

**RE-SCHEDULED WORK SESSION MEETING
OF THE
CITY OF GARFIELD MAYOR AND COUNCIL
December 19, 2023
6:00P.M.**

The Work Session Meeting of the Garfield Mayor and Council for December 19, 2023 was called to order by City Manager/City Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:21PM. 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 John Tuntevski & John Lavin, City Engineer Kevin Boswell, and City CFO Anders Hasseler.

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 by the presiding officer.

Now, Therefore Be Advised, that the meeting requirements for this meeting have been met by publishing an annual 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 on January 9, 2023 and published on January 12, 2023 with a rescheduled meeting notice posted on December 4, 2023 and published on December 8, 2023.

Turbine Presentation

A presentation was made to the Mayor and Council for their consideration in installing wind turbines that would “fuel” EV Chargers in the City. The company proposed loaning the City the equipment for a six-month test period. Discussion ensued and concerns were raised regarding if the equipment was damaged during the test period, the space required for installation, and the cost of said equipment if the City wished to purchase it. City Manager/City Clerk Delaney advised that Mr. Schultz would have to be involved in the process should the Governing Body wish to proceed. The Governing Body requested that the City Engineer look into the proposal further with the company and provide a professional opinion.

Reports of the Cabinet and City Council:

Boswell Engineering:

Mr. Boswell stated that there was an emergency sewer break over the weekend on Banta Avenue. Both he and the City Manager/City Clerk detailed the issues with the sewer system in this area, specifically on Banta Avenue. He then went on to say that they are working on the design for the Little League field turf project, which will be done through a co-op, and the splash park. Lastly, Mr. Boswell and Ms. Delaney shared that they attended a meeting with the County to discuss increasing their cost of the River Drive Phase II Improvements as a result of the change orders that were directly related to the road widening portion of the project.

City Council:

Councilman Maslag questioned if the City still had money slated for a social worker in the budget. City Manager/City Clerk Delaney advised that the monies were removed upon the resignation of the prior social worker. It was noted by Mayor Rigoglioso that said social worker had resigned because of the lack of need. Ms. Delaney then went on to say that the City cannot include this expense in the 2024 budget if the Mayor and Council’s goal is a 0% tax increase. Councilman Maslag then requested that the City grant writer be on the lookout for a grant that could assist with costs associated with having a social worker, whether part-time or full-time. Councilman Maslag also requested that 9-8-8 Crisis Helpline signs be installed in the City.

City CFO Anders Hasseler:

Mr. Hasseler informed the Governing Body that he will have a draft of the 2024 budget in early January and that the City recently submitted for reimbursement to the County for grants in the amount of \$1.5 million.

Report of the City Manager:

Discussion:

1. **Book Sanctuary City** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney shared that the Library Director and Board of Trustees have passed a resolution designating the City as a Book Sanctuary City and have requested that the Mayor and Council pass a similar resolution. The Mayor and Council requested that the Library Director attend the next Work Session meeting to discuss this resolution further.
2. **River to Rail – 2024** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney requested input from the Governing Body as to what they would like to see Greater Bergen submit for their 2024 River to Rail yearly funding. Some suggestions were: decorative bike racks, speakers, art/placemaking, and an archway. Ms. Delaney also suggested supplemental trash receptacles and more decorations.
3. **Handicap Application Fee Follow-up** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney provided more samples of municipalities that implement such a fee as per the Mayor and Council’s direction at the November Work Session meeting. After their review, the Mayor and Council agreed to a one-time application fee of \$100.00.
4. **GBOE Gas Shared Service** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney advised that the City is currently in a shared service with the School District for gas services at WaWa. She advised that the City currently processes everything on behalf of the school district at no cost. Ms. Delaney went on to say that the resolution has not been renewed since it’s inception and recommended that this be done in 2024. She also suggested that there be a slight service charge to supplement for staff time involved. Mayor Rigoglioso questioned why the shared service is still in place. After discussion, the Mayor and Council agreed to not renew the agreement should the School District not be willing to pay the slight service charge.
5. **Flo EV Chargers** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney stated that Mr. Schultz met the company “Flo” on site at 20th Century Field to determine whether or not the installation of EV Chargers would be feasible. She noted that the Zoning Officer must approve the installation before moving forward and that they are currently waiting on price quotes from the company.
6. **Community Energy Plan Grant & Implementation Opportunity** – City Manager/City Clerk Delaney shared that the City previously received funding to create a community energy plan and that the former Recreation Director was originally slated to create said plan. Being that the plan was not complete prior to his resignation, she advised that she will be responsible for its completion with assistance from DMR Architects. Ms. Delaney noted that there is a grant opportunity for the implementation of said plan that is due in January, therefore, her work on the plan will have to be prioritized as the energy plan must be adopted in advance of applying for the implementation component. The Mayor and Council requested that the City consider focusing on EV Charging Stations and wind energy.

Departmental Reports:

1. **Clerk’s Office November 2023** – No discussion ensued.
2. **Building Department November 2023** – No discussion ensued.
3. **Recreation Department November 2023** – No discussion ensued.
4. **Millennium Strategies through November 2023** – No discussion ensued.
5. **Court Department through November 2023** – No discussion ensued.

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Mayor Rigoglioso and seconded by Councilwoman Banch to enter into Executive Session. The motions carried unanimously by those 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

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 Maslag to return to the public portion. The motions carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Delaney and seconded by Councilwoman Banch to adjourn. The motions carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC, CMC
City Manager/City Clerk

These meeting minutes were approved at the January 5, 2024 Re-organization Meeting of the Mayor & Council.