

**WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE
CITY OF GARFIELD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
January 11, 2022
6:00P.M.**

The Work Session Meeting of the Garfield Mayor and Council for January 11, 2022 was called to order by City Manager/City Clerk Erin Delaney at 6:35PM. 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, 2022.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

Presentation by H2M – City Architect

Members from H2M Architects & Engineers were in attendance to make a presentation on the progress of their feasibility study for the DPW Building. They reviewed possible reasons for and scenarios to address the drainage issues in that area. Additionally, members of the Governing Body inquired about incorporating green energy initiatives, entering into a shared service with another municipality for a shooting range, and whether or not the drainage can be addressed now prior to any potential work being done at the DPW building.

Reports of the Cabinet and City Council

Boswell Engineering:

Mr. Boswell provided the following updates:

- a. Riverwalk Phase II: Mr. Boswell reviewed the Phase II plans with the Mayor and Council. He discussed the expansion of the road, bikeway, Dundee park, and added inlets for drainage. He noted that environmental permits are needed. Mr. Boswell stated that he believes they will be able to bid the project in April with a June groundbreaking.
- b. Semel Avenue: Mr. Boswell advised that the bid documents are complete and the bond will be introduced for the project to continue.

- c. Elmwood Park Wellfield: Mr. Boswell said that they are currently working on the design with Mr. Bierwas and Ms. Delaney. He expects the delivery of the tank filters to come in September and that the project will be done by February of 2023.
- d. Water Meter Replacement Project: Mr. Boswell shared the latest numbers of the amount of meters that have been replaced to date and number of lead lines found thus far.
- e. Well 8C: Mr. Boswell advised that the 8C tank is due to arrive in March and an additional month will be needed after delivery for it to be up and running.
- f. Grant reimbursement: Mr. Boswell stated that his office is assisting in grant reimbursements for the City.

Interim CFO Roy Riggitano:

Mr. Riggitano stated that he is currently working on the budget by reviewing expenses vs. revenues. Additionally, he noted that he plans to have a meeting with the City Manager on bonds.

Colliers Engineering:

Mr. O'Brien provided the following updates:

- a. Columbus Park: Mr. O'Brien provided an update on Columbus Park. He stated that they are working on the design and permitting, as well as a few other items, in which they need a few more months to complete. He anticipates receiving the permits and state approval by the end of the year which will allow them to bid the project in March of 2023 and, hopefully, break ground in April of 2023.

**Mayor Rigoglioso left the meeting at 8:09PM*

- b. 2021 Road Program: Mr. O'Brien noted that the 2021 Road Program began in the Fall and will be complete in the Spring, which includes the basketball court and Fire Company #3.
- c. PSE&G Paving: Mr. O'Brien advised that a meeting will be coordinated with PSE&G in the coming weeks to map out their paving to coincide with the City's 2022 Road Program.
- d. Semel Avenue Drainage CDBG Project: Mr. O'Brien said that the project has been surveyed and the next step is the design phase which will include drainage issues related to the high school stadium.
- e. Midland Avenue Sidewalks: Mr. O'Brien provided a brief overview of the past grant project that allowed for sidewalk improvements along Midland Avenue and a pending grant application that will allow for the continuation of these improvements. He inquired as to how far down the Mayor and Council would like to see the sidewalks completed. Deputy Mayor Delaney shared that he would eventually like to see decorative lighting incorporated along Midland Avenue.
- f. Miscellaneous: Mr. O'Brien shared that he will be asking the County to meet regarding drainage and culvert concerns. Deputy Mayor Delaney asked for an update on Jewell Street Park improvements.

**Mayor Rigoglioso returned to the meeting at 8:25PM*

Mayor Rigoglioso inquired as to whether or not the City can control codes regarding building improvements that would control colors of buildings, etc. Mr. O'Brien advised that this can be incorporated into the City's Master Plan and individual redevelopment plans.

City Council:

Deputy Mayor Delaney asked the City Attorney to inquire about the selling price for the Latin Percussion building which formerly housed the temporary police station. Mayor Rigoglioso questioned whether or not the City can require a college degree for police hires and what the requirements are for a Chief of Police and Deputy Chief. Lastly, Mayor Rigoglioso spoke about the Mayor's Wellness Challenge.

Report of the City Manager:

Resolutions:

1. **Boswell Environmental Work – 327 River Drive** – A resolution will be placed on the January 25, 2022 Regular meeting agenda.
2. **County Animal Services** – Ms. Delaney advised that she is waiting on confirmation from the County to ensure that TNR is included in the contract prior to placing a resolution on an agenda.
3. **Board Terms** – Ms. Delaney advised that she is currently working to get all board terms on the same schedule (January 1-December 31) and that resolutions will slowly be placed on the agenda with this change.
4. **Wellness Committee** – A resolution will be placed on the January 25, 2022 Regular meeting agenda.

Ordinances:

1. **Salary Ordinance Updates** – An ordinance with the new changes due to recent hires will be placed on the January 25, 2022 Regular meeting agenda for introduction.
2. **Re-introduction of Water Capital Bond** – Due to only 3 councilmembers being in attendance at the December 2021 meeting in which the bond was to be adopted, the ordinance will need to be reintroduced at the January 25, 2022 Regular meeting.
3. **Fire Department Residency Requirement** – Ms. Delaney advised that the current ordinance states that a volunteer firefighter must live in the City of Garfield, however, the City has been accepted volunteers from neighboring communities. She stated that the ordinance must be address to reflect their current practices to allow for outside volunteers. An ordinance to allow volunteers from surrounding communities within the Fire Department will be placed on the January 25, 2022 Regular meeting agenda for introduction.
4. **Parking Enforcement Officers – Fire Hydrants** – Mr. Ferraro drafted an ordinance as discussed at the December work session meeting which will be placed on the January 25, 2022 Regular meeting agenda for introduction.

Departmental Reports

1. **Building Department – December 2021** – No discussion ensued.
2. **Court Department through November 2021** – No discussion ensued.

Discussion

1. **PRIDE Event Expenses** – The Mayor and Council approved the submitted expenses by Andrea Espinosa.

Correspondence

1. **FY21/22 Local Recreation Improvement Grant Award** – Ms. Delaney shared the award letter with the Governing Body.

Executive Session:

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilman Maslag and seconded by Councilwoman Banch 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 February 22, 2022 Regular meeting of the Mayor & Council.