

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Tuesday, July 13, 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 meeting 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 in City Hall, on the front and back doors of City Hall and on the City Website.

Councilmembers Present: Joseph Delaney, Pawel Maslag, Romi Herrera and Richard Rigoglioso
Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, City Attorney Robert Ferraro, City Engineer Carl P. O'Brien and Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 21-228

WHEREAS, there is a vacant seat on the City Council due to the resignation of Deputy Mayor Erin N. Delaney that was received by City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:16-1 et. seq. states that the vacancy shall be filled for its unexpired term at the next general election, or regular municipal election, whichever comes first, which will be the General Election to be held Tuesday, November 2, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the City Council may fill the vacancy temporarily by appointment until said election, and said appointment to fill a vacancy shall be by a majority vote of the remaining members of the City Council, to be made within thirty days of the vacancy, and

WHEREAS, if the City Council shall fail or decline to fill the vacancy in the membership of the City Council by appointment within the prescribed time of thirty days, the office shall remain vacant until the election and qualification of a successor; however, the City Council is of the opinion that they have reached a decision concerning the temporary appointment to fill the Council vacancy,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey that Alejandrina Banch of 87 Plauderville Avenue is hereby appointed to the City Council, effective immediately, to succeed Erin N. Delaney, until the General Election to be held Tuesday, November 2, 2021.

On call of roll, Ayes 4, Vacancy 1

(Sgd) Romi Herrera
Joseph Delaney

With her family holding the Bible, Alejandrina Banch was administered the official oath of office as Councilmember by Mayor Richard Rigoglioso.

COMMENTS BY COUNCILMEMBER BANCH

Councilmember Banch made the following comments: "Good Evening, Every strong, forward-moving City is built upon a sturdy foundation of residents and a committed and selfless governing body. Well, we all know that Garfield has the greatest residents, and our sense of community only continues to grow stronger. And as for the governing body, I must say that, as a resident, I have been extremely proud to be represented by the Garfield 2020 Council, and now it is an extreme honor to serve our city along side them, as a Councilwoman. I would like to thank Mayor Rigoglioso, Deputy Mayor Delaney, Councilman Delaney, Councilman Herrera, and Councilman Maslag for the great work they do to keep our City moving forward and for granting me this amazing opportunity to serve the City of Garfield with you all. I am truly honored and grateful. Next, I would like to acknowledge and thank the successfully versatile Deputy Mayor Erin Delaney. Your selflessness, devotion to the community, hard work ethic, and always pleasant demeanor is an inspiration to, not only me, but to all women who get the pleasure of meeting you. It's not often that one admires someone younger than them, but Erin, you are going to do great work as City Manager, and it is an honor to sit in your seat on the council. Everybody knows that when an individual accomplishes something, or in this case, is appointed to a City Council seat, that, behind the scenes, there is a support system which serves as motivation and a strong foundation. My success is a family affair, and I am extremely blessed and fortunate to have my family in my corner. My two beautiful children who strive everyday to do their best and continue to grow make me a very proud mother and provide me with steady inspiration and strength. As much as I would love to stand here and thank my beautiful friends and family individually between the calls the texts and the

COMMENTS BY COUNCILMEMBER BANCH

presence here tonight the love speaks for itself, But Mom, I would like you to know I inspire to be more and more like you every day! To the Garfield Community, a community in which I have lived in the majority of my life while serving the community and the youth has undoubtedly become family to me as well, and anyone who knows me will tell you, I always look out for family. I am looking forward to sitting on this Council and working towards a great future for Garfield.”

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 21-229

RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey that the call of roll shall be as follows:

1. Councilmember Pawel Maslag
2. Councilmember Romi Herrera
3. Councilmember Alejandrina Banch
4. Deputy Mayor Joseph Delaney
5. Mayor Richard Rigoglioso

On call of roll, Ayes 5

(Sgd) Romi Herrera
Joseph Delaney

Resolution No. 21-230

WHEREAS, Deputy Mayor Erin N. Delaney has resigned from the City Council effective July 6, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Garfield wishes to elect a councilmember to act as Deputy Mayor of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Mayor shall serve according to State Law and City Ordinance in the absence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City Council also wishes to establish a procedure for selection of a member of the Council to serve in the event that neither the Mayor nor the Deputy Mayor are present.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Garfield, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey as follows:

Joseph Delaney be and is hereby elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Garfield;

In the event that both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are absent from any meeting, the remaining three members of the Council shall, at the beginning of said meeting, select a Councilperson from among them to preside over that meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk be and he is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this approved Resolution to all the members of the governing body, the City Manager and the City Attorney.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

(Sgd) Romi Herrera
Joseph Delaney

With his family holding the Bible, Joseph Delaney was administered the official oath of office as Deputy Mayor by Mayor Richard Rigoglioso.

BIOGRAPHY OF ERIN N. DELANEY

City Manager Thomas J. Duch read the following Biography of Erin N. Delaney:

Erin Nora Delaney has been a lifelong resident of Garfield, NJ where she attended their public-school system. She graduated high school in 2009 where she was in the Top 20 Seniors of her class, a member of the National Honor Society, and recipient of many prestigious scholarships, including the Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar award. Upon graduation, Erin enrolled in the NJ Stars scholarship program where she earned an Associate’s Degree in Social Sciences at Bergen

BIOGRAPHY OF ERIN N. DELANEY

County Community College. Subsequently, she participated in the NJ Stars II at William Paterson University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. Erin completed her Master's Degree in Public Administration at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2016. She very proudly graduated under the highest honors, Summa Cum Laude, is a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha, the Global Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, and obtained her certification in Public Management and Transportation Management while working toward her Master's Degree. Immediately following her graduation from William Paterson University in 2013, Erin worked in the non-profit field for The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources, A Program of Children's Aid and Family Services. She continued to work there while advancing her education and, in addition, has also worked for the Bergen County Department of Health Services' Office of Alcohol and Drug Dependency and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) of Hudson County, better known as Partners in Prevention.

In November 2018, Erin began her embarkment of a new career by becoming the Municipal Clerk for the Borough of Elmwood Park. Despite the odds against her, she completed all of her Municipal Clerk coursework in a short, six-month span and passed her Registered Municipal Clerk exam on her first attempt. In January 2020, she was nobly asked to step in and take a position as the Prospect Park Municipal Clerk. Erin prides herself on her work ethic, dedication, and ability to multi-task. While serving as both the Elmwood Park and Prospect Park Municipal Clerk, she was also appointed as the School Board Secretary of the Prospect Park School District in December of 2020.

Through her years of schooling and employment Erin has had great experience in grant work, budget management, community organization & engagement, program development, policy advocacy, coalition management, and event planning. While working at The Center, a 10 year \$125,000/year grant was secured for the City of Garfield. Erin was instrumental in bringing various programs to the City of Garfield, at no cost to its residents, such as Strengthening Families, Second Step, Mental Health First Aid, and Smoke-free Public Space.

Erin decided to follow her fathers' footsteps and run for public office in 2016, of which she was successful. Erin and Joe became the first father-daughter duo in the State of New Jersey to be elected to office together and serve on a Governing Body. She completed her first four-year term in 2020 and was re-elected to office, alongside the full Garfield 2020 team, in November 2020. On January 1, 2021 she was chosen to be the first-ever female Deputy Mayor. Erin is honored to be named right below her father, Joe, on the Garfield statue of Deputy Mayors.

Volunteerism is embedded into Erin's values. She has been involved in many community organizations/projects such as: Food for Thought Healthy Living, Garfield Clean Communities, Garfield Democratic Committee, many youth organizations as a volunteer coach, Strangers Helping Strangers, Garfield Neighbor Network, and so on.

Erin is the founder of Garfield's Green Team, Go Green Garfield, member to the Garfield Prevention Coalition, founder of the Stigma Free branch of the Coalition, and member of the Garfield Municipal Alliance. Additionally, she is a voting member of the Bergen County Alliance Steering Subcommittee of the Local Advisory Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Through Go Green Garfield, Erin obtained the first-ever Sustainable New Jersey grant for the City of Garfield. Lastly, she prides herself on contributing to the mission of the Bergen County Board of Social Services which is to improve, sustain, and protect the health, welfare, and self-sufficiency of all county residents, enhancing every individual's ability to contribute to family and community. Bergen County Executive, Jim Tedesco, appointed Erin as a member of the Board in January 2017. She still dedicates her time, and appreciates the faith and opportunity given to her, by remaining on the Board to this day serving as the Secretary-Treasurer and member of both the personnel and negotiations committee.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 21-231

RESOLUTION APPOINTING CITY MANAGER

WHEREAS, Thomas J. Duch, Esq. has offered his resignation as City Manager of the City of Garfield, and the Mayor and Council wish to appoint a successor to fill this vacancy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Garfield, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. Erin N. Delaney be and is hereby appointed to the position of City Manager for the City of Garfield to commence for a term commencing on the date of the adoption of this Resolution and continuing until January 1, 2025;
2. The annual salary for this position shall be in accordance with the contract attached hereto and made a part hereof;
3. The City and Erin N. Delaney shall be required to execute the attached contract which outlines all of the duties and obligations of this position and shall also specifically describe all entitlements, financial and otherwise. The agreement provides for the extent of terminal leave, vacation days, personal days and other benefits which are paid upon her retirement from this position.
4. The duties of the City Manager shall be those which are set forth and described in N.J.S.A. 40:82-4 as well as the Code of the City of Garfield and shall include the following:
 - a) Be the Chief Executive and Administrative Official of the municipality;
 - b) Compile and submit to the Municipal Council the tentative annual budget;
 - c) Execute all laws and ordinances of the municipality;
 - d) Appoint and remove all department heads and all other officers, subordinates, and assistants for whose selection or removal no other method is provided in this subtitle, supervise and control his appointees, and report all appointments or removals at the next meeting thereafter of the municipal council;
 - e) Negotiate contracts for the municipality subject to the approval of the Municipal Council, make recommendations concerning the nature and location of municipal improvements, and execute municipal improvements as determined by the municipal council;
 - f) See that all terms and conditions imposed in favor of the municipality or its inhabitants in any statute, public utility franchise or other contracts are faithfully kept and performed, and upon knowledge of any violation, call the same to the attention of the municipal.
 - g) Attend all meeting of the Municipal Council with the right to take part in the discussions, but without the right to vote;
 - h) Recommend to the Municipal Council for adoption such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient, and make reports to the Council as requested by it, and at least once a year, make an annual report of his work for the benefit of the Council and the public;
 - i) Investigate at any time, the affairs of any officer or department of the municipality;
 - j) Perform such other duties as may be required of the Municipal Manager by ordinance or resolution of the Municipal Council;
 - k) All those duties and responsibilities set forth in Section 49-1 et seq. Of the Code of the City of Garfield.
5. The Mayor be and is hereby authorized to execute a Contact with the City Manager, Erin N. Delaney in the form attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the City of Garfield, County of Bergen, and State of New Jersey that the City Clerk be and he is hereby directed to forward certified copies of this approved resolution to Erin N. Delaney, the Payroll Department and the City Attorney.

On call of roll, Ayes 4, Abstain 1 -
Councilmember Joseph Delaney

(Sgd) Romi Herrera
Richard Rigoglioso

Special Meeting July 13, 2021, Continued

With her family holding the Bible, Erin N. Delaney was administered the official oath of office as City Manager by Mayor Richard Rigoglioso.

EXIT OF CITY MANAGER – EMERITUS DUCH

At 6:55 PM, City Manager-Emeritus Thomas J. Duch left the meeting and it was duly noted for the record.

COMMENTS BY CITY MANAGER ERIN N. DELANEY

City Manager Erin Delaney made the following comments: “First I’d love and be honored to give a great warm welcome to Alejandrina “Sugar” Banch. Bienvenidos mi amor. Congratulations. The Council made such a wise decision, this evening, appointing you, not only as only a Councilwoman, but as the 1st ever Latina Councilwoman to sit up here on the dais. I wish you the best of luck, even though, I know you won’t need it, because you have been leading this City your entire life, or at least as long as I have known you. I listened to your heartfelt words about your Mother, and I know you have two children of your own, and I can’t speak for them, but I can only tell by the way they look at you that they feel the exact same way and hold you in that same regard. This next gentleman holds a very special place in my heart, and apparently, I take after him because I’m getting emotional up here, too. He’s had many titles in his life, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councilman, Board of Education Trustee, some titles my Mom refers to him as, that I won’t repeat here this evening, but I know that the one he’s most proud of, is Dad. Congratulations, Dad, on being sworn in as Deputy Mayor. You always make me proud, and I’m very proud to be listed right below you on the wall outside listing all the City Deputy Mayors who have served the City of Garfield. Tom left, it’s a bitter-sweet moment, and I am excited for Tom, and his new opportunities, and myself and my new opportunities. It will always be a loss to the City seeing Tom go. I know that I have big shoes to fill but I can assure him and the entire City of Garfield that his legacy will live on. I am leaving two communities, at some point, and I am still serving them on a part-time basis, until they can fill those positions. One of them, was a rough start, that being the Borough of Elmwood Park, and from the beginning, I did not have many supporters, the few that I had, still have my back, and are here this evening, and I probably wouldn’t have had a bio to have read, if they didn’t run to Elmwood Park and grab it for me, since I forgot it. To my two girls here, Marlene and Shanee, I will truly miss you every day, and from the bottom of my heart, Te Amo Mucho! To my colleagues up here, it is with a happy, grateful and humble heart that I sit before you, today, as both the youngest ever, and first female City Manager. I did a little bit of research, and only 1% of City Managers in the entire United States of America are aged 30 or younger. And only 14.4% are female. And that’s out of about 4, 000 jobs. So I am before you tonight with both of those statistics under my belt. I sincerely would like to thank all of you, up here, for this monumental opportunity. I will not only make the 5 of you proud, that voted for me this evening, but I will make the entire City of Garfield proud. I give you my word that I will put my heart and soul into this position and the City. Thank you to everyone for joining us tonight, to all of those who have supported me, to those who couldn’t be here this evening, and to those watching from above, especially four of my angels. The reason why I was able to grow up in the City that I love and cherish, is because of two of them. I shared this story at our Centennial Dinner, and I know some of you weren’t there, but when my Grandfather passed away, we were going through some of his items, and I came across love letters that he wrote to my Grandma, and it was right when he moved here to the City of Garfield, and he was so excited for her to come here, and for them to start a family, together. So, to my Grandparents, thank you for choosing this great City, to my colleagues, thank you for choosing me to be your City Manager. I’ll do you proud. Now, let’s get down to business.”

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Banch moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Maslag duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK