

A Work Session of the City Council was held Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:15 PM in the Council Chamber, in 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 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 door of City Hall and on the City Website.

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

Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, Deputy City Clerk Diane Rosolen, City Attorney Robert Ferraro, City Engineer Carl O'Brien, Colliers Engineering, Project Manager Associate Kevin Boyer, Special Projects Engineer Kevin J. Boswell, Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano, City Auditor Deter Lerch, Recreation Director Daniel Golabek, Deputy Police Chief Ronald Polonkay and Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Marsh

NONLETHAL GEESE HABITAT MODIFICATION PROGRAM

The City Council and Cabinet met with Doreen Frega, Project Manager of Legislation and Outreach for the Animal Protection League, regarding a Nonlethal Geese Habitat Modification Program.

PRIDE MONTH

The City Council and Cabinet met telephonically with LGBTQ+ Liaison Dre Espinosa regarding proposals to increase awareness by celebrating Pride Month in the City of Garfield. It was suggested that a Pride Celebration be held in Twentieth Century Field on Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

MOBILE FOOD TRUCK APPLLLICATION REQUEST

The City Council and Cabinet met with Carla and Caroline Seminario regarding their request for a Mobile Peruvian Food Truck Application. They said that the Food Truck would only be open to the public for a day and a half on weekends.

MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

The City Council and Cabinet met with Recreation Director Daniel Golabek regarding a proposed Mental Health and Community Initiative including the proposed placement of "Happy to Chat Benches" in the City Parks to tackle the issue of loneliness and mental health.

ARRIVAL OF SPECIAL COUNSEL/LABOR COUNSEL LAVIN

At 7:00 PM, Special Counsel/Labor Counsel John Lavin joined the Work Session and it was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. The proposed engagement of a Marketing Firm to promote the City of Garfield.
2. A proposed Little Free Library Book Exchange Program for the Garfield Free Public Library similar to the one implemented by the Little Ferry Public Library.
3. An update on the status of the Feral Cat Ordinance.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

4. The proposed purchase of ten additional traps to capture Feral Cats for transport to the Bergen County Animal Shelter.
5. Proposed Traffic Calming Measures for Elizabeth Street.
6. Proposed Stop Signs at various locations in the City.
7. Proposed Tree Planting in areas with new sidewalks and curbs.
8. The proposed City-wide Clean-up to be held Saturday, May 22, 2021 with a rain date of Sunday, May 23, 2021.
9. The Emergency Sewer and Water Line repair near 113 Grand Street on April 28, 2021; and the Emergency Water Line Repair near the intersection of MacArthur Avenue and Arnot Street on April 30, 2021.
10. The 2021 Environmental Joint Insurance Fund Audit of the City of Garfield.
11. The Project Backboard Basketball Court proposal.
12. The next funding round regarding Green Acres grant applications for outdoor recreation in which they intend to prioritize projects that “anticipate and address climate change impacts, advance long-term resilience goals, provide equitable and meaningful public access, and maximize social, environmental, and health benefits to the public, particularly within Overburdened Communities”.
13. Parking at Palisade Avenue and Van Winkle Avenue.
14. The proposed layout plan that accommodates a sidewalk on the northside of Napes Place extending up to Harrison Avenue.
15. The upcoming meeting to consider Bergen County Community Development Block Grant Applications.
16. Memorial Day Observances at the Firefighters Monument in front of City Hall at 111 Outwater Lane, and at the Benda-Roehrich Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2867 at 340 Outwater Lane.
17. The proposed return of the Memorial Day Parade in 2022.
18. His recent meeting with Bergen County Executive James Tedesco and other County Officials regarding the proposed installation of Basketball Courts in Dahnert’s Lake County Park.
19. The New Jersey Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2022 State Aid Program.
20. The proposed Passaic Street Improvement and the proposed Monroe Street Improvement.

Special Projects Engineer Kevin J. Boswell reported on the following:

1. Various Recreation Field Improvements.
2. The Water Meter Replacement Program.
3. Proposed Plans and Specifications for the Improvement to Well 8C.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Engineer Carl P. O'Brien reported on the following:

1. The installation of Basketball Courts behind Fire House No. Three located on Gaston Avenue.
2. The Jewell Street Playground Improvements.
3. The proposed Columbus Park Improvements.
4. The evaluation of underground utilities near the intersection of Jewell Street and Columbus Avenue.
5. Tier I Stormwater Conformance.
6. The 2020 Roadway Improvement Program.
7. The 2021 Roadway Improvement Program.
8. Green Acres Grant Applications.

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

21. The Farmer's Market Proposal for Passaic Street.

EXIT OF COUNCILMEMBER HERRERA

At 8:05 PM, Councilmember Romi Herrera left the Work Session and it was duly noted for the record.

PROPOSED ERMGENCY SERVICES UNIT/SWAT UNIT

The City Council and Cabinet met with Deputy Police Chief Ronald Polonkay, Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Marsh and Police Officer Daniel Taylor regarding a proposed Emergency Services Unit/SWAT Unit in the Police Department.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Emergency Management Coordinator/Police Lieutenant Michael Marsh reported on the following:

1. The proposed Amendment to the Snow Routes Ordinance.
2. Proposed Police Bicycle Patrols in the City Parks.
3. Proposed Amendments to the City Police Towing Ordinance.

GARFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The City Council and Cabinet met telephonically with Fire Chief Kyle Kovacs on the following:

1. The proposed purchase of a new Fire Chief Car.
2. The proposed purchase of new Turn-Out Gear.

GARFIELD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

3. The proposed Ordinance requiring snow removal around a Fire Hydrant within 24 hours of a snowstorm.
4. A proposed Stand-by Ordinance.
5. A proposed Fire Department Stipend in lieu of the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP).

2021 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

City Manager Duch reported on the Public Hearing on the Amendment to the 2021 Municipal Budget scheduled to be held at the May 25, 2021 Regular Meeting of the City Council followed by a vote on the Adoption of the 2021 Municipal Budget.

EXIT OF VARIOUS CITY OFFICIALS

Just as the City Council was about to vote to go into Closed Session, the following City Officials left the Work Session: City Engineer Carl P. O'Brien, Colliers Engineering Project Manager Associate Kevin Boyer, Special Projects Engineer Kevin J. Boswell, Deputy Police Chief Ronald Polonkay, Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Marsh and Recreation Director Daniel Golabek.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 21-147

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 9:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, to discuss the following as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

- * Matters in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States; (notification of recent Federal Funds in a communication from the Office of Congressman Bill Pascrell).
- * Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds; (possible purchase of David's Auto Body Property at the northwest corner of 165 Palisade Avenue and Monroe Street; proposed redevelopment projects at 844-858 River Drive and 933 River Drive; proposed condemnation of 326 River Drive).
- * Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public or any investigation of violations or possible violations of the law; (NJ Legislation regarding marijuana/cannabis use by city employees).
- * Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations or matters falling within attorney-client privilege; (proposed redevelopment projects at 844-858 River Drive, and 933 River Drive; proposed shared services agreement with the Borough of Wood-Ridge regarding the Municipal Court).
- * 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 retirement of Clean Communities Coordinator, Plumbing Inspector, DPW Mechanic and City Clerk; proposed hiring of Parking Authority Director Leonard Bier;

Work Session May 11, 2021, Continued

CLOSED SESSION

proposed shared services agreement with the Borough of Wood-Ridge regarding the Municipal Court; proposed early separation plan for City Employees; alleged abuse of sick day use by DPW employees and other employees).

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 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Herrera

(Sgd) Joseph Delaney
Pawel Maslag

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 Maslag duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,
Absent 1 – Councilmember Herrera

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK