

A Work Session of the City Council was held Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:10 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 March 6, 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: Richard Rigoglioso

Also Present Telephonically: Joseph Delaney, Pawel Maslag and Romi Herrera

Councilmembers Absent: Erin Delaney

Also Present: City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica

Also Present Telephonically: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Attorney Robert Ferraro, Labor Counsel John Lavin, City Engineer Carl O'Brien, Superintendent of Public Works Sam Garofalo, Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano, Deputy Police Chief Ronald Polonkay, Police Lieutenant Michael Marsh and Recreation Director Daniel Golabek

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

The City Council and Cabinet discussed the Person to Person Transfer Application of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0221-33-012-007, from Garfield Restaurant Corp, t/a Déjà vu (Dimitri Kataroski, 31 Potter Road, Clifton, New Jersey 07013 - who owns 100% of the shares of the Corporation), to Déjà vu Restaurant, LLC, (Stojance Vanev, 17 Gramercy Road, Old Bridge, New Jersey 08857, – who will own 50% of the shares of the Corporation and Monica Aleksoska, 726 Chestnut Street, New Milford, New Jersey 07646 – who will own 50% of the shares of the Corporation), for licensed premises located at 50 River Drive, Garfield, New Jersey 07026.

The City Council and Cabinet discussed the Person to Person Transfer Application of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0221-33-006-005, from Swami Yogi, Inc., t/a Swami Yog (Saraswati Patel, 241 Highland Avenue, Wood Ridge, NJ 07075 - who owns 34% of the shares of the Corporation, Guatam Patel, 189 14th Street, Wood Ridge, NJ 07075 who owns 34% of the Corporation, Dharmesh Patel, 61 Tenth Street, Wood Ridge, NJ 07075 – who owns 32% of the Corporation), to La Bella Pizzeria LLC, (Matilda Pere, 112 Semel Avenue, Garfield, NJ 07026, – who will own 100% of the shares of the Corporation), for licensed premises located at 300 Lanza Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey 07026.

ARRIVAL OF DEPUTY MAYOR ERIN DELANEY

At 6:20 PM, Deputy Mayor Erin Delaney joined the Work Session telephonically and it was duly noted for the record.

GARFIELD NEWSLETTER

The City Council and Cabinet discussed the proposed content of the next edition of the Garfield Newsletter.

ARRIVAL OF CITY AUDITOR LERCH

At 6:30 PM, City Auditor Dieter Lerch joined the Work Session telephonically and it was duly noted for the record.

BERGEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL AND CITY OF GARFIELD
TRAP, NEUTER AND RELEASE PROGRAM

The City Council and Cabinet met telephonically with County of Bergen Animal Control Shelter and Adoption Center Director Deborah Yankow, and Bergen County Supervising Animal Control Officer W. Mark Byrnes, regarding the City of Garfield Trap, Neuter and Release Program which was deleted pursuant to Ordinance No. 2854 adopted by the City Council at a meeting held on February 23, 2021.

PROPOSED 2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The City Council and Cabinet discussed the Proposed 2021 Municipal Budget.

EXIT OF CITY AUDITOR LERCH

At 7:35 PM, City Auditor Dieter Lerch left the Work Session and it was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. Three proposed additional Bus Stops on the New Jersey Transit 161 Line on Midland Avenue, northbound at Passaic Street; Midland Avenue, southbound between Passaic Street and Palisade Avenue; and River Drive, northbound at Midland Avenue.
2. Proposed amendments to Ordinance No. 2858 adopted by the City Council at a meeting held on February 23, 2021, regarding Snow Emergency Parking and Snow Routes.
3. The proposed expansion of the Passaic River Historic Park/Riverfront Park at the old Wawel Savings Bank/Service Diner site at 935 River Drive, Block 140/Lot 91.01, and the "At-Risk" Letter from Amy Sumoski of the New Jersey State Green Acres Program dated December 23, 2020.
4. The proposed 2021 Road Paving Program.
5. The proposed Passaic Street Train Station Improvements by Greater Bergen including the stairs that lead to and from the Train Station, near the Merida Properties Redevelopment site at 99 Passaic Street.
6. The proposed Cannabis Study to be performed by Topology.
7. The proposed Water Rate Increase necessitated due to rate increases charged to the City over the years by the Passaic Valley Water Commission.
8. 2021 Emergency Outdoor Dining Licenses.
9. The proposed removal of the Train Tracks that run down the middle of Monroe Street from Pierre Avenue to the Passaic River.
10. The Redevelopment Projects and Agreements regarding 99 Passaic Street, 30-38 Plauderville Avenue, 844-858 River Drive, and 933 River Drive.
11. Proposed Improvements to Well 8C near Dolphine Park; and the Bonding Requirements regarding the Wellfield Aeration Tower Media Replacement.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Mayor Richard Rigoglioso reported on the following:

1. The Memorial Service to commemorate the One Year Anniversary concerning those 91 Garfield Residents who have lost their lives to the Covid-19 Pandemic; and the start time of 6:30 PM for the Memorial Service scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 in front of City Hall.

EXIT OF INTERIM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER RIGGITANO

At 8:10 PM, Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano left the Work Session just as the City Council voted to go into Closed Session and it was duly noted for the record.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 21-82

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 8:10 P.M. on Tuesday, March 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; (PBA Local No. 46 request to extend the existing collective bargaining agreement; White Collar Union requirement that part-timers be granted sick time pursuant to the change in the law).
- * Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public or any investigation of violations or possible violations of the law; (security at a proposed city-run carnival scheduled to be held in April; Recreation Department closed for 14 days due to Covid-19 exposure).
- * Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations or matters falling within attorney-client privilege; (proposed contract for information technology computer services; proposed water rate increase effective April 1, 2021 due to increases in water rates by the Passaic Valley Water Commission; proposed settlement with Two Brothers Contracting regarding the construction of the new police station at 411 Midland Avenue; outstanding architect and engineer fees regarding the construction of the new police station; proposed riverfront maintenance contract with Angels Landscaping; cleaning contracts regarding the police station; existence and proposed elimination of Zoning Board of Adjustment Clerk position; proposed contract for Plauderville Avenue planning).
- * 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; (temporary sergeant in the Police Department; temporary supervisors in the Department of Public Works; Blue Collar Union Representative letter inquiring the status of the proposed filling of the Heavy Equipment Operator position; proposed shift change in the hours of the unlawful dwelling inspector from evenings to daytime; proposed elimination of Zoning Board of Adjustment Clerk position).

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

Work Session March 9, 2021, Continued

EXIT OF VARIOUS CITY OFFICIALS

At 8:15 PM, Deputy Police Chief Ronald Polonkay, Police Lieutenant Michael Marsh, City Engineer Carl O'Brien and Superintendent of Public Works Sam Garofalo left the Work Session during Closed Session and it was duly noted for the record.

ADJOURNMENT

After the City Council came out of Closed Session at 9:05 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Erin Delaney moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Herrera duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK