

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 8:05 PM in the Emergency Operations Center in the Police Headquarters located at 411 Midland Avenue, 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 under guidelines set forth by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services in an email dated March 12, 2020 for the conduct of Council Meetings under a Health Emergency. City Clerk Pavlica announced 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 and on the City Website. City Clerk Pavlica also announced that, although not required, a special public notice was also published in the April 10, 2020 edition of the Bergen Record newspaper advising of this meeting being held remotely, and the public was also directed to the City Website for guidance in order to listen and watch and participate. City Clerk Pavlica advised that these actions have been taken to protect the health, safety and welfare of the people of Garfield due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Councilmembers Present: Joseph Delaney

Councilmembers Present Telephonically: Louis G. Aloia, Frank J. Calandriello, Erin N. Delaney and Richard Rigoglioso

Also Present: City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica

Also Present Telephonically: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Attorney Robert Ferraro, Labor Counsel John Lavin, City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell and Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano

MINUTES

Councilmember Joseph Delaney moved to approve the Minutes of the following meetings:

Work	Session	-	January	14,	2020
Regular	Meeting	-	January	14,	2020
Work	Session	-	January	28,	2020
Regular	Meeting	-	January	28,	2020
Work	Session	-	February	11,	2020
Regular	Meeting	-	February	11,	2020
Work	Session	-	March	10,	2020
Regular	Meeting	-	March	10,	2020
Work	Session	-	March	24,	2020
Regular	Meeting	-	March	24,	2020

Councilmember Erin Delaney duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Abstain 1 – Councilmember Aloia

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

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

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Abstain 1 – Councilmember Aloia

COVID 19 REPORT BY CITY MANAGER DUCH

City Manager Thomas J. Duch read the following statement: “Before we begin, I would be remiss if I did not take the time to advise the general public of the heroic efforts on the part of our public safety personnel and other City employees in addressing this crisis as it has unfolded. To keep the public informed, we have regularly done robocalls, videos by the Mayor and by me, updates to the City website and quietly provided assistance to those in need.

COVID 19 REPORT BY CITY MANAGER DUCH

We have taken on the responsibility for the Meals on Wheels distribution of 88 of our residents because the County is no longer able to provide this service. For several weeks, meals have been distributed to the Housing Authority through the efforts of Mayor Rigoglioso to needy seniors. Distribution has taken place with the assistance of numerous volunteers.

I would be remiss if I did not take the time to thank all of the following groups that have contributed in significant ways to addressing the scourge of this crisis. They include: Strangers Helping Strangers, Garfield Neighbors Network, Garfield YMCA, Garfield Boys & Girls Club, Garfield Rotary Club, Garfield Prevention Coalition, House of Worship Church (Passaic Street), NJ Food and Clothing Rescue (Wallington, NJ), Community Foodbank of NJ, Center for Food Action (Saddle Brook), Meals with a Mission (Garfield, NJ), Garfield Housing Authority, and the Taub Foundation. I would like to commend the Sew Sistas who have been sewing masks and providing them as a public service during this crisis. I would also like to thank the Albanian Alliance for their donation and delivery of more than 1,000 cases of water.

Thanks also go out to Police Chief Raymond Kovach, Deputy Chief Ronald Polonkay, Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Michael Marsh, Deputy Coordinator Sgt. Claire Follari, Public Health Nurse Darlene Reveille, Health Office Sam Yanovich, the Community Policing Division lead by Sgt. Jeff Stewart, our Police Force and the volunteers in our Garfield Fire Department.

Early on I had asked that necessary supplies be ordered and stockpiled in the event the crisis would fall on us. Besides face masks, we have had donations of face shields by Brimar Industries here in our City.

We have monitored the pronouncements of the President, the Executive Orders of Governor Phil Murphy and the directives issued by County Executive James Tedesco. The Mayor and I have participated in the Countywide conference calls with the County Executive and our Police have participated in the briefings of the Attorney General and the Bergen County Prosecutor. Our Office of Emergency Management is constantly in contact with the County Office of Emergency Management.

Our Police have done an excellent job in responding to calls for assistance as a result of this disease. Thank you to them and to Hackensack University Medical Center for the excellent services provided.

Working with our Health Department, self-service counters have been eliminated and food has been wrapped for individual purchase. Merchants have been alerted of violations and they have been corrected.

Besides the public outreach, I have also been regularly reporting to the Governing Body on the numbers of sick and deceased.

For further details, I invite you to log on to the City website at www.garfieldnj.org. For anyone who does not participate, I strongly urge you to sign up for Nixle alerts at www.nixle.com. This is a texting service that sends important notices to those who subscribe, for free. I also direct you to youtube.com. If you type in 'City of Garfield' you can view the various video updates over the course of this pandemic.

To our citizens, I can only urge you to stay home. If you must shop – go alone. Do not make it a family trip. Make your shopping for food and necessities more efficient. Wear a mask when you are in close proximity to others. Shop quickly for food and necessities and then return home.

COVID 19 REPORT BY CITY MANAGER DUCH

Currently we have 441 confirmed cases of Coronavirus in the City. We also have 23 deaths attributed to this dreadful disease. While those of you have been viewing our social media outreach have heard me say this before, I must repeat again that it is only by following the explicit direction of our Governor, our Federal, State and Local health authorities, that we can beat this crisis. We are all in this together. Let us all do what we must to protect each other and our families. Thank you.”

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 20-114

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey that the Regular Meeting of the City Council scheduled to be held Tuesday, April 28, 2020 will commence at 7:00 PM and will include a public hearing on the 2020 Municipal Budget.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-115

A RESOLUTION APPROVING FEDERAL GRANT AGREEMENT NO. 2019-DT-BLA-206 BETWEEN THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF GARFIELD FOR THE GARFIELD REVITALIZATION STREETScape & PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT (PHASE 1) CITY OF GARFIELD (\$1,150,000)

WHEREAS, the City of Garfield has undertaken the Garfield Revitalization Streetscape & Pedestrian Safety Project (Phase 1), and;

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 19-393 previously authorized the execution of an agreement between the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the City for a Transportation Alternatives Program grant, and;

WHEREAS, a federal grant has been allocated in the amount of ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$1,150,000), and;

WHEREAS, these federal grant monies shall help pay for the cost of the project in the amount of ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$1,150,000), and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the applicable grant regulations and requirements, the City of Garfield recognizes the following information:

- Federal Project No. TAP-0401 (300)
- Authorized Representative: Thomas J. Duch, Esq., City Manager
- Name of Project: Garfield Revitalization Streetscape & Pedestrian safety Project (Phase 1)

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Garfield to enter into the subject Federal Grant Agreement No. 2019-DT-BLA-206 with the Department of Transportation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Garfield, that;

1. The aforesaid recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Mayor and Council hereby authorizes the City Manager, Thomas J. Duch, Esq. or his lawfully designated designee, to execute any and all documents and take any and all actions necessary to complete and realize the intent and purpose of this Resolution.
3. The Mayor and Council hereby approves Federal Grant No. 2019-DT-BLA-206 for the above described purpose.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTIONS

On call of roll, Ayes 5

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-116

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO PREPARE BOUNDARY SURVEYS OF BLOCK 220, LOT 1, BLOCK 56.01, LOT 21.02 & BLOCK 50.02, LOT 21 WHEREAS, the City of Garfield requires boundary surveys of the above referenced parcels, and; WHEREAS, a detailed proposal for this work was submitted on April 9, 2020 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Engineer is hereby authorized to perform boundary surveys for each of the three (3) noted parcels for a total fee not to exceed \$14,800.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-117

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS FOR PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES PURSUANT TO THE LONG TERM TAX EXEMPTION LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 ET SEQ., FOR THREE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE PASSAIC STREET REDEVELOPMENT AREA AND KALAMA SITE REDEVELOPMENT AREA ALL SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF THE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, pursuant to the "Local Redevelopment and Housing Law," P.L.1992, c.79 (C.40A:12A-1 et seq.), the Garfield City Council ("City Council"), by a Resolution adopted on April 23, 2019, determined 100 Passaic Street, also known as Block 14.02, Lot 4.01 and 95-109 Passaic Street, also known as Block 23, Lots 25, 28 & 29 as a non-condemnation redevelopment area (the "Passaic Street Redevelopment Area"); and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of redeveloping the Passaic Street Redevelopment Area, on August 13, 2019, the City Council adopted an ordinance approving a redevelopment plan for the Redevelopment Area entitled, Redevelopment Plan for the Redevelopment Area, dated May 28, 2019 prepared by Benecke Economics; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2019, the Board of Commissioners of the Garfield Redevelopment Agency (the "Agency") conditionally designated Meridia, LLC, a Capodagli Property Company, as redeveloper for the Passaic Street Redevelopment Area and authorized the negotiation of a redevelopment agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council designated Block 50.01, Lot 1, and Block 50.02, Lot 1 as an area in need of redevelopment in 2005, pursuant to Resolution #05-394 and the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law (hereinafter the "Kalama Site Redevelopment Area")

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2020, the City Council adopted a redevelopment plan for the Kalama Site Redevelopment Area, dated December 20, 2019, prepared by Paul N. Ricci, PP, AICP, Ricci Planning; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 2020, the Agency extended the option to Meridia 290 Garfield, Urban Renewal, LLC as the exclusive redeveloper of the Kalama Site Redevelopment Area retroactively from December 2, 2019 to May 4, 2020 subject to the Agency and Meridia 290 Garfield, Urban Renewal, LLC finalizing the terms and conditions of a redevelopment agreement; and

WHEREAS, Meridia Garfield 99, Urban Renewal, LLC and Meridia Garfield 100, Urban Renewal, LLC, entities owned and controlled by Meridia, LLC, a Capodagli Property Company, have requested payments in lieu of taxes from the City pursuant to the Long Term Tax Exemption Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et. seq. for the redevelopment of the Passaic Street Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, Meridia Garfield 290, Urban Renewal, LLC has requested payments in lieu of taxes from the City pursuant to the Long Term Tax Exemption Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et. seq. for the redevelopment of the Kalama Site Redevelopment Area; and

WHEREAS, any payments in lieu of taxes from the City pursuant to the Long Term Tax Exemption Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et. seq. for redevelopment projects requires the negotiation of terms and conditions of a financial agreement which is subject to the approval of the City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Garfield hereby authorizes the City Manager with the assistance of City and Agency professionals to negotiate the terms and conditions of financial agreements for payment in lieu of taxes pursuant to the Long

RESOLUTIONS

Term Tax Exemption Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et. seq. with Meridia Garfield 99, Urban Renewal, LLC and Meridia Garfield 100, Urban Renewal, LLC for the redevelopment of the Passaic Street Redevelopment Area and with Meridia Garfield 290, Urban Renewal, LLC for the Kalama Site Redevelopment Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon completion of negotiations on financial agreements for payment in lieu of taxes pursuant to the Long Term Tax Exemption Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:20-1 et. seq. for the redevelopment of the Passaic Street Redevelopment Area and the Kalama Site Redevelopment Area, such financial agreements shall be subject to the approval of the City Council in accordance with applicable law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that concurrently with negotiations on financial agreements for payment in lieu of taxes with Meridia Garfield 99, Urban Renewal, LLC and Meridia Garfield 100, Urban Renewal, LLC for the redevelopment of the Passaic Street Redevelopment Area and with Meridia Garfield 290, Urban Renewal, LLC for the Kalama Site Redevelopment Area, the Agency shall negotiate the terms and conditions of respective redevelopment agreements which shall be approved by the Agency prior to the approval of any applicable financial agreements by the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

On call of roll, Ayes 3, Nays 2-
Councilmembers Aloia and Calandriello

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney
Joseph Delaney

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Resolution No. 20-118

RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield that the following Bills No. 2233 to 2234 covering Community Policing Trust Fund totaling \$2,100.00 and the Current Fund Reserve totaling \$3,090,187.41 and the Current Fund totaling \$937.00 and the Water Fund totaling \$2,167.26 and the General Capital Fund totaling \$33,756.00 and the Water Capital Fund totaling \$3,697.75 per attached Computer Lists, dated April 9, 2020, 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 thirty (35) items prior to the meeting be ratified.

See

the

following pages numbered _____

for

Bills

and

Claims

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 2833

The following entitled ordinance was introduced at a Regular Meeting held Tuesday, February 11, 2020; 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 10, 2020, and on March 10, 2020 and on March 24, 2020 the ordinance was tabled and the City Council can now proceed with final passage:

AN ORDINANCE TO BAN VAPE SHOPS AS A PRINCIPAL PERMITTED USE IN ANY ZONE DISTRICTS

City Clerk Pavlica read the ordinance by title.

Councilmember Joseph Delaney moved that said ordinance do now pass on final passage and that the City Clerk be directed to publish said ordinance in full together with the statement or notice required by law. Councilmember Calandriello duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

Ordinance No. 2834

The following entitled ordinance was introduced at a Regular Meeting held Tuesday, February 11, 2020; 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 and the City Council can now proceed with the public hearing and final passage:

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

City Clerk Pavlica read the ordinance by title.

Mayor Rigoglioso declared a public hearing on same and asked if there were any objections.

There being none, Mayor Rigoglioso declared the public hearing closed.

Councilmember Erin Delaney moved that said ordinance do now pass on final passage and that the City Clerk be directed to publish said ordinance in full together with the statement or notice required by law. Councilmember Joseph Delaney duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica read the following three statements and questions that were received via email:

Hello Drew

I would appreciate this question being read in its entirety and answered during the "virtual city council meeting" scheduled for April 14.

I'm interested in why the city feed on Verizon is no longer functioning. I switched to Verizon due to the long running debate over getting the City Council meetings on Cablevision (Altria).

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

Now the Verizon feed is as dead as a doornail. Nothing. Nada.
Other town's Verizon feeds, notably Lodi and Saddle Brook, not only are operating but also broadcast messages of interest for the citizens of these towns.

I have heard the word "transparency" so many times over the last 2 years that I wake up in the middle of the night screaming it.

Why is this channel not functioning?

Thank You

Ed Devine
159 Market St
Garfield NJ
973-517-2113

Thank you for taking my question/statement to the City Council.

Mayor & City Council of Garfield,

First thank you for doing the ROBO Calls updating us/citizens on the status of Covid 19 cases and deaths in Garfield. These types of calls are important to keep us aware of what we need to do to stay safe. We are in a state of emergency, National, State and Local. Please consider the following:

Focus Council and Administration efforts on getting more information out to everyone, by every means possible. Re-activate the Cablevision line from the BOE to citizens, place more Robo calls, Website video, Social Media, etc. Let the citizens know how others are coping with the virus, get permission to honor briefly those who have lost their lives, tell us who is helping citizens and how: food banks, local delivery workers, individual angels, what kind of need our community has-some are all alone in this crisis, some are fighting the virus at home, what can be done to help those without income or savings etc.

Postpone regular business of the council and find ways to reach-out and help citizens and businesses and let us know how and who is doing it. Give us reason to celebrate and be encouraged at this very sad, sobering, and scary time. Assign people to think outside the box in this regard. Look for ways to help alleviate the financial worry. Follow the State and Federal examples of financial relief to citizens. Look at how the pressure of property taxes and utilities can be lifted for a while.

Please consider putting questions that require citizens to participate fully in good government on the back burner.

Look at ways to fully inform the public. NJ's peak is likely within the next week or two and then there's the other side of the curve. We are expected to harbor/shelter in place. Help us do that in a positive way.

Don't focus now on what can wait until after we get through the COVID 19 emergency.

Focus on what can get us through this crisis; spiritually, emotionally, financially, physically.

We need your support and help now.

Elaine

Elaine Giardino
109 Marsellus Pl.

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

Please be advised that as a taxpayer of Garfield I am of the opinion that the resolution before the city council tonight authorizing the City Mgr. to negotiate financial agreements in lieu of Taxes regarding the developer Meridia should be shelved until the current crisis Corona Virus has passed . This resolution directly affects homeowners and taxpayers and we should be given the opportunity to have our say . Under current conditions it is impossible for taxpayers to voice their concerns and I for one find it inconceivable that an issue of this importance would take place while Garfield citizens shelter in place.

Please reconsider.

Thank You,

Dennis Malicki

Dennis L. Malicki

Special Investigation Unit Mgr.

Assigned Risk Solutions LTD.

Claims Administrator for

Integon National Ins Co.

National Liability and Fire Ins. Co.

Park 80 West

250 Pehle Ave. Suite 800

Saddle Brook ,NJ 07663

201 368 8055. ext.7350/office

973 222 6675/ cellular

201 368 8690/ fax

dmalicki@arsinsltd.com

City Clerk Pavlica read the following statements and questions which were sent in electronically during the conduct of this meeting by Ms. Joan Banez of 20 Hepworth Place:

At this time of a national crisis both 24/7 cable feed lines should be utilized to the fullest and not on a limited basis of only a few hours a week.

I am requesting the Mayor, Erin and Joseph Delaney to please revisit this problem and give Cablevision and Verizon customers the 24/7 service which is being paid for through our franchise fees.

Please give us what we are already paying for.

How has the developer proven to the city that the project on Passaic Street needs a PILOT program in order to proceed?

According to our Mayor this is a prime location for a desired Transit Village.

Unfortunately, the developer has already been given all requests without compromise, such as 105 units, and approval of 100% site plan variances despite the disapproval of the public.

Why does Garfield have to give a PILOT program to the developer, when at the same time the home owners and business have to pay all taxes including the School tax which the PILOT program excludes?

Why shouldn't this developer pay the same taxes that we all pay?

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

City Manager Duch answered questions and explained issues that were raised by the public for this evening's meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Aloia said that he hoped that everyone was feeling well. He said that the City Manager and City Workers were doing a great job with dealing with this situation and getting the messages out to the people. He complimented City Manager Duch, the employees in City Hall, the Police Department, the Fire Department and the DPW for doing an outstanding job. He said that he thought that City Manager Duch does a really good job when it comes to negotiating. He spoke on spending \$10,000 to get a dedicated Cable TV line installed to City Hall. He spoke on utilizing every form of communication to get the word out.

Councilmember Calandriello said that he shares the frustration of Mr. Ed Devine in regard to broadcasting City programs on Cable TV. He said that the City did use Channel 46 for the initial message for the Pandemic Alert. He said that the City of Garfield does have a lot of people not on social media, and they rely on what is broadcast on the Cable TV Stations and the City should keep Channel 46 rolling. He said that he agrees with Ms. Joan Banez in regard to Cablevision and the fee should be utilized. He said that everyone should get these Coronavirus Alerts and Notices and Cable TV should be utilized 24 hours a day and 7 days a week for situations like this. He said that he shares Mr. Malicki's frustrations as well. He spoke on receiving a complaint from a resident on Willard Street and how people are not parking close enough so that all can have enough space to maximize parking spots on the street. He spoke on someone who came to a recent Council Meeting regarding on-street parking on Maple Street, which is the same area of congestion. He said that he would like to see the City line the streets for parking spots, so that parking is maximized and that everyone is able to park their vehicles and especially those people who do not have driveways. He said that in regard to the Resolution regarding the PILOT Program – payment in lieu of taxes, the City has Redeveloped about 43 acres of property in the City of Garfield and he spoke on the City redeveloping land without any PILOT Agreements. He said that not one of the Redevelopment Properties in the City of Garfield had a PILOT Agreement. He said that all of the properties that the City has redeveloped, are all paying school taxes. He spoke on the Redevelopment of the Garden State Paper Mill site at 950 River Drive and how the Developer wanted a PILOT Agreement and the City Council took out that PILOT proposal from the Redevelopment Agreement, and the Project still got built and it is a beautiful development. He spoke on the Sketchley Services/New Schley Crossing Redevelopment site at the south end of Walnut Street that was completed without a PILOT Agreement. He said that that site was sold for \$24.5 million. He said that all these developers would prefer not to pay School Taxes. He said that it is up to the City Council as a body to really dictate to them. He spoke on Redevelopment Projects going out without request for proposals from developers. He said that there are a lot of developers out there, rather than one for each Project. He spoke on City Officials having to represent the citizens and not the developer. He said that developers will come. He said that Garfield geographically has it all, in regard to railroad stations, access to nearby highways, an available and affordable workforce, and a lot of other things going in favor of the City. He said that the Developer was given 105 units on a half an acre, at 99-100 Passaic Street, to make the project work, and now he wants to come back for another bite of the apple, and receive a break on taxes, and he would hope that City Officials reconsider this proposal. He said that he has faith in City Manager Duch as a negotiator but he said that he wanted to know who the other Officials are who are going to assist him. He said that PILOT Agreements are a science. He said that there are professionals out there where PILOT Agreements are their specialty. He said that any agreement will be long-term and as long as 30 years. He said that the City Council has to make sure the residents are represented properly. He said that he wants things done the right way to maximize the payment of City taxes. He spoke on the Vornado Developer for the South Garfield Redevelopment at 174 Passaic Street not wanting to pay School Taxes, but they are, as is the Garden State Paper Redeveloper. He offered his sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones and friends during this terrible crisis. He said that he is truly sorry and he hopes that they rest in peace. He said that for all those who have suffered with the virus, his prayers are out there for them for a full recovery. He said that Garfield continues to follow all recommendations from Government Officials and Health Experts. He said that City Manager Duch is doing a great job. He said that City Parents know that it is not easy being at home with children, and schooling children, and they have to be patient. He thanked City Health Workers and First Responders and Essential Workers for their courage, dedication and hard work. He told everyone to stay safe.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Erin Delaney said “Kudos” to everyone on the front lines who are helping Garfield battle this pandemic that the City is currently facing.

Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney said that he hopes Mayor Rigoglioso is feeling better as he recovers from the Coronavirus. He said that the Mayor and his entire Family are in everyone’s prayers. He spoke on the comments and questions presented by the City residents at tonight’s meeting. He spoke on Redevelopment and how he believes in it, and how he believes in Redevelopment wholeheartedly. He spoke on how many years that the Kalama Chemical site has been vacant at the intersection of River Drive and Monroe Street. He said that for about 30 years, nothing has been there, and how it is now time to develop something there. He said that he does not want to wait another 30 years. He spoke on how difficult it has been to get a single Developer to want to Redevelop that site. He said that City Manager Duch and the entire City Coronavirus Task Force are doing a great job. He offered “Kudos” to City Public Health Nurse Darleen Revielle, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty. He spoke on how his Father passed away four years to the day, today. He said that you never get used to somebody passing away. He said that he brought this up because of the 23 deaths in the City due to the Coronavirus and how it is heart-breaking. He said that it is a time to come together and help each other. He said that it is a sad time and he wants to thank everybody for all that they are doing to help during this Pandemic.

Mayor Rigoglioso thanked everybody for their well wishes while he has been “under the weather”. He said that he and his whole Family are getting better. He thanked Good Neighbors Helping Strangers, the Houses of Worship in town, the Garfield Boys and Girls Club, the City Recreation Center, the Garfield YMCA, and all the organizations for what they have done to help. He said that when he was feeling good, there were so many people delivering food to the Families, or supplies to the Families in the City of Garfield. He said that these groups are continuing that and have a great abundance of people who are going out, and going around, having people tested, and he thanked them for their work. He thanked Lisa Cuba from the Garfield YMCA and Joey Smiles for continuing to go to the Senior Citizens Buildings and helping the Seniors do their aerobics because it is a big help. He thanked Garfield Housing Authority Executive Director Marty Giesler for working with Mashcio’s Food Service and the City Council to supply the Seniors with 75 to 80 meals daily. He said that the Seniors have been locked down for the past four weeks and it is important. He said that it is a good feeling to see that, in this time of need, there are people in the City of Garfield going out and helping people. He said that that is what Garfield is truly all about. He said that this situation is all going to pass eventually, and this situation will hit its peak soon, and there will be a transition period. He said that New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy will be talking on or around April 17th on if Schools will reopen for the balance of the 2019-2020 School Year. He spoke on the need for closure for the graduating School Children, including High School Seniors and 8th Graders. He spoke on Confirmations and Communion that Families will not be celebrating with parties, and how these things are important to people. He said that because of this Pandemic, there will be a lot of things of which people will be missing out. He said that City Officials will do their best to make sure that everybody who is graduating is recognized, and the City can move forward. He told everybody to stay safe. He said that it is important to follow the guidelines from the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control. He said that it is important for people to follow recommendations and wear masks, and not even to go into a store without a mask. He spoke on how important it was to be safe.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:00 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 5

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK