

A Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and Board of Education was held Friday, May 29, 2020 at 4:20 PM in the Cafetorium in the Garfield Middle School, 175 Lanza Avenue, Garfield, NJ 07026.

Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney 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 Public 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 May 26, 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 and Erin N. Delaney

Councilmembers Recused: Richard Rigoglioso

City Officials Also Present: City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica

City Officials Also Present Telephonically: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Attorney Robert Ferraro and Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano

Board of Education Members Present: Board President Charles Nucifora, Anthony Barckett, Allan B. Focarino and Jack Mazzola

Board of Education Members Present Telephonically: Board Vice-President Frank Barber, Carmin Breonte, Richard Derrig, Everett Garnto, Jr., and Dane Lio

School Officials Present: School Business Administrator Dr. Giovanni Cusmano, School Technology Integration Supervisor Deborah Rigoglioso and Technology Specialist Arber Bairami

School Officials Present Telephonically: Superintendent of Schools Anna Sciacca and Board of Education Attorney Kurt Gielser

PROPOSED CUTS IN THE DEFEATED 2020-2021 SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET

The City Council and Cabinet, and Board of Education and School Officials, discussed proposed cuts in the 2020-2021 School Board Budget defeated at the polls at an Election held Tuesday, May 12, 2020 with 655 Yes votes and 1,127 No votes.

MOTION TO CUT DEFEATED SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET

Councilmember Erin Delaney moved to cut \$75,000 from the Defeated School Board Budget. Councilmember Joseph Delaney duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 2, Nays 1 – Councilmember Calandriello, Abstain 1 – Councilmember Aloia, Recused 1 – Mayor Rigoglioso

MOTION DEFEATED

SHORT RECESS AND RETURN TO ORDER

At 5:50 PM, a recess was called after the Board of Education voted to go into Closed Session. At 6:05 PM, the meeting was again called to order and all Officials were present as before the Recess. It was duly noted for the record.

MOTION TO CUT DEFEATED SCHOOL BUDGET

Councilmember Erin Delaney moved to cut \$85,000 from the Defeated School Board Budget. Councilmember Joseph Delaney duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 2, Nays 2 – Councilmembers Aloia and Calandriello, Recused 1 – Mayor Rigoglioso

MOTION DEFEATED

SHORT RECESS AND RETURN TO ORDER

At 6:10 PM, a recess was called after the Board of Education voted to go into Closed Session. At 6:15 PM, the meeting was again called to order and all Officials were present as before the Recess. It was duly noted for the record.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 20-136

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the City of Garfield has reviewed the school board budget, in detail, and has made recommendations to the Governing Body as to recommend reductions in the said budget which, in his opinion, could be made without compromising the efforts of the school system and while allowing the Board of Education the necessary funds in order to provide a thorough and efficient education for the students in the City of Garfield school district; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has provided extensive documentation to the Governing Body and did, in fact, meet with the members of the Governing Body and the Administration at which time the Governing Body recommended certain actions which resulted in the Tax Levy; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to provisions of law, the Governing Body may not reduce the amount of school board current Tax Levy unless it can be determined that any reductions will not adversely affect the district's ability to provide a thorough and efficient education and maintain stability given the needs for long term planning and budgeting; and

WHEREAS, the reduction set forth in this Resolution are based upon such determination; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council determined that more significant reductions in the budget were warranted and could be accomplished without detriment to the district's ability to provide a thorough and efficient education, however, they were limited by the provisions of law to the amount of reduction set forth in this Resolution.

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

1. The original Tax Levy on the ballot for current expense portion of the Board of Education was \$31,265,367
2. The amount of reductions to the current expense of the Tax Levy shall be \$100,000
3. The amount of Tax Levy being certified by City of Garfield for the base, current expense shall, therefore, be \$31,165,367
4. Debt service in the amount requested is also approved by the Governing Body
5. The specific line item reductions which are recommended by the Mayor and Council are as follows:

Substitute Teachers	\$30,000
Electricity Costs	\$50,000
Security Supplies	\$20,000

RESOLUTIONS

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the school budget, as reviewed and revised, presents sufficient funds to provide a thorough and efficient education within the district as required by law and the reductions set forth herein will not adversely affect the district's ability to provide such a thorough and efficient education and maintain stability given the need for long term planning and budgeting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Garfield Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward certified copies of the within Resolution no later than June 9, 2020, to the City of Garfield Board of Education, the Bergen County Superintendent of Schools, and the Bergen County Board of Taxation as well as to the City of Garfield Tax Assessor;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Garfield Clerk is hereby directed to prepare based upon the contents of this Resolution, the necessary forms for submission to the County of Bergen, forms reasonably required in order to effectuate the provisions of the Resolution.

On call of roll, Ayes 3,
Nays 1 – Councilmember Calandriello,
Recused 1 – Mayor Rigoglioso

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney
Louis G. Aloia

PROPOSED CUTS IN THE DEFEATED SCHOOL BUDGET

A majority of the Board of Education advised that they would accept the \$100,000 cut in the defeated 2020-2021 School Board Budget.

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

The following statements and questions which were sent in electronically during the conduct of this meeting were read out loud:

Attendee: Edward Devine 159 Market St (Unverified) 5/29/2020 21:05

Question:

I've been told that sports coaches in the district will be receiving a total of 105,000 over and above their current base salaries for coaching duties the due to the pandemic will not happen this year. Is this true and why would coaches be paid a stipend for duties that will not be performed?

Attendee: Edward Devine 159 Market St (Unverified) 5/29/2020 21:39

Question:

26 district administrators make over 150k per year.
There are not 26 administrators making 150k in Saddle Brook, Elmwood Park and Clifton combined. Not even close actually.
This is the primary reason why I voted no to the budget. This ship is top heavy.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:25 PM, Councilmember Erin Delaney moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Calandriello duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 4, Recused 1 – Mayor Rigoglioso

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK