

A Work Session of the City Council was held Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:05 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 February 5, 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 and Romi Herrera

Also Present Telephonically: Richard Rigoglioso

Councilmembers Absent: Erin Delaney

Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch and City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica

Also Present Telephonically: City Attorney Robert Ferraro, Labor Counsel John Lavin, City Engineer Carl O'Brien, Special Projects Engineer Kevin J. Boswell, Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano and Recreation Director Daniel Golabek

CONDITION OF FIRE HOUSE NO. TWO

The City Council and Cabinet discussed the condition of Fire House No. Two located at 72 Belmont Avenue, including the condition of the exterior masonry walls, with the following Fire Officials: Ex-Chief James Kovacs and Fire Chief Kyle Kovacs.

ARRIVAL OF DEPUTY MAYOR DELANEY

At 6:15 PM, Deputy Mayor Erin N. Delaney joined the Work Session and it was duly noted for the record.

HARVESTROLLEY MOBILE FOOD HANDLERS PROPOSAL

The City Council and Cabinet discussed a proposal from Harvestrolley to be issued a Mobile Food Handlers Permit to allow a trolley to travel throughout town offering residents the sale of food normally available in a grocery store.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. The City Health Department administered the Coronavirus Covid-19 vaccine to approximately 100 Garfield Residents, and the second round of that vaccine will be administered when it becomes available again.
2. 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%.
3. The approval granted by the Garfield Redevelopment Agency of the Kalama Chemical Redevelopment Agreement at their meeting held last night.
4. The Annual Rabies Clinic scheduled to be held in May 2021 as administered by the City Health Department with assistance from Bergen County Supervising Animal Control Officer W. Mark Byrnes.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

5. The removal of the train tracks that run down the middle of Monroe Street from Pierre Avenue to the Passaic River.

EXIT OF SPECIAL PROJECTS ENGINEER BOSWELL

At 6:35 PM, Special Projects Engineer Kevin J. Boswell left the Work Session telephonically and it was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

6. The meeting the City Manager, the City Attorney and City Enforcement Officials had on Thursday, February 4, 2021 with Auto Body Repair Shop Business Owners regarding the proposed Ordinance that was introduced at the City Council meeting held on January 26, 2021.
7. The Trap, Neuter and Release Feral Cat Ordinance introduced at the City Council Meeting held on January 26, 2021, and the proposed attendance of Bergen County Supervising Animal Control Officer W. Mark Byrnes at the City Council Work Session scheduled to be held on March 9, 2021.
8. Recreation Department Activities including the proposed Easter Bunny Drive-By Event at the Sam and Ann Sangis Recreation Center located at 466 Midland Avenue on Saturday, March 27, 2021; and the Park Bench Dedication proposal.
9. Various proposed Park Improvements including Basketball Courts in Twentieth Century Field, a conceptual plan to implement a complete re-do of Columbus Park, upgrades in Dolphine Park, Basketball Courts in Dahnert's Lake County Park, a proposed Amphitheater in one of the City Parks, and \$400,000 worth of Playground Equipment improvements for the Jewell Street Playground.
10. Various proposed Engineering Improvements including utilizing the Grant Procurement Firm of Millennial Strategies to secure funding for the replacement of one culvert a year over Fleisher's Brook from Division Avenue to the Passaic River, and Drainage Improvements along the old abandoned Train Tracks that cross over Semel Avenue, Market Street, Banta Avenue and Division Avenue.

ARRIVAL OF VARIOUS CITY EMPLOYEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

At 6:55 PM, Deputy City Clerk Diane Rosolen, Senior Clerk Typist Mary Delahanty, Confidential Secretary Patricia Esposito and Secretary to the Mayor and City Manager Lisa Sokulski, along with White Collar Union Representatives E.J. Moreno and Mark McCart, joined the Work Session telephonically and it was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

11. Executive Order No. 213 signed by Governor Phil Murphy on February 3, 2021, and effective February 5, 2021, which raised Restaurant capacity limits due to the Coronavirus from 25% to 35%_and lifted the 10:00 PM Curfew for in-person Restaurant Service to whatever the local municipal ordinance regulations are, which is 2:00 AM in the City of Garfield.
12. A proposed grant application for the Garfield Historical Society suggested by City Historian Christopher Shupenko.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

13. A proposed Water Line Connection Tap Fee Ordinance.

EXIT OF CITY ENGINEER O'BRIEN

At 7:00 PM, City Engineer Carl O'Brien telephonically left the Work Session and it was duly noted for the record.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 21-50

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 7:05 P.M. on Tuesday, February 9, 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; (White Collar Collective Bargaining Unit meeting request; meeting with PBA Local No. 46 Representatives regarding proposed extension of current collective bargaining agreement).
- * Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds; (appraisal and proposed acquisition of David's Auto Body property at Palisade Avenue and Monroe Street; proposed riverfront property acquisition).
- * Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public or any investigation of violations or possible violations of the law; (proposed assistance for the Garfield YMCA to take over the services of the closed "Meals with a Mission").
- * Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations or matters falling within attorney-client privilege; (Proposed hiring of Leonard Bier in connection with the Garfield Parking Authority; salary of City Prosecutor Mark P. Fierro and Assistant Prosecutor Elsbeth J. Crusius; proposed settlement with Two Brothers regarding contract dispute with construction of new police station at 411 Midland Avenue; proposed assistance for the Garfield YMCA to take over the services of the closed "Meals with a Mission").
- * 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; (proposed Confidential Secretaries in the City Manager's Office and City Clerk's Office; proposed hiring of Leonard Bier in connection with the Garfield Parking Authority; Veterans Service Officer David Castro; salary of City Prosecutor Mark P. Fierro and Assistant Prosecutor Elsbeth J. Crusius; list of employees eligible to retire and proposed buy-out program like Cresskill; City Manager directive on the reduction of overtime; temporary supervisors in the Department of Public Works).

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) Joseph Delaney
Pawel Maslag

EXIT OF VARIOUS CITY EMPLOYEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

At 7:20 PM, Deputy City Clerk Diane Rosolen, Senior Clerk Typist Mary Delahanty, Confidential Secretary Patricia Esposito and Secretary to the Mayor and City Manager Lisa Sokulski, along with White Collar Union Representatives E.J. Moreno and Mark McCart, left the Work Session telephonically during Closed Session and it was duly noted for the record.

ARRIVAL AND EXIT OF GARFIELD PARKING AUTHORITY
EMPLOYEE CANDIDATE BIER

At 7:20 PM, Garfield Parking Authority Employee Candidate Leonard Bier joined the Work Session telephonically during Closed Session, and at 7:35 PM, Garfield Parking Authority Employee Candidate Leonard Bier left the Work Session telephonically during Closed Session. It was duly noted for the record.

ADJOURNMENT

After the City Council came out of Closed Session at 8:55 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Herrera moved to adjourn the Work Session. Councilmember Maslag duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK