

**WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE
CITY OF GARFIELD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
October 19, 2021
6:00P.M.**

The Work Session Meeting of the Garfield Mayor and Council for October 19, 2021 was called to order by City Manager/City Clerk Erin Delaney at 6:32PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Maslag, Herrera, & Banch, Deputy Mayor Delaney, and Mayor Rigoglioso, were present. Also present were City Manager/City Clerk Erin Delaney, City Attorneys Robert Ferraro & John Lavin, Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano, and City Engineers Carl O'Brien & Kevin Boswell.

Whereas Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of the State of New Jersey requires at the commencement of every meeting a Statement of Compliance be read.

Now, therefore be advised, that the meeting requirements for this meeting have been met by publishing an annual notice in The Record and Herald News of Woodland Park and by posting such notice in the office of the City Clerk as well as in a public place within the Municipal Building and by notifying interested citizens. Notice was published on January 7, 2021.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

Best Practices Inventory – Interim CFO Roy Riggitano:

Interim CFO Roy Riggitano reviewed the annual Best Practices Inventory with the Governing Body. Specifically, he detailed which questions resulted in a “no” response and the reasoning for the same.

Belmont Oval/Little League Discussion – Recreation Director Dan Golabek

Recreation Director Daniel Golabek and Little League President EJ Morano attended the meeting to discuss improvements that need to be made to the Little League field. They inquired about using any additional monies that remain in the turf replacement bond to make such improvements as a start. City Manager/City Clerk Delaney reviewed the agreement between the Little League and the City. Mr. Morano advised that it has been difficult to maintain the field and raise funds, as done in the past, as volunteer numbers have dwindled. He stated they do not wish to raise registration fees in order to keep participation affordable. City Manager/City Clerk Delaney and the Governing Body directed both men to put together a list of improvements needed with approximate costs for consideration in 2022.

Further discussion took place regarding the new turf field at Belmont Oval. City Manager/City Clerk Delaney shared that proper protocol was not followed when reopening the field to organizations. The Mayor and Council expressed their concerns about the field not being properly

secured prior to its completion and certification of approval by appropriate professionals. Additionally, a request was made to coordinate a grand opening.

Mayor Rigoglioso shared his concerns about organizations using City fields and denying access to said fields to the City for City-related events. City Manager/City Clerk Delaney advised that a formal letter will be sent to all organizations advising that they do not have the authority to decline facility use.

Reports of the Cabinet and City Council:

Interim CFO Roy Riggitano:

Mr. Riggitano reviewed bond ordinances that will need to be adopted for City-related projects.

Colliers Engineering:

Mr. O'Brien provided updates on the Semel Avenue drainage (CDBG) and PSE&G paving projects. He stated that meetings will be coordinated in November to discuss 2022 capital projects and the plans for Columbus Field improvements. Mayor Rigoglioso requested that the amphitheater be looked into as soon as possible as he is aware of an interested party that is willing to cover the cost of the amphitheater. Mr. O'Brien spoke on a change order that will need to be made to account for the Morrell Place sidewalk in addition to the NJDOT railway project at VanWinkle of which Smith-Sondy, who was awarded the 2021 Road Program bid, will be performing work to add a sidewalk as a change order. In regard to the two basketball court projects, Mr. O'Brien provided an update on the one to be located at Fire Company 3 and advised that the hoops for Malcolm Avenue should be delivered at the end of the month with the contractor ready to install immediately.

Boswell Engineering:

Mr. Boswell stated that the Elmwood Park Wellfield design is complete as well as the Belmont Oval turf replacement. He advised that they are waiting on County approval for River Drive and that they will be including demolition work in the contract for the River Walk Phase II. In regard to the Semel Avenue repaving project, Mr. Boswell said that the plans are almost complete and they will break ground in the Spring.

Deputy Mayor Delaney inquired about putting the waterworks on referendum for 2022. Mr. Boswell followed by suggesting meetings be set up with interested parties and financial consultants as there are many details involved and different models that can be followed.

Councilmember Maslag had questions for Mr. Boswell related to PFAS and the new infrastructure bill. Councilman Herrera followed up with questions regarding concrete roads and lead surfaces.

**Mayor Rigoglioso left the meeting at 7:48PM*

At the conclusion of the engineering reports, City Manager/City Clerk Delaney asked for the Mayor and Council's blessing to proceed with a second application under CDBG to continue the Semel Avenue drainage project. The Governing Body was in agreement.

City Attorney – Robert Ferraro:

Mr. Ferraro advised that the City officially owns the Poehlmann and Jaworska properties on River Drive.

Report of the City Manager:

Resolutions:

1. **Family Court Awareness Month** – A resolution will be placed on the October 26th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
2. **Cleaning Services Quotes – City Hall, Recreation, Health** – A resolution will be placed on the October 26th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
3. **Monitoring Well Installation** – A resolution will be placed on the October 26th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
4. **Basketball Bid Rejection** – A resolution will be placed on the October 26th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
5. **20th Century Retaining Wall – Special Needs Playground** – A resolution will be placed on the October 26th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
6. **Water Meter Replacement – Construction Coordination** – A resolution will be placed on the October 26th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

Ordinances:

1. **Towing Ordinance** – Officer Pikul and City Attorney Ferraro reviewed the concerns raised by a towing company's attorney and advised that all but one concern was addressed and ordinance modified.
2. **Model Statewide Municipal Ordinance – Electric Vehicles** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney reviewed the new statewide ordinance regarding electric vehicles. City Engineer O'Brien said this new legislation will affect future planning board applications. City Attorney Ferraro advised that he will look into the matter and work on a draft ordinance on behalf of the City.

Discussion items/Correspondence:

1. **Neighborhood Plan submittal – River to Rail** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney reviewed correspondence regarding the approval/continuation of the River to Rail Neighborhood Plan. She also advised that she was able to submit the majority of the cost for the replacement of cellar doors on Passaic Street, during the Streetscape project, under this grant following the denial of coverage from the NJDOT.
2. **CDBG Grant Award Letter FY21-22** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney reviewed the award letter.
3. **Streetscape Update** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney advised that the project is nearing its completion and will be done prior to the NJDOT deadline.

Departmental Reports

1. **Court Performance through August 2021** – No discussion ensued.
2. **Millennium Strategies through September 2021** – No discussion ensued.
3. **Property Maintenance** – Deputy Mayor Delaney noted that the majority of summonses are issued to residents and requested that businesses get the same attention. Councilman Maslag inquired about summoning the transfer station for fall-offs on their vehicles.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Delaney and seconded by Councilman Maslag to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

Personnel

Litigation/Legal Reports

Purchase, Lease, or Acquisition of Real Property with Public Funds

Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from this meeting.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Banch and seconded by Councilman Herrera to return to the public portion. Motion carried by the members present.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Herrera and seconded by Councilman Maslag to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
City Manager/City Clerk

These meeting minutes were approved at the December 21, 2021 Regular meeting of the Mayor & Council.