

**JOINT SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AND GARFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION**

October 25, 2021

7:00P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Joint Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Garfield and Garfield Board of Education was called to order on Monday, October 25, 2021 at 7:22PM at Garfield Middle School, 175 Lanza Avenue, Garfield, New Jersey. On Roll Call present members were: Councilman Herrera, Councilwoman Banch, and Mayor Rigoglioso. Also present were City Manager/City Clerk Delaney and City Attorney Ferraro.

2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

Whereas, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the Open Public Meetings Act 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 a special meeting notice in The Record and Herald News 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. Said notice was posted and transmitted on October 19, 2021 and published on October 22, 2021.

3. SHARED SERVICES BETWEEN ENTITIES

Special Presentation – Meridia Development

The Board of Education invited Meridia Development to attend the meeting as recent discussion took place regarding Meridia potentially funding an additional school for the district. Meridia addressed both the Board of Education and Mayor & Council as there was a change in plan related to their proposal. Meridia discussed their proposal which would include acquiring and paying for a portion of the City's Columbus Park. They advised that they would cover the cost of the Green Acres credits needed, as the land is currently on the City's Recreation and Open Space Inventory, in addition to paying for a third of the cost to make improvements to the High School stadium. Members from Meridia then left the meeting.

Following their dismissal, discussion took place regarding making a second attempt to go the Green Acres route to make the improvements. Some members of the Board inquired as to the City paying for the cost of improvements. City Manager/City Clerk Delaney advised that she would not support the City bonding or absorbing the cost of the improvements made to the High School stadium as she would like for the City to maintain its current bond rating and there are many City projects that take priority and need addressing. She noted that the only route she would support would be to go through a Green Acres grant application, with the Board making payments to reimburse the City over time. Members of the Board then raised concerns and asked questions relating to drainage, the company to be used/selected for the improvements, and who would own the property if an application was to be made for the renovations. It was also requested that both entities, again, look into funding the project through the Bergen County Improvement Authority.

Equipment and Personnel

City Manager/City Clerk Delaney advised that a chain of command must be followed should the School District wish to utilize the City's equipment and/or personnel. Members of the Mayor & Council also raised concerns related to the same and noted that the direct contact should be the City Manager/City Clerk as opposed to a department head or other employee. Additionally, Ms. Delaney requested that the Board of Education consider splitting the cost of Boswell Engineering's bills that the City covered related to past work for the High School Stadium improvements. She also noted that the District never paid for their portion of the repaving of the shared lot at the High School and City Hall. School Business Administrator Cusmano advised that an invoice was never provided. City Manager/City Clerk said that she would follow up with Finance and touch base shortly thereafter.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Herrera and seconded by Councilman Maslag to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

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.