

A Regular Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 7:20 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 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, and in accordance with Executive Order 104 issued by Governor Phil Murphy, and in accordance with Local Finance Notice No. 2020-21 issued September 24, 2020, for Remote Public Meetings held during a Declared 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, and front and back doors of City Hall, and on the City Website. City Clerk Pavlica also announced that a special public notice was published in the December 19, 2020 edition of the Bergen Record and the Herald News newspapers 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: Erin N. Delaney and Joseph Delaney

Councilmembers Absent: Louis G. Aloia and Frank J. Calandriello

Also Present: City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica

Also Present Telephonically: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Attorney Robert Ferraro, City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell, Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano and Councilmembers-Elect Romi Herrera and Pawel Maslag

STATEMENT READ BY CITY CLERK PAVLICA FOR STANDARD PROCEDURES  
FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING REMOTE MEETINGS

City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica announced that pursuant to Local Finance Notice No. 2020-21, all participants are muted during the meeting and all members of the public wishing to make a comment during this Remote Meeting will be permitted to do so using the audio and/or video technology under which this Remote Meeting is being held. He announced that members of the public may submit written comments to the Mayor and City Council through City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica by either email to [apavlica@garfieldnj.org](mailto:apavlica@garfieldnj.org) or written letter to City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica at City Hall – 111 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026 and that written comments must be received by 12:00 Noon of the day of the Remote Meeting to be included in the Meeting. He announced that Public Comments will be read aloud along with the person's name and address during times designated during the Meeting for public participation, and that the Mayor and Council reserve the right to pass over duplicative written comments, however, each duplicative comment shall be noted for the record with content summarized.

City Clerk Pavlica announced that a member of the public wishing to speak during a Remote Meeting shall state their name and address for the record prior to making their comments and will be limited to 3 minutes. He announced that members of the public commenting during a Remote Meeting shall not act in any manner to disrupt the meeting and if such a member of the public becomes disruptive during the meeting, the individual chairing the Meeting shall mute, or direct the muting of, the disruptive member and warn that any continued disruption may result in the member being prevented from speaking during the Meeting or be removed from the Remote Meeting. He announced that disruptive conduct include, but is not limited to, sustained inappropriate behaviors such as shouting, interruption, and the use of profanity. He announced that any member who continues to be disruptive after receiving a warning may be muted while other members of the public are allowed to proceed with their comments, and if time permits, the disruptive individual shall be allowed to speak after all other members of the public are provided an opportunity to comment. He announced that should the individual remain disruptive, the individual may be muted or kept on mute for the remainder of the Remote Meeting or removed from the Meeting. He announced that the Mayor or Presiding Officer may impose any reasonable procedure or rule determined to effectively chair the meeting.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 UPDATE

Mayor Rigoglioso reported that there were 15 new positive cases of the Coronavirus, and another death, this time it was a 60 year old, which gives the City 11 deaths during the month of December. He said that there have been 2,059 positive cases in Garfield for the Coronavirus, with 76 deaths for the year. He said that the numbers are in keeping with the percentages of the surrounding Municipalities to Garfield. He asked that everyone keep every affected person and their families in their thoughts and prayers, especially during these challenging times and these Holiday times. He asked that everyone keep their distance from people they do not know, and during a Holiday event, a Christmas event, a New Years Eve event, a New Years Day event, make sure you are aware of who you are with. He said that the Holidays are supposed to be a cheerful time with Family and Friends and everyone is supposed to share some laughs. He said that nobody wants to be in a situation where someone with a compromised immune system became sick because of irresponsibility. He asked that everyone watch out for each other.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS TO COUNCILMEMBERS ALOIA AND CALANDRIELLO

In the absence of Councilmembers Louis G. Aloia and Frank J. Calandriello, Mayor Richard Rigoglioso, displayed a plaque in appreciation of Louis G. Aloia's dedication and service and leadership to the citizens of the City of Garfield in serving as Mayor from 1996 to 2000 and in serving on the City Council from 1996 to 2020. Mayor Rigoglioso said that the Councilmember Aloia will be presented with a plaque, his nameplate, and a street sign reading "Louis G. Aloia Way", along with the sign which reserved his parking space, that was attached to City Hall. Mayor Rigoglioso said that he learned a lot from Councilmember Aloia and that he always had the best interest of the City of Garfield, and he appreciates that. He said that it has been an honor to sit with him on the City Council.

Mayor Rigoglioso also displayed a plaque in appreciation of Frank J. Calandriello's dedication and service and leadership to the citizens of the City of Garfield in serving as the longest serving Mayor from 2000 to 2012 and in serving on the City Council from 1996 to 2020. Mayor Rigoglioso said that Councilmember Calandriello will be presented with a plaque, his nameplate, and a street sign reading, "Frank J. Calandriello Way", along with the sign reserving his parking space, that was attached to City Hall. Mayor Rigoglioso said that he also learned a lot from Councilmember Calandriello and that he appreciated his candor and for being upfront. He said that it also has been an honor to serve with Councilmember Calandriello on the City Council.

Mayor Rigoglioso wished them both the best, with much happiness moving forward.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the proposed Coronavirus Relief Fund Act Resolution and Ordinance. He spoke on the Revenue Shortfall in States, Municipalities and Counties across the Country due to the Coronavirus, and in order to address it, the New Jersey State Legislature unanimously passed this Act which allows the City of Garfield to fund a deficit in the operations of the City which is directly attributed to the Covid-19 Pandemic. He asked that the Ordinance be voted upon this evening, and that the Resolution be voted upon at the January 1, 2021 Reorganization Meeting.

MINUTES

Councilmember Erin N. Delaney moved to approve the Minutes of the following meetings:

Regular	Meeting	-	August	25,	2020
Special	Meeting	-	September	1,	2020
Regular	Meeting	-	September	22,	2020
Regular	Meeting	-	October	27,	2020
Regular	Meeting	-	November	10,	2020
Regular	Meeting	-	November	24,	2020

Councilmember Joseph Delaney duly seconded the motion.

RESOLUTIONS

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

Resolution No. 20-297

WHEREAS, Lisette Reyes, 147 MacArthur Avenue, who is the holder of a Disabled Person I.D. Card No. P2072816, 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 MacArthur Avenue commencing 335 feet south of the intersection of MacArthur Avenue and Frederick Street and run an additional 20 feet north 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 3, Absent 2 -  
Councilmembers Aloia and Calandriello

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney  
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-298

WHEREAS, Natalie Garcia, 258 MacArthur Avenue, who is the holder of a Disabled Person I.D. Card No. P2224978, 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 east curb line of MacArthur Avenue commencing 488 feet north of the intersection of MacArthur Avenue and Charles Street and run an additional 20 feet north 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 3, Absent 2 -  
Councilmembers Aloia and Calandriello

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney  
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-299

RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey that PSE&G is hereby requested to repair or replace the Light on Pole No. 61737GA in front of Friendship Baptist Church located at 154 Gaston Avenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified and exact copy of this approved resolution to PSE&G Co. at the following address:

Mr. Colin Wilson  
PSE&G Company  
325 County Avenue  
Secaucus, New Jersey 07094

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

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney  
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-300

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO D.S. MEYER ENTERPRISES, LLC FOR EMERGENCY SEWER REPAIR AT MONROE STREET

WHEREAS, the City of Garfield retained D.S. Meyer to perform an emergency patch repair at the Railroad Tracks at Monroe Street

RESOLUTIONS

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED payment of \$3,023.91 is hereby approved to DS Meyer Enterprises, LLC for the patch repair work noted above.

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

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney  
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-301

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO D.S. MEYER ENTERPRISES, LLC FOR AN EMERGENCY SIDEWALK AND CULVERT REPAIR ON JEWELL STREET

WHEREAS, the sidewalk, a catch basin and surrounding areas near the intersection of Jewell Street and Market Street collapsed above a culvert, and;

WHEREAS, the City Engineer secured quotations to undertake the work on an emergency basis, and;

WHEREAS, D.S. Meyer Enterprises, LLC submitted the lowest quote to perform the work based on the scope discussed prior to the performance of the work, and;

WHEREAS, the work was performed on 11/6/20 but additional work was also required to stabilize the area, and;

WHEREAS, the additional work was performed on 11/10/20, and;

WHEREAS, the City Engineer inspected and certified the work was properly performed and completed

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED payment is hereby authorized to D.S. Meyer Enterprises, LLC for the work performed on 11/6/20 in the amount of \$11,795.08 and on 11/10/20 in an additional amount of \$6,094.77.

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

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney  
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-302

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO PROVIDE FEDERAL AID GRANT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the City of Garfield has been awarded multiple Federal Aid grants in connection with the Passaic Street Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program, and;

WHEREAS, the NJDOT requires the City to comply with new procedures in order to be eligible to receive these funds, and;

WHEREAS, some of these new requirements need to be addressed by the City Engineer

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the City Engineer is hereby authorized to provide the requisite administrative assistance to address the requirements being requested by the NJDOT and other State and Federal agencies for a fee not to exceed \$3500

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

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney  
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-303

WHEREAS the Receiver of Taxes reports that she has received a request from the following property owner for Overpayment Refund for the year 2020.

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 overpayment and forward same to the Receiver of Taxes for the purpose of noting her records and for mailing to the property owner.

BLOCK	LOT	OWNER	REASON	AMOUNT
180.01	9	Petrie, Doug	O/P	\$ 810.60

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

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney  
Joseph Delaney



Department of Public Works O/E	0-01-26-290-290-063		20,000.00
Solid Waste	0-01-26-305-305-000		100,000.00
Recycling O/E	0-01-26-306-306-020		3,000.00
Buildings and Grounds O/E	0-01-26-310-310-063		80,000.00
Public Health Services S/W	0-01-27-330-330-011		8,000.00
General Admin/City Manager S/W	0-01-20-100-100-011	2,500.00	
Elections	0-01-20120-121-021	11,000.00	
Police S/W	0-01-25-240-240-011	133,000.00	
Buildings and Grounds S/W	0-01-26-310-310-011	12,000.00	
Public Health Services O/E	0-01-27-330-330-063	5,000.00	
Recreation S/W	0-01-28-370-370-011	95,100.00	
Recreation O/E	0-01-28-370-370-063	5,000.00	
Celebration of Public Events	0-01-30-420-420-001	10,000.00	
Electricity	0-01-31-430-430-200	20,000.00	
Telephones	0-01-31-440-440-202	3,000.00	
Gasoline	0-01-31-460-460-207	5,000.00	
Municipal Court O/E	0-01-43-490-490-063	2,000.00	
	-	<u>303,600.00</u>	<u>303,600.00</u>

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

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney  
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 20-306

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GARFIELD THROUGH THE GARFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY, LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE THE GARFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST AND ACQUIRE EXCESS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the United States Congress authorized the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) 1033 Program to Program to make use of excess Department of Defense personal property by making that personal property available to municipal, county and State law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, DLA rules mandate that all equipment acquired through the 1033 Program remain under the control of the requesting law enforcement agency; and

WHEREAS, participation in the 1033 Program allows municipal and county law enforcement agencies to obtain property they might not otherwise be able to afford in order to enhance community preparedness, response, resiliency; and

WHEREAS, although property is provided through the 1033 Program at no cost to municipal and county law enforcement agencies, these entities are responsible for the costs associated with delivery, maintenance, fueling, and upkeep of the property, and for specialized training on the operation of any acquired property; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-30.2 requires that the governing body of the municipality or county approve, by a majority of the full membership, both enrollment in, and the acquisition of any property through, the 1033 Program; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Garfield that the Garfield Police Department is hereby authorized to enroll in the 1033 Program for no more than a one year period, with authorization to participate terminating on December 31 of the current year from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021; and

RESOLUTIONS

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Garfield Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire items of non-controlled property designated “DEMIL A”, which may include, (1) forklift, (2) pickup trucks, office supplies, office furniture, computers, electronic equipment, generators, field packs, non-military vehicles, clothing, traffic and transit signal systems, exercise equipment, farming and moving equipment, storage devices and containers, tools, medical and first aid equipment and supplies, personal protection equipment and supplies, construction materials, lighting supplies, beds and sleeping mats, wet and cold weather equipment and supplies, respirators, binoculars, and any other supplies or equipment of a non-military nature identified by the LEA, if it shall become available in the next twelve months, based on the needs of the Garfield Police Department, without restriction; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Garfield Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire the following “DEMIL” B through Q” property, if it shall become available in the period of time for which this resolution authorizes (2) Breaching Ram, (2) Breaching System, (2) Door Opener, Hydraulic Breaching and Extraction Tool, (20) Kit, Riot Protection, (4) Ram, Battering, (4) Ram, Door, Mini, (20) Riot Control Shield, (1) Truck, Cargo, (1) Truck, Panel, (1) Truck, Stake, (1) Truck, Utility, (1) Truck, Van, (2) Utility Vehicle, Off Road, (1) packbot and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Garfield Police Department shall develop and implement a full training plan and policy for the maintenance and use of the acquired property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Garfield Police Department shall provide a quarterly accounting of all property obtained through the 1033 Program which shall be available to the public upon request; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately shall be valid to authorize requests to acquire “DEMIL A” property that may be made available through the 1033 Program and requests to acquire “DEMIL B through Q” property that may be made available through the 1033 Program during the period of time for which this resolution authorizes; with program participation and all property request authorization terminating on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current calendar year from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

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

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney  
Richard Rigoglioso

BILLS AND CLAIMS

Resolution No. 20-307

RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield that the following Bills No. 2263 to 2264 covering Trust Other Account totaling \$54,676.03 and the Current Fund Reserve totaling \$14,560.00 and Current Fund totaling \$322,185.39 and Water Fund Current Fund totaling \$10,916.36 and the General Capital Fund totaling \$19,545.08 per attached Computer Lists, dated December 16, 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 sixty (60) items prior to the meeting be ratified.

See

the

following pages numbered \_\_\_\_\_

for

Bills

and

Claims

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 2853

The following entitled ordinance was introduced at a Regular Meeting held Tuesday, November 24, 2020; it was duly published; a copy was posted on the bulletin board in City Hall, and the front and back doors of 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 held the public hearing at its meeting held December 8, 2020, at which meeting the Ordinance was tabled, and the City Council can now proceed with final passage:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53(m) TO FUND A DEFICIT IN OPERATIONS OF THE CITY DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO COVID-19 WHICH IS ANTICIPATED TO BE EXPERIENCED BY THE CITY IN THE CURRENT 2020 FISCAL YEAR

City Clerk Pavlica read the ordinance by title.

Councilmember Erin N. 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 3, Absent 2 -  
Councilmembers Aloia and Calandriello

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

City Clerk Pavlica read the following statements and questions which was received via email:

From Ms. Patricia Nayda, 184 Shaw Street:

I just want to take a moment to congratulate the Garfield 2020 team on their November election win and I want to wish much success to the two new council members as they embark on their political careers.

I would like give a big thank you to Mr. Calendriello and Mr. Aloia for their years of dedicated service to the City of Garfield and to it's residents. The city is a better place because of your public service.

Finally I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We need to come together as a city. My wish is for Peace on Earth and a Covid free 2021. Stay safe and wear your masks.

Thank you,  
Patricia Nayda

From Ms. Joan Banez, 20 Hepworth Place:

**Question #1**I would like the following information confirmed by either Mr. Duch or Mr. Rigatano, who ever feels qualified to respond.

1. Does Garfield have \$9.9 million dollars is surplus funds?
2. Has Garfield already collected an average of 98.25% of tax dollars for the year 2020? (averaging 99%, 98.82%, 98.51% and 96.61% for each quarter)
3. Does Garfield have a RESERVE FUND of \$2 Million to use for any unpaid taxes?

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

4. If the Bond LOAN were to have passed, would Garfield have been responsible to pay back the \$2 Million to the state at a payment of \$400,000 a year until the \$2 Million is paid in full, plus

\$50,000 in interest? I believe Mr. Duch stated this at the last meeting, please confirm the amount the taxpayers of Garfield would be responsible to pay back to the state.

**Question #2**

The Planning Board is missing the following information on the Garfield Website:

Agendas for :

Jan, Feb, May, June, July, September, Oct and Nov of 2020

Minutes for:

Feb July, Sept, Oct, Nov

1. When will this information be posted?
2. Would it be possible to have the Planning Board agendas posted before each meeting as is done for the City Council and Redevelopment meetings?

Thank you,

Joan Banez

The following individuals raised their hands and were recognized by the Mayor to address the City Council telephonically:

Mr. Edward Grimes, 84 Hanover Road, East Hanover, New Jersey; Mr. Jeffrey King, 24 Elizabeth Parkway, Eatontown, New Jersey; Mr. Mike Vintzileous, 264 John Street, South Amboy, New Jersey; Mr. Chris Velasquez, Dover, New Jersey; and Ms. Jaime L. Vansciver, 127 Greenwich Avenue, Paulsboro, New Jersey; all advocated for Ordinances and Laws in favor of medical marijuana use.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmember Erin Delaney said that after a lot of hard work and effort to get support for the Covid-19 Special Emergency Relief Ordinance, she is disappointed that two Councilmembers did not attend this last meeting of the year to vote on the Ordinance, knowing how important it is. She said that during the last two years, the City Council acted on 18 Bond Ordinances and Councilmember Aloia voted in favor of all but one, and Councilmember Calandriello voted in favor of all of them. She wished City Manager Duch the best of luck and said that she hoped that this is something that the City of Garfield and the State of New Jersey can work through. She spoke on other neighboring municipalities passing similar Ordinances. She spoke on the Surplus in the City Budget. She spoke on the Ordinance costing the City only \$10,000 a year in interest for a \$2 million loan. She said that she will consider the comments made by the Citizens and Taxpayers at tonight's meeting for 2021. She concluded by saying, "Happy Holidays everyone, be safe, stay vigilant and healthy and" she "hopes 2021 is a better year".

Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney spoke on the Covid-19 Special Emergency Relief Ordinance. He said that even if the City has sufficient Surplus Funds in the Budget, the fact that Surplus money would earn more interest than what the City would pay in interest on the Loan, means it is irresponsible not to vote in favor of the Ordinance. He said that that is simple arithmetic. He spoke on the members of Fire Company No. One buzzing around the City with a Drive-by Santa Claus and he thanked all the members of the Garfield Volunteer Fire Department for doing what they do during these trying times. He spoke on Raymond Rivas being on the Library Board of Trustees. He wished everybody a Merry Christmas. He spoke on Tom Duch being Mayor of the City of Garfield in 1984. He spoke on the good work done by the Garfield Neighbors Network and Police Sergeant Jeffrey Stewart and all the volunteers who contribute in the City. He spoke on how he is so looking

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

forward to Pawel Maslag and Romi Herrera being sworn into office at the Reorganization Meeting of the City Council on January 1<sup>st</sup>. He wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

City Manager Duch responded to questions and comments made by various members of the public at this meeting.

Mayor Rigoglioso said that it is the fiduciary responsibility of the City Council to support the City of Garfield in a responsible, fiscal way. He spoke on the uncertainties of 2021. He said that the Financial Professionals of the City have advised that it would be devastating to the City of Garfield if the \$2 million Ordinance did not pass. He said that the City will move forward in 2021 and that 2020 was a challenging year. He said that he is excited about positive changes in the City of Garfield in the coming year that have been discussed in the past. He spoke on the need to be educated on the subject of medical marijuana. He said that Garfield does have a lot of compassion for its residents. He said that there is food distribution three times a week, which has been going on since the beginning of the Pandemic. He said that he estimates that the City is getting close to 300,000 meals having been delivered on a regular basis since March. He said that Garfield has been publicly recognized by the State and by the County for the job that has been done by volunteers. He spoke on organizations such as Strangers Helping Strangers, Garfield Neighbors, and so many other organizations, helping their fellow human beings, and he said that it is unbelievable how everybody has come together. He said that the City has compassion and will continue to have compassion for all its residents. He spoke on the opening of a new business in town called "Prime Time Chicken" at 185 Palisade Avenue near Monroe Street. He spoke on the owner, Chris Colbert, being a switch hitter and the Super Featherweight Boxing Champion of the World, and his business partner Paulie Malignaggi, being a boxing announcer. He spoke on them giving out Christmas presents to children from the Garfield Boys and Girls Club, during these tough times to open up a business. He said that he wanted to recognize these world champions in Garfield, the City of Champions. He wished everybody a very Merry Christmas, a Happy and Healthy New Year, and Happy Holidays. He told everybody to please stay safe, and he commented that he is looking forward to 2021, hoping that things will change and that the City of Garfield gets to move forward.

Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney spoke on New Jersey State Assemblymen Benji Wimberly donating a few hundred toys to area churches yesterday.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Joseph Delaney moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Erin Delaney duly seconded the motion.

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

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Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK