

A Work Session of the City Council was held Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:20 PM in the Council Chamber, 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 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 public notice was published in the January 9, 2021 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.

Councilmembers Present: Joseph Delaney, Pawel Maslag, Romi Herrera, Erin N. Delaney and Richard Rigoglioso

Also Present: City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, Deputy City Clerk Diane Rosolen and Confidential Secretary Patricia Esposito from the City Manager's Office

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD INTRODUCTIONS

With two new members on the City Council, City Manager Thomas J. Duch had the following Department Heads introduce themselves and each Department Head gave a short description of their duties: Tax Assessor James Tighe, Tax Collector/Treasurer Rosemarie Cokinos, Court Administrator Krystyna Moskal, Building Inspector Robert Schultz, Construction Code Official Gerald Walis, Recreation Director Daniel Golabek, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano, City Attorney Robert Ferrero and Special Litigation/Labor Counsel John Lavin.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. Various proposed Ordinances for introduction at the Regular Meeting scheduled to be held Tuesday, January 26, 2021, including: Property Maintenance Ordinances, a Mobile Food Handlers Ordinance, a Curb Repair Ordinance, and a Motor Vehicle Sale and Autobody Repair Shop Ordinance.
2. Various Bergen County Community Development Block Grants awarded to the City of Garfield including Monroe Street Improvements in the amount of \$400,000 in 2019 funding, and \$175,000 in 2020-2021 funding; and Belmont Oval Improvements in the amount of \$271,888 in 2019 funding, and \$195,274 in 2020-2021 funding.
3. The \$2 million Coronavirus Covid-19 Relief Bonds application for the City of Garfield was approved by the State of New Jersey and the funds deposited in the City's account with Spencer Savings Bank. The City will repay the loan at a .60 % interest rate.
4. The proposed Redevelopment Study for 28 Walnut Street.
5. The Kalama Chemical Redevelopment at 290 River Drive.
6. The proposed designation of 19 Plauderville Avenue, and the property located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Palisade Avenue and Botany Street, as Areas in Need of Redevelopment.
7. The preference of the Mayor and City Council to receive information by paper rather than by email or electronically.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

8. The current rate of Collection of Taxes is 98.61%.
9. Green Acre funds in the amount of \$347,090 remain for Phase I of the Riverfront Park Project.
10. City Employee Health Benefits and the proposed switch from Blue Cross/Blue Shield Coverage, (due to an approximate 30% rate increase), to the Bergen County Gateway B-Med Joint Insurance Fund.
11. The very specific purposes for which CARES Act funds are authorized to be utilized.
12. Pursuant to Chapter 333-18 of the City Code, the City Manager has the authority to pass on Passaic Valley Water Commission rate increases in the City Water Bills, which has not been done in years, and City Manager Duch proposed increasing the City Water Bills by 6.5%.
13. A proposed Water Line Connection Tap Fee Ordinance.
14. The Housing Inspection Report.
15. The Annual Fire Department Dinner, which is normally held this time of year, will be postponed to a date, at the earliest in May, or the latest in September, due to the Coronavirus Covid-19 Pandemic.
16. The enforcement of regulations in connection with Feral Cat Colonies and the Trap, Neuter and Release Program.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 21-16

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 8:20 P.M. on Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 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; (Employee Health Benefits Coverage).
- * Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds; (proposed purchase of 327 River Drive for inclusion in the Riverfront Park).
- * Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public or any investigation of violations or possible violations of the law; (enforcement of Feral Cat Ordinance).
- * Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations or matters falling within attorney-client privilege; (contractor dispute with final payment in regard to the construction of the new Police Station at 411 Midland Avenue).
- * Matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplinary action of personnel unless the individual in the right request a public meeting in writing; (Affirmative Action Officer; Veterans Service Officer; Prosecutor; Assistant Prosecutor; need for additional Health Physician; overtime, RFQ's and appointment of various professionals; employee health benefits coverage).

Work Session January 12, 2021, Continued

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 5

(Sgd) Erin N. Delaney
Joseph Delaney

ADJOURNMENT

After the City Council came out of Closed Session at 10:10 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Erin Delaney moved to adjourn the Work Session. Councilmember Herrera duly seconded the motion.

On call or roll, Ayes 5

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK