

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, August 25, 2020 at 7:05 PM in the Emergency Operations Center in 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 August 22, 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: Richard Rigoglioso

Councilmembers Present Telephonically: Louis G. Aloia, Frank J. Calandriello and Joseph Delaney

Councilmembers Absent: Erin N. Delaney

Also Present: City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica

Also Present Telephonically: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Attorney Representative John Ferraro for (City Attorney Robert Ferraro), Labor Counsel John Lavin and Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano

#### CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 UPDATE

Mayor Rigoglioso said that to date the City of Garfield has had 896 confirmed Coronavirus cases and that most of the cases have been coming from families. He said that Garfield has been leveling out and doing better than most of Bergen County. He said that North Jersey at the moment is doing better than most of the rest of the State and that hopefully Garfield is on the right side of the trend of this pandemic. He said that the Garfield School District is going to full remote learning pending approval from the State of New Jersey.

#### ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

The City Council and Cabinet discussed the Person to Person Transfer Application of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0221-33-028-015 from the Boiler Room, LLC, t/a The Boiler Room, (Anthony Dagostino, 15 Northview Terrace, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009 – who owns 100% of the shares of the corporation) to JoJo's Bar & Grill, LLC, (Joanna Afonso, 201 Arlington Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07011 – who will own 100% of the shares of the corporation), for premises located at 133 Monroe Street, Garfield, NJ 07026.

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City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. City of Garfield Budgetary Revenue Shortfalls due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. He said that a revenue shortfall of \$640,000 is anticipated in the Municipal Court, a revenue shortfall of \$120,000 is anticipated in Fees and Permits, and a revenue shortfall of \$90,000 is anticipated in Construction Code Fees. He said that the potential total revenue shortfall anticipated is \$850,000. He said that City Department Heads have been instructed that only essential spending should take place to keep all employees employed. He said that Budgetary offsets that are proposed include new hires in the Police Department and the Department of Public Works to not take place in 2020, resulting in a savings of \$130,000. He said that laying off Crossing Guards, while School is not in session in person during the pandemic, is anticipated to result in \$120,000 in savings. He said that since the Recreation Department is currently at a standstill, with events being cancelled due to social distancing restrictions, and without Counselors being hired, and without filling the vacant Recreation Director's position at the current time, saves the City another \$200,000. He said that the total savings of \$450,000 that he has reported tonight, against the potential deficit of

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\$850,000 if matters continue to proceed as they are, means a shortfall of \$400,000. He reported on the Municipal Court instituting virtual sessions which he hopes will reduce the shortfall in the Municipal Court Budget. He said that Property Maintenance Inspectors are back on the job, and that they investigated 150 complaints during this past week, and 146 complaints during the week before that. He spoke on filing an application to recover funds from FEMA. He spoke on the Resolution for City Council consideration authorizing him to execute the Federal CARES Act Agreement administered through Bergen County to recover additional funds in the amount of \$277,000. He spoke on efforts to reopen the government safer and easier for citizens, including through a new system on the City Website to allow citizens and taxpayers to pay for services via credit card and ACH, to allow the public access like they have never had before.

ARRIVAL OF COUNCILMEMBER ERIN DELANEY

At 7:15 PM, Councilmember Erin N. Delaney joined the meeting telephonically and it was duly noted for the record.

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2. The petition that was received from residents of Market Street complaining about stormwater drainage issues and flooding conditions in their neighborhood when it rains. He proposed filing a Community Development Grant application to address this issue next year.
3. Tax Payments for the First Quarter were at 98.36%; for the Second Quarter were at 97.82%; and for the Third Quarter were at 94.83%.
4. The first application in regard to the River to Rail Business Façade Grant Program has been filed by a business for a property located at 59 Passaic Street.
5. The proposed Resolution to award a contract in regard to the 2020 Road Improvement Program.
6. The Garfield School Restart Committee created by the Garfield School System.
7. The Summer Food Program being administered at Three Saints Russian Orthodox Church located at 454 Outwater Lane.
8. Child Care Services being offered in the City of Garfield.
9. The proposed removal of the Train Tracks that run down the middle of Monroe Street from Pierre Avenue to the Passaic River. He reported on the hearing that was held before New Jersey State Superior Court Judge Randal Chiocca regarding this matter.
10. The Special Needs Playground to be constructed in Twentieth Century Field.
11. The electrical outage that occurred at the Elmwood Park Well Field after a recent rain storm.
12. The abandonment of 160 Belmont Avenue as a temporary Police Headquarters.
13. The upcoming Fire Department Boot Drive to be held because they are not able to fundraise in other ways due to social distancing restrictions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.
14. The request from property owner Mark Wallace to redevelop 28 Walnut Street.

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15. The written Report of the City Engineer dated August 25, 2020.
16. The Leak Detection Report issued by the City Water Department indicating that the City is losing about 100,000 gallons of water a day and the locations where the leaks have been detected.
17. The services rendered by Altice USA for the broadcasting of Garfield City Council Meetings on Cable TV.

RIVER DRIVE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

Robert Benecke of Benecke Economics, 8410 Sanctuary Boulevard, Riverdale, NJ 07457, explained the proposed 2020 Redevelopment Plan for 844-858 River Drive. The properties affected by the Plan were designated an Area in Need of Redevelopment on November 12, 2019, and cover .65 acres at the intersection of River Drive and Banta Avenue. The three properties have auto shops located on two of the parcels, with a third parcel being a vacant parking lot. The proposed Redevelopment Plan would involve three stories of 78 one bedroom housing units with an additional two stories of parking. The proposed Redevelopment Plan would create a new Zone called the B-2/R-1 Zone.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 PM, the connection was unfortunately terminated and the meeting was abruptly adjourned.

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Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK