AUDITOR LERCH

At 7:10 PM, City Auditor Dieter Lerch joined the Work Session and it was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

4. The construction of the new Police Station at or near 411 Midland Avenue and the change orders totaling approximately \$200,000.

ARRIVAL OF DEPUTY MAYOR DELANEY

At 7:20 PM, Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney joined the Work Session and it was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

5. The April 30th deadline for City Officials to file their Financial Disclosure Statements with the State of New Jersey.
6. The Department Head meeting he conducted regarding Website Updates for each Department, the proposed implementation of an Employees Evaluation Program, and the improper use of Social Media.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

7. The on-going investigation regarding the noise complaints at Fragale's Bakery at 68 Gaston Avenue.
8. Proposed amendments to the Laundromat Ordinance concerning hours of operation.
9. The Thank You Note that was received from Meals With a Mission for being allowed to use the Frank B. Calandriello Senior Center located at 480 Midland Avenue.

City Attorney Robert Ferraro reported on the following:

1. The proposed Person to Person Transfer of the Plenary Retail Consumption License that was held by Ever Wide, Inc. at 237 Palisade Avenue.

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

10. The \$800,000 Streetscape grant application for Passaic Street.

Councilmember Louis G. Aloia reported on the following:

1. The interest by Benda-Roehrich VFW Post No. 2867 in securing a passenger van for providing various Veteran Services and how the City may assist in this acquisition.

Councilmember Frank J. Calandriello reported on the following:

1. The proposed resolution authorizing the hiring of Hendricks Appraisal Company, LLC.

City Auditor Dieter Lerch reported on the following:

1. The 2018 Municipal Budget.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 18-135

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 7:50 PM on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 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 with Blue Collar, White Collar and PBA Local No. 46 Employee Unions).
- * Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations or matters falling within attorney-client privilege; (The Bid Protest regarding bids received for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal; Potential Lawsuit by Slovak Zion Lutheran Church and other property owners in objection to the proposed First Ward Redevelopment in the Passaic Street area).

CLOSED SESSION

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 4, Absent 1 -
Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

ADJOURNMENT

After the City Council came out of Closed Session at 8:00 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Joseph Delaney moved to adjourn the Work Session. Councilmember Calandriello duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 4, Absent 1 -
Councilmember Erin Delaney

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 8:05 PM in the Council Chamber in City Hall, 111 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026.

Mayor Richard Rigoglioso presided. City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice was provided by mail, fax and email 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, Frank J. Calandriello, Joseph Delaney and Richard Rigoglioso
Councilmembers Absent: Erin N. Delaney
Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, City Attorney Robert Ferraro, City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell and City Auditor Dieter Lerch

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Councilmember Joseph Delaney moved to approve the Reports of the Cabinet as presented orally and in writing during the Work Session held earlier this evening. Councilmember Aloia duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

PUBLIC HEARING ON GREEN ACRES GRANT APPLICATION OF \$1,000,000 FOR HISTORIC DUNDEE DAM PEDESTRIAN RIVER WALK – PHASE II

City Manager Duch explained the Green Acres Grant Application for \$1,000,000 for the Historic Dundee Dam Pedestrian River Walk – Phase II Project. He explained how late in 2016 a grant application was applied for and the City was awarded \$1,725,000 to apply for the purchase of property between the intersection of River Drive and Monroe Street, and River Drive and Passaic Street. He said that the City proposed, in Phase II, the extension of the Riverfront Park. He said that the grant application allowed the City to apply in areas where the riverfront is potentially contaminated by a chemical spill that took place many years ago by the Diamond Shamrock Company in Newark Bay. He said that the Passaic River is tidal from the Newark Bay all the way north to the Dundee Dam. He said that because the Passaic River is tidal, and because that area of the City is low-lying, and because that is an area of the City that is in need of some attention, the City applied for that grant, and there was a total fund of \$53 million, and the City was awarded \$1.725 million. He said that most of the communities closer to Newark Bay were awarded more money. He said that the City then went to Bergen County Open Space Trust and they awarded the City \$425,000. He said that he had met with a Committee appointed by the Superintendent of Schools to explore the possibility of redoing the Garfield High School Athletic Fields. He said that a grant application was filed seeking \$6.25 million in funding and the City was awarded a \$1 million Green Acres grant. He said that he called Green Acres because the City had been very successful with Green Acres and had received sizable funding from them and he called to express disappointment that the City only was awarded \$1 million. He said that he was told that the most any Municipality in the State can receive in any one year is \$1 million. He said that presentations were made before the School Board earlier this year by City Engineer Boswell and him and the City Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano. He said that the project was scaled down due to the size of the award. He said that the Project would be \$3 million the first year, \$2 million the second year, and \$1.5 million the third year. He said that he ran it past Green Acres and that they were amenable to that application process but the most that they would provide the City would be \$1 million the first year. He spoke on how there were extensive drainage issues that needed to be addressed with the Athletic Facility Project outside the Stadium along the abandoned railroad near Fleischer's Brook where parking was to be located. He said that this was going to be a state of the art athletic field for use for years to come. He said that he did request two extensions with the Green Acres Program to allow the Board of Education to deliberate to determine whether or not they would proceed. He said that the Mayor and Council graciously agreed to borrow the money and then the Board of Education would pay the Mayor and Council back. He said that, unfortunately, February 26, 2018, was the day that the Board of Education needed to act and the

PUBLIC HEARING ON GREEN ACRES GRANT APPLICATION OF \$1,000,000 FOR HISTORIC DUNDEE DAM PEDESTRIAN RIVER WALK – PHASE II

matter was tabled by the Board of Education. He said that on February 27, 2018, he had to report to Green Acres. He said that this had happened once before, back in 2010 or 2011, where the City had gone out and applied for improvements to the High School Field and the City was awarded \$800,000 at that time. He said that, unfortunately, that Project did not proceed at that time and the City lost the \$800,000. He said that he could not let that happen again. He said that when he spoke to Green Acres, he told them that the City would like to continue the River Walk and approval was granted.

City Manager Duch and City Engineer Boswell explained the River Walk Project.

Mayor Rigoglioso declared a public hearing on the Green Acres Grant Application for the Historic Dundee Dam Pedestrian River Walk – Phase II and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against this project.

Ms. Lisa Logan, 140 Main Street, questioned if there would be enough space for a basketball court.

Ms. Dolores Capizzi, 107 Midland Avenue, questioned if any phase of this project will be addressing the chromium contamination plume under the ground from the EC Electroplating factory previously located at the intersection of Clark Street and Lincoln Place.

Ms. Helen Nipitella, 246 Outwater Lane, asked if this project would affect owner occupied buildings.

There being no one else wishing to speak for or against this project, Mayor Rigoglioso declared the public hearing closed.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Rigoglioso declared a public hearing on the 2018 Municipal Budget and asked if there was anyone wishing to speak for or against the 2018 Municipal Budget.

Ms. Dolores Capizzi, 107 Midland Avenue, asked if there was money in the Budget for a Neighborhood Watch Program. She asked for brighter lights for the dead end of Hepworth Place by the train tracks. She asked for more security cameras in town.

Mr. Michael Denistran, 104 Palisade Avenue, spoke against the purchase of new water meters and against a sewer bill.

There being no one else wishing to speak for or against the 2018, Municipal Budget, Mayor Rigoglioso declared the public hearing closed.

EXIT OF CITY AUDITOR LERCH

At 8:50 PM, City Auditor Dieter Lerch left the Meeting and it was duly noted for the record.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 18-136

WHEREAS, the Garfield Board of Education and the James A. Garfield Early Childhood Learning Center are celebrating the Week of the Young Child, April 22-28, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Garfield Preschool Program is working to improve early learning opportunities which are crucial to the growth and development of young children, and to building better futures for everyone in the City of Garfield, New Jersey; and

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, the Garfield Preschool Program has formulated a collaborative partnership between parents, educators and caregivers to offer a quality early childhood education program to our youngest students as evidenced by the success of our community and the ability for the City of Garfield, to be a great place to raise children; and

WHEREAS, early childhood professionals and others who make a difference in the lives of young children in the City of Garfield, deserve thanks and recognition; and

WHEREAS, in recognizing and supporting the people, program and policies that are committed to high-quality early childhood education as the right choice for children as they lay the foundation for a child's future successes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey, that the week of April 22nd through April 28th, 2018 shall be deemed and designated as the "Week of the Young Child" in the City of Garfield; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Garfield City Council pays tribute to the Garfield Board of Education and the Garfield Preschool Program for its dedication and commitment to all its Preschool Students and extends best wishes and continued success.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Joseph Delaney
Frank J. Calandriello

Resolution No. 18-137

WHEREAS, Fire Company No. 2 has advised that they have accepted Randy Calderon of 51 Belmont Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey 07026, as a Junior Member, effective April 24, 2018,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey that the action taken by Fire Company No. 2 with respect to the above matter, is hereby approved.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

Resolution No. 18-138

WHEREAS, Fire Company No. 4 has advised that they have accepted Nicholas Jimenez Sturla of 340 Summer Street, Clifton, New Jersey 07011 as a regular member, effective April 6, 2018,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey that the action taken by Fire Company No. 4 with respect to the above matter, is hereby approved.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

Resolution No. 18-139

WHEREAS, Fire Company No. 5 has advised that they have accepted Patrick C. Ducey of 115 Summit Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey 07026 as a regular member, effective March 6, 2018,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey that the action taken by Fire Company No. 5 with respect to the above matter, is hereby approved.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 18-140

WHEREAS, Dorothy L Popernik, 205 Cambridge Avenue, who is the holder of a Disabled Person I.D. Card No. P1784467, has filed application for a handicapped parking sign to be placed at her address, and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has conducted an investigation and recommend approval of the application,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield that one parking space be designated as reserved for "Handicapped Parking", located on the west curb line of Cambridge Avenue commencing 189 feet south of the intersection of Cambridge Avenue and Van Winkle Avenue and run an additional 25 feet south from that point.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Traffic Safety Control Division is hereby authorized and directed to erect an appropriate sign at the above location.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

Resolution No. 18-141

WHEREAS, Antonino DiPiazza, 67 Gaston Avenue, who is the holder of a Disabled Person I.D. Card No. P1929537, has filed application for a handicapped parking sign to be placed at his address, and

WHEREAS, the Police Department has conducted an investigation and recommend approval of the application,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield that one parking space be designated as reserved for "Handicapped Parking", located on the west curb line of Gaston Avenue commencing 264 feet south of the intersection of Gaston Avenue and Charles Street and run an additional 22 feet south from that point.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Traffic Safety Control Division is hereby authorized and directed to erect an appropriate sign at the above location.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

Resolution No. 18-142

WHEREAS, the Garfield Event Planning and Recreation Advisory Committee has requested permission to conduct a Memorial Day Parade on Sunday, May 27, 2018. Memorial Day Services will begin at 11:00 AM with parade staging following at 11:30 AM and the Parade starting at 1:00 PM;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Garfield, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Garfield Event Planning and Recreation Advisory Committee is hereby granted approval to conduct the annual Memorial Day Parade commencing on Sunday, May 27, 2018. Memorial Day Services will begin at 11:00 AM with parade staging following at 11:30 AM and the Parade starting at 1:00 PM;
2. The following street closures shall be authorized:
 - a. Midland Avenue from Somerset Street to President Street;
 - b. Harrison Avenue from Lincoln Place to Midland Avenue;
 - c. Marsellus Place from Midland Avenue to Passaic Street;
 - d. Outwater Lane from 5th Street to Jewell Street;
 - e. Atlantic Street entire length;
 - f. Commerce Street from Atlantic Street to Lincoln Place;
 - g. All approaches to Midland Avenue and Outwater Lane

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk be and he is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this approved Resolution to the Garfield Event Planning and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Chief of Police, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works for the City of Garfield, and the City Attorney.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 18-143

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO INSTALL PERMANENT SURVEY MARKERS ON PROPERTIES TO BE ACQUIRED BY THE CITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE RIVER DRIVE, PHASE II PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Garfield has secured grants from multiple state and county sources to provide for the acquisition, remediation and improvement of River Drive between Passaic and Monroe Streets, and;

WHEREAS, a park and bikeway along the Passaic River are also major elements of this project, and;

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the portion of the properties to be used for parkland purposes will utilize NJDEP funding in accordance with the Office of Natural Resource Restoration requirements which includes the installation of permanent survey markers at property corners and along the property line on the Passaic River frontage,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the City Engineer is hereby authorized to install the required permanent survey markers pursuant to the NJDEP land acquisition requirements for a total fee not to exceed \$12,000

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

Resolution No. 18-144

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO PROVIDE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE 2018 ROAD AND PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Garfield is desirous of undertaking road and parking lot improvements at the following locations:

1. Garfield City Hall
2. Garfield Recreation Center
3. Garfield Senior Center
4. Garfield Boys and Girls Club
5. Garfield Public Library
6. Garfield Fire Company No. 4

WHEREAS, the scope of work will also include curb, sidewalk, drainage, sanitary sewer, water and barrier free access improvements, and;

WHEREAS, additional curb and sidewalk improvements are also necessary at roadways being disturbed by contractors retained by Public Service Electric and Gas (PSE&G) in order to replace deficient natural gas lines;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Engineer is hereby authorized to prepare the bid documents and provide inspection services for the above referenced improvements for a fee not to exceed \$100,000.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 18-145

WHEREAS the Receiver of Sewer reports that she has received a request from the following property owner for a refund due to sewer over payment for the year 2015, 2016, 2017.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, that the proper offices are hereby authorized to issue a check refunding this over payment and forward same to the Receiver of Sewer for the purpose of noting her records and for mailing to the property owner.

SEWER ACCT #	OWNER	REASON	AMOUNT
3-10-66	Ciampitti, Michele & Ian	O/P SEWER	\$330.00

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

Resolution No. 18-146

WHEREAS the Receiver of Sewer reports that she has received a request from the following property owner for a refund due to sewer over payment for the year 2018.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, that the proper offices are hereby authorized to issue a check refunding this over payment and forward same to the Receiver of Sewer for the purpose of noting her records and for mailing to the property owner.

SEWER ACCT #	OWNER	REASON	AMOUNT
5-16-124	IDS Group LLC	O/P SEWER	\$170.00

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Frank J. Calandriello

Resolution No.18-147

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF HENDRICKS APPRAISAL COMPANY, LLC
WHEREAS the City of Garfield is in need of appraisal services in connection with the acquisition of the following properties:

- 239-247 River Drive, Garfield, NJ
- 263 River Drive, Garfield, NJ
- 649-651 River Drive, Garfield, NJ

WHEREAS the cost for each appraisal shall be as follows:

- 239-247 River Drive, Garfield, NJ - \$2,000.00
- 263 River Drive, Garfield, NJ - \$2,000.00
- 649-651 River Drive, Garfield, NJ - \$3,000.00

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of City of Garfield authorizes the City Manager, Thomas J. Duch, to enter into contract with Hendricks Appraisal Company, LLC to perform appraisals at the above mentioned properties pursuant to the proposal attached hereto as Exhibit A,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the City of Garfield authorizes the City Manager, Thomas J. Duch, to enter into contract with Hendricks Appraisal Company, LLC to perform appraisals at the above mentioned properties pursuant to the proposal attached hereto as Exhibit A.

On call of roll, Ayes 3,
Abstain 1 – Councilmember Calandriello,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Richard Rigoglioso

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Resolution No. 18-148

RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield that the following bill No. 2094 to 2096 covering Trust Other, Community Policing Trust Fund, Dog Trust Fund totaling \$1,215.05 and the Current Fund Reserve totaling \$49,246.78 and the Current Fund totaling \$4,515,637.12 and the Water Fund Reserve totaling \$327.90 and the Water Fund Current totaling 2,121,894.32 and the General Capital Fund totaling \$343,270.51 and Water Capital Fund totaling \$5,247.00 per attached Computer Lists, be ordered paid and the proper officers are hereby authorized to issue checks for same provided there are funds in the respective appropriations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the action of the Mayor, City Clerk and City Treasurer in issuing checks in payment on the Ratification List, which includes seventeen (17) items prior to the meeting be ratified.

See

the

following

pages numbered _____

for

Bills

and

Claims

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No.

The following entitled ordinance was introduced at a Regular Meeting held Tuesday, March 13, 2018; it was duly published; a copy was posted on the bulletin board in City Hall; copies were made available to the general public and having complied with the law, this ordinance was not read in full, the public hearing on this ordinance was held March 27, 2018, at which meeting the ordinance was tabled, the ordinance was also tabled on April 3, 2018, and the City Council can now proceed with the final passage:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REVISE CHAPTER 310 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD, ENTITLED "TOW TRUCKS"

City Clerk Pavlica read the ordinance by title.

Councilmember Aloia moved to lay said ordinance on the table until the Regular Meeting to be held May 15, 2018. Councilmember Joseph Delaney duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 4, Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

Councilmember Aloia introduced in writing the following ordinance entitled:

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM IN, BY AND FOR THE CITY OF GARFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$270,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS

City Clerk Pavlica read the ordinance by title.

Councilmember Aloia moved that this ordinance entitled: "BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE UNDERTAKING OF THE TREE PLANTING PROGRAM IN, BY AND FOR THE CITY OF GARFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$270,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS" do now pass on first reading and remain on file with the City Clerk for public inspection until public hearing thereon and further consideration thereof which shall be held May 15, 2018 at 8:00 PM in the City Hall in Garfield and that the City Clerk be directed to publish said ordinance in full together with the notice of such hearing in The Record, at least seven days prior to the hearing.

The motion, duly seconded by Councilmember Joseph Delaney was on roll call adopted by the following vote and the motion was declared adopted and said ordinance passed on first reading: On call of roll, Ayes 4, Absent 1 – Councilmember Erin Delaney

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Joseph Delaney said that he wants to address a letter that was passed out by certain members of the City Council. He said that in the letter it mentions that he, Councilmember Erin Delaney and Mayor Rigoglioso put politics ahead of youth and environmental issues. He spoke on how his family sponsored youth teams since 1965. He said that his Family has continued that tradition until today, which totals 53 years. He said that he coached his first Little League team in 1977, and he continued to coach until a few years ago when his job switched his hours and he could not coach anymore. He said that Councilmember Erin Delaney participated in so many City youth

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Organizations, until recently, and Mayor Rigoglioso has six young children who participate in City youth organizations and so did he and his Family for so many years. He said to say that they put politics ahead of youth organizations is untrue. He said that it was mentioned that they put politics ahead of the environment, when Councilmember Erin Delaney put together a Green Team with the help of the Mayor to address issues concerning the environment throughout the City. He spoke on the City just being awarded a \$10,000 grant to address environmental issues that, never once, was addressed before. He said that they do believe in the City's History. He said that during the City's first Youth Sports Parade, he did not hand out political literature, but what he did do, was to handle out a Resolution to the Little League President explaining the history of LoFaso Field in Belmont Oval off Spring Street. He said that the field was named after a young man who was killed in the Viet Nam War. He said that they decided to take a look at Columbus Park due to the fact that it was underused. He said that Babe Ruth Baseball was there for many, many years, and he played in it and coached in it. He spoke on the decline of Babe Ruth Baseball. He said that this year only seven kids signed up for Babe Ruth Baseball, which meant they did not even have enough players to field one team, so he and two other Councilmembers decided to take a look at other options. He said that just because you may want to take a look at options, does not mean anything. He said that to leave that field vacant is the wrong decision to make. He said that he has mentioned in the past his question of what would happen if the City developed two acres of that six acre property. He spoke on developing the four remaining acres of the park with, perhaps, an amphitheater where concerts and talent shows, farmer markets and events for special needs kids could be held. He said that the money that is obtained from Redevelopment could be put into the proposed improvements of the Garfield High School Athletic Complex Project. He said that the City could have the best sports complex in the County which can be used and enjoyed every day by 1,400 high school students and thousands of residents of the City. He said that he sees the City high school sports teams playing their home games throughout the City. He said that he sees the City Track Team running in the streets to practice because they do not have a decent track. He said that the Board of Education Budget just got voted down, so they do not have the money. He asked if City Officials should just give up, or should they think outside the box. He said that it is one vision for the future, and it may not happen, but why not consider it? He said that the City Council will listen to everything and everyone. He said that nothing has been decided about what to do with Columbus Park, but to do nothing, is not the right decision, also. He said that everyone should work together to make Garfield an even better City than it is now. He said that so much more can be accomplished when everyone works together. He said that he has been on the City Council for 16 years, and for a majority of the time, he was the youngest member offering fresh ideas to the Council, until he was joined by a 26 year old female, with a degree and visions for the future of our City that he never thought was possible until he listened to her. He said to have a father with six young children in the Mayor's chair who does not stop thinking of ways to improve our City, especially for our youth, it is an exciting time. He said that they do not think about future elections, they think about the future of Garfield.

Councilmember Aloia said that the issue at hand is simple and it is that the City has a beautiful field at the corner of Outwater Lane and Midland Avenue. He said that the Babe Ruth organization has been a program for decades and has done an outstanding job. He said that things are changing there at the field, but not for Redevelopment and not for condominiums. He said that it should just change to a different sport. He said that the Resolution that was brought up at the April 3rd Meeting is not the issue. He said that the Resolution does not mention anything that Deputy Mayor Delaney just said; it says nothing about a sports complex; it says Columbus Park would be an area in need of Redevelopment. He said that the City cannot take Green Acres property and move it from here to over there. He said that he called Green Acres and asked them if the City sells two acres of Green Acres parkland, can the City use that money to redevelop the other four acres of land, and Green Acres told him that it has to be a net gain of Green Acres property. He said that he proposed at the last meeting that this be stopped and talk to the sports organizations that are involved, and reach out to them, and make a pitch to the Council. He spoke of Garfield High School kids practicing in Columbus Park without a problem. He said that if Condos are placed in that park, in time, people will forget that the ballfields were there first, and they will want to develop the rest of the vacant land. He said that Columbus Park is a great place for a basketball court. He said that in the past, the City put basketball courts in the wrong location. He said that he suggests placing the basketball courts deeper in the park where it will not bother homeowners. He said that the City Budget has a

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surplus and he questioned if Green Acres would accept the argument that the City needs the money by selling a part of the Park for condominiums. He questioned how the Planning Board adopted its Resolution and he begs the Planning Board to think differently about selling a ball field for condominiums that has been in the City's possession since 1898. He asked that the City Council re-vote on this matter and just say "no" to this Resolution and do something for sports and the kids and not make it a political football.

Councilmember Calandriello said that leaflets were passed out at the Little League grand opening, and in his time, this is the first time that parkland was ever considered to be turned over for Redevelopment. He said that Redevelopment does not mean fixing the park or beautifying the park. He said that parks in the town have been renovated and improved without going through a Redeveloper. He said that never in his years did he ever think he would be arguing this point because to him, it was one of the things that you would never consider. He said that he would never consider giving up a hundred year old park. He said that back in 1913, the City purchase the land for Columbus Park from the Belmont Land Company. He said that the City has Water Wells located in this park. He said that it is a field that many of the City's young kids have played on. He said that the years of struggle by the Babe Ruth League have probably come to an end. He said that there will be no Babe Ruth Baseball this year, but that is no reason to blow up the field, and give up the field. He said that the City has been trying to improve the High School Field since he was the Mayor and it never got done. He said that this is the first time he is hearing using money from the Babe Ruth Field to fix the High School Field. He said that the time table does not add up and the money does not add up. He said that the assessment on Columbus Park is \$2.7 million and he believes it is worth more, but the High School Field Improvements will cost over \$6 million. He said that there is no need to give up what the City has, for what the City needs in the future. He said that there are other options and he wants to explore those options and do whatever he possibly can. He said that the only person who will ever benefit from this deal is the Developer because what he will have is grand luxury apartments with a beautiful front lawn, which is the City's old park, which will not be able to be used for much more than looking at it. He said that there is so much that can be done and he said that the ideas that Mr. Delaney had, he likes those ideas. He said to do it with the entire 6.7 acres, not only 4 acres. He spoke on what can happen with the City's relationship with Green Acres. He said that when he spoke to them, they said that they have not received any notification from the City. He said that the City should not burn its bridges with Green Acres. He said that there is a good relationship with the City of Garfield and Green Acres because the City has always done the right thing and they have always considered the City of Garfield as a good place to put their grant money. He said that once this property is gone, the property will just be talked about as a memory and the City can do a lot better and there is so much opportunity. He spoke on never exercising eminent domain on Redevelopment Projects. He said that the City needs to work with the people and the property owners. He said that what separates Garfield from every other Bergen County town is its volunteers and its parks. He said that no town has the parks that Garfield has and he wants to keep it that way. He said that when he coached football and the team would go to play fairly wealthy communities, Garfield is, perhaps the poorest community in Bergen County, and the wealthy communities do not have the quality of fields that the City of Garfield has.

Mayor Rigoglioso said that the City should not move backwards, the City should move forward. He said that the City parks are much better than many wealthy communities, but Columbus Park is not a park, it is a field. He said that Columbus Park is booked every Sunday until October, and every Sunday until October, only 18 people are going to be using that field. He said that the City is allocating 6 acres for 18 people, and they are all from out of town. He said that he ran for City Council because there is a need for change in Garfield. He said that there has to be change because the City cannot stay stagnant. He said that he has lived in Garfield his whole life and his kids are growing up in Garfield and the City needs to move forward. He said that he sees Columbus Park not being utilized the way it should be utilized. He said that the City needs to do something different there, where it is not just 18 kids using that field, and that is it. He said that he would like a basketball court there. He said that he would like to see it made into a multi-purpose park for children and kids with disabilities. He said that if two acres of land is Redeveloped, the City has to replace it and find at least four acres of field somewhere. He said that the High School Field could be improved and be used by the thousands of students and the City residents. He said that that may be a solution, but he does not know, but the City Council has to look into things. He said that it is good that finally, people are talking about something in Garfield for good, bad or indifferent. He said that that is a positive. He said that he does not know what the future holds for Columbus Park,

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but something needs to be done in Columbus Park. He said that Columbus Park needs to be utilized by everybody, not just for a specific baseball team. He said that it is about moving forward.

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

Mr. Dennis Malicki, 54 Maitland Place, said that he cannot understand how condominiums in Columbus Park equates to moving forward. He said that the City Council does not have the right to sell that field. He said that when the City Council talks about Redevelopment, they are talking about selling Columbus Park or parts of it. He said that if two acres of Green Acres designated parkland are taken, eight acres of parkland needs to replace those two acres. He questioned where the City would find eight acres of additional parkland. He said that there was a meeting today of the various sports organizations interested in using Columbus Park. He said that there are a number of organizations that cannot wait to get onto that field. He said that the field can be utilized and be an absolute gem. He said that in regard to history, this field is part of Garfield's history. He said that it has been a cornerstone of this community for a hundred years. He said to compromise one field, to add to another, does not make sense. He said that the High School Field needs improvement and the High School Students deserve better. He said that the Mayor and Council do not have the right to sell Columbus Park. He said that he was handed a petition by a 13 year old girl to present to the Mayor and Council that says "Save Our Baseball Field" and it has 64 signatures on it from Middle School kids. He questioned the Planning Board vote on a Resolution considered in January that failed because there were not sufficient Aye votes for passage, but after the meeting, the Abstain votes were ruled to go with the Aye votes, and then it was ruled that the Resolution was, in fact, adopted. He questioned if that vote was conducted with proper protocol and met statutory provisions. He said that if the City Council passed a Resolution based on the Planning Board vote that may have been conducted illegally, there is no reason to be here, because there is no Resolution, because the Planning Board vote failed. He said that he spoke to several Recreation Directors in other towns and none of them have ever heard of a town converting parkland to housing ever.

EXIT OF COUNCILMEMBER ALOIA FROM THE DAIS

At 9:55 PM, Councilmember Louis G. Aloia left the Dais and sat in the audience as a Citizen and a Taxpayer. It was duly noted for the record.

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

Ms. Lisa Logan, 140 Main Street, said that kids do not have enough activities and things to do and that recreation should not be taken away from them. She said a baseball field should not be taken away from the kids for the construction of condominiums. She said that this would overpopulate the schools. She said that the City should build a better park there for the kids. She said that a basketball court should be constructed in Columbus Park. She said that City Officials should think about the future and not our pockets.

Mr. Louis G. Aloia, 169 Harrison Avenue, said that he has sat on the City Council for years. He said that this proposal for Columbus Park would take a ball field away from his Grandkids. He said that the City should rescind the Resolution it passed at the last meeting concerning this Park. He spoke on the plans offered by Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney that he said the City should do regarding Columbus Park. He said that the City Council is not the School Board and that it is the job of the School Board to take care of the Garfield High School field. He said that the City should not take one field away to give it to another field. He said that it does not work. He spoke on the current City Surplus. He said that the City does not have to sell 2 acres of parkland for condos for any reason whatsoever.

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

Ms. Christina Drakeford, 196 Shaw Street, said that she has two boys in high school who grew up with the Garfield Boys and Girls Club. She said that they love basketball and only about 20 kids make the high school basketball team. She spoke on her kids opportunities to play basketball in town. She said that she cannot see the City getting rid of 2 acres of Columbus Park. She asked the City Council to please rescind the Resolution passed at the last Council Meeting. She suggested that the City Council redo Columbus Park. She said that her kids have to go to other towns to play basketball.

Ms. Jeannette Casiano, 481 Harrison Avenue, said that Columbus Park is where she goes every morning to exercise. She proposed making improvements to Columbus Park. She spoke on opening up Columbus Park to more kids. She requested that the City Council rethink how to keep Columbus Park open to everyone, not fenced in, and not having time restrictions for the use of the park.

Mr. Fess Logan, 316 Malcolm Avenue, said that there is not enough for the kids to do in town. He said that there are no basketball courts available for the kids. He asked that the City Council find things for the kids to do.

Ms. Dolores Capizzi, 107 Midland Avenue, spoke on playgrounds being closed in town after certain hours. She said that there are more kids than the City had before with less recreational space for them. She spoke on opening up Columbus Park to soccer players, and having a concession stand to generate revenue for the City. She suggested that the City Council look at the recreational facilities in other towns. She suggested making Columbus Park a multi-purpose park.

Mr. Shariff Healy, 240 Malcolm Avenue, spoke on searching for places to play basketball. He said that Columbus Park could be an excellent site for basketball and for special needs children. He said that it is a good "workout" park. He said that condos are the wrong answer.

Mr. John Tamwebber, 10 Walnut Street, said spoke on the beautiful park improvements along the Passaic River. He said that where there is a park already in regard to Columbus Park, it should not be taken away for condominiums. He suggested making Columbus Park a multi-purpose park. He said that it has the only regulation baseball field in the City. He said that the City should redevelop the park, but do not redevelop it with condos.

Mr. Wiliam Polcari, 5 Maitland Place, said that you cannot build land. He said that once you sell land, you are not getting it back.

Mr. Abdel Sardena, 10 Spring Garden Lane, said that as a Realtor, one of the biggest selling points for Garfield are its parks. He said that the City should not take that away and build condominiums. He said that there are plenty of places for living in Garfield. He said that it is better to redevelop Columbus Park to include basketball courts and things for kids. He said that taking things away from kids is not helping them.

Ms. Helen Nipitella, 246 Outwater Lane, proposed a picnic area and tables and chairs and shade trees and a small playground for children in Columbus Park. She questioned if housing or condominiums were constructed in Columbus Park, where will they keep the cars? She said that the City streets cannot handle the traffic that it currently has.

Mr. Anthony Furfaro, 367 MacArthur Avenue, said that he knows that the City Council wants to do what is right for the kids, but condominiums are not the answer. He said that Columbus Park should be upgraded with a track, a playground, and other improvements and it should be a universal park. He said that scheduling is the way to handle the park. He said to develop it for recreation for the people and to do it right.

Mr. Justin Rondon, 9 Willard Street, spoke on the need to find an area to play basketball. He said that condominiums are not the right idea for Columbus Park. He suggested opening up a basketball court. He said that if parking is terrible, adding condos will make it worse.

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

Ms. Patricia Nayda, 184 Shaw Street, spoke on the high foreclosure rates in Garfield. He said that to add condos, will overcrowd the City Schools. She spoke on people buying condos as investment properties. She spoke on how bad traffic is in Garfield. She spoke on the difficulty of firetrucks getting to fires if traffic is bad in town. She advocated constructing basketball courts in Columbus Park.

Ms. Meghan Stamatopoulos, 102 Hartmann Avenue, spoke on the City Budget having a huge surplus. She spoke on the proposed First Ward Redevelopment Project in the Passaic Street area. She said that the City should not take Columbus Park away from the people. She spoke on adding basketball courts to the park. She spoke on letting the kids have the park.

Mr. Anthony “Tom” Barckett, 183 Lincoln Place, said that he applauds the passion of the people. He spoke on the Board of Education Budget being the only Budget that is voted on by the people. He spoke on attempts to improve the Garfield High School Athletic Complex. He spoke on needing the help of the people in supporting the Board of Education.

EXIT OF CITY MANAGER DUCH

At 10:30 PM, City Manager Thomas J. Duch left the Meeting and it was duly noted for the record.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Calandriello spoke on how there was no video recording of the last Council Meeting, which was rescheduled, and how he changed his plans to attend that meeting. He spoke on how Councilmember Aloia moved to hold off acting on the Resolution concerning Columbus Park and have the professionals come in, along with representatives from the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club and the Recreation Department, but it still was pushed through. He said that he wanted the City Planner to attend the meeting and he was denied. He said that the presentation that was made to the Planning Board was not made to the City Council and he, as a Councilmember, had no idea about the contents of the presentation. He said that it gives the perception of “let’s just push it through”, and that is wrong. He said that this proposal for Columbus Park is such a drastic step. He said that it is a step in a different direction than the City of Garfield has taken in many, many years, when they opened up and built Boys and Girls Clubs and built parks and improved parks. He spoke on the area of Twentieth Century Field off Elizabeth Street where the Veterans barracks were located for servicemen and their families to live. He said that when his late father, Frank B. Calandriello, was on the City Council, he was approached to build two family homes there. He spoke on how his Dad and other Councilmembers instead dedicated that property as parkland. He spoke on how now that parkland is utilized by the Garfield Junior Boilermaker football program and cheerleaders, Freshman Football, Junior Varsity Football, Junior Varsity Soccer, Freshman Soccer, and other activities. He said that without the foresight and a vision for the future, that field would be more two family homes. He spoke on Garfield being over 30,000 people and he questioned where the City can put all the people in 2.2 square miles of the town. He said that when a town has that kind of density, parks are even more valuable. He said that the people really need open space and he is for whatever is proposed to keep Columbus Park as open space. He said that this needs to be put to rest, rescind the Resolution passed by the City Council at the last meeting, and he and Councilmember Aloia will drop the lawsuit and the City can move forward. He questioned if City Officials have been approached and have met with Developers for Columbus Park. He spoke on how development on and near parks changes the appearance of a park and how the park is just not the same anymore. He advocated reconsidering the City Council Resolution that was approved at

the last Council Meeting. He said that the City Council should go about it as the residents are asking them to do. He said that the government is here to serve the public.

Regular Meeting April 24, 2018, Continued

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney said that the City Council does listen to the people and that nothing has been decided in regard to Columbus Park whatsoever. He said that there is nothing wrong to just take a look at it. He said that he would rather see a park there rather than anything, but he would also love to see the High School kids get a new field. He said that some people talk about Redevelopment as if it is a nasty word sometimes, but eleven years ago the City was looking to lay off cops and get rid of programs such as the Easter Egg Hunt, the Memorial Day Parade, Fourth of July Fireworks, and many other activities in the City. He said that the City Budget today has a \$6 million dollar surplus and it is due to Redevelopment and that is fantastic. He said that he is not for condominiums on Columbus Park, he is looking to improve it. He spoke on the people speaking from the heart. He said that he is open to every single option. He said that nothing will happen at Columbus Park until there are all types of meetings. He said that he wants to improve Columbus Park.

Mayor Rigoglioso spoke on people speaking from the heart and how it is touching to see that people actually care. He said that he will always continue to look to move Garfield forward. He said that he will always look for what is good for Garfield. He said that the people spoke so well and so passionate that it is persuading. He said that condominiums may not be the best thing for Columbus Park. He said that he wants to look to see what is possible and he is throwing ideas up to see what connects so Garfield can be a positive in Bergen County. He spoke on Garfield being one of the poorest in Bergen County and how that always bothered him, so he is always putting ideas out there to make Garfield better. He spoke on revitalizing Columbus Park and how he will continue to talk to the residents about how to make a decision. He spoke on the student who passed away today in a bicycle/truck accident near Lanza Avenue and how it lays heavy on his mind. He said that it is disturbing to him. He said that he will continue to listen to everybody and hopefully come to a resolution that will benefit Garfield. He said that nothing is happening right now in regard to Columbus Park and he will listen to all sides and make a conscientious decision and move from there.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:45 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Calandriello moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Joseph Delaney duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 3, Absent 2 –
Councilmembers Aloia and Erin Delaney

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK