

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Friday, January 6, 2012 at 7:10 PM in the Council Chamber in City Hall, 111 Outwater Lane, Garfield, NJ 07026.

Mayor Frank J. Calandriello presided. City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica announced that the meeting was being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice was provided by mail and fax to the official City newspapers and to other interested parties and by posting the meeting notice on the bulletin boards in City Hall.

Councilmembers Present: Tana M. Raymond, Joseph Delaney, Louis G. Aloia and Frank J. Calandriello

Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch and City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica

City Clerk Pavlica introduced City Manager Thomas J. Duch, who acted as the Master of Ceremonies. He welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting and called upon Assistant Chief John Kopacz who led the meeting in the flag salute.

City Manager Duch introduced Father Edward Szpiech, the Pastor of Saint Stanislaus Kostka Roman Catholic Church and the Chaplain of the Garfield Volunteer Fire Department, who offered a Special Invocation.

City Manager Duch called upon Outgoing Fire Chief James Kovacs to conclude Unfinished Business for the Firematic Year 2011:

Garfield Fire Department

Fire Calls 2011

Total Calls: 777

Fire	116
Rescue & Emergency Service Incident	19
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	127
Service Call	162
Good Intent Call	80
False Alarm & False Call	255
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	3
Special Incident Type	<u>15</u>
Total Incident Count:	777

Resolution No. 12-10

WHEREAS, James Kovacs, has served as Fire Chief of the Garfield Volunteer Fire Department for the year 2011, and

WHEREAS, the services rendered to the citizens and taxpayers of the City of Garfield have been such as to be above and beyond the ordinary call of duty, and

WHEREAS, under the jurisdiction of James Kovacs the Garfield Volunteer Fire Department maintained its high standard of service and devotion to duty with respect to protection of life and property of the citizens and taxpayers of the City of Garfield, all of this be in keeping with the highest traditions of the standards set for fire service, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Garfield desires to express its appreciation to Fire Chief James Kovacs for his singular devotion and dedication to the fire service of the City of Garfield,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey, that Fire Chief James Kovacs be and is hereby commended for the excellent service he has rendered to the citizens and taxpayers of the City of Garfield during his tenure as Chief of the Volunteer Fire Department,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the City of Garfield and that a certified copy of this approved resolution also be included in the personnel jacket of Fire Chief James Kovacs.

On call of roll, Ayes 4,  
Vacancy 1

(Sgd) All Four Councilmembers

## Special Meeting January 6, 2012, Continued

At this time, Mayor Calandriello presented outgoing Fire Chief James Kovacs with a framed copy of Resolution No. 12-10 and Mayor Calandriello presented and pinned the Ex-Chief Badge on outgoing Fire Chief James Kovacs.

Outgoing Fire Chief Kovacs gave the following Farewell Address:

“Good Evening. Congratulations, to our new Fire Chief Kenneth Robertson, Kenny, I have had the opportunity to work alongside you and learn many things from you over the past fifteen years; I know you will do an outstanding job leading and improving upon our department. I wish you many bright sunny days and the very best of luck for a safe and productive term.

Having made it thru several blizzards in January and February, the hottest month of July on record, an earthquake and hurricane followed by days of extreme flooding in August I think we are entitled to some good weather this year.

To my Assistant Chiefs, John Kopacz, Alan Tani and Mike Colon you were all there for me whenever I needed your help this year. I will always be just a phone call away whenever you need my help and I will do whatever I can to repay the favor when each of you reach your own respective term as Fire Chief.

To our departments newest Asst. Chief James Kovacs Sr., Dad enjoy these next five years, it goes by quickly so always do the very best your capable of and making the most of the opportunity you were given.

I would also like to congratulate each of our new and returning Fire Officers, Thank you all for the hard work and dedicated service you provide to our City. It was a privilege to work with all of you and serve as your Chief of Department.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our governing body for all of the support and confidence; I was shown during my term as Fire Chief. City Manager Thomas Duch, the Mayor, and all of our Council members showed a genuine interest in the needs of our department. The Council was instrumental in helping us to upgrade and improve firefighter safety with the purchase of 16 new sets of turnout gear, the purchase of two new vehicles for our Chief Officers, and the adoption of several ordinances which will help to improve firefighter safety and enhance each of our fire companies' ability to retain members within the department.

Our City Manager Thomas Duch worked extremely hard for the fire department locating and securing grant money to update the HVAC systems in our firehouses with new modern energy efficient equipment. Additionally, the City Manager was a key proponent for a resolution which approved the necessary funding needed to match a low interest loan, all part of a grant which will be used for the purchase and installation of two emergency back-up generators at Station #2 and Station #4 when it is received.

I would like to also acknowledge and thank City Clerk Andrew Pavlica and his staff, as well as everyone in the Finance Department for your hard work, cooperation, and assistance. You definitely helped to make my job easier.

OEM Coordinator Michael Marsh, DPW Superintendent Sam Garofalo, Fire Official Gerald Walis and Building Inspector Fred Krowl for the assistance you provided to the Garfield Fire Department throughout my term.

To the Members of Engine Co. 2 placed their trust and confidence in me five years ago when they elected me to serve as their Chief. I hope in each of your eyes I earned that trust and lived up to the lofty expectations you placed upon me. I have always been extremely proud to call each of you my brother and sister firefighters, but I am even prouder to call you my fiends.

Special Meeting January 6, 2012, Continued

I would like to tell my wife Maureen, our children, my parents, my brother, and my sister thank you. Each of you offered your encouragement, support and assistance no matter what the occasion was throughout my term. I was always able to count on all of you to make each meeting or event I had the opportunity of hosting a good one. Thank you for all you did for me, I love each of you!

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a Happy Healthy New Year! Thank you.”

City Clerk Pavlica administered the Oath of Office to the Line Officers of Fire Company No. One followed by Fire Company No.s Two, Three, Four and Five.

In accordance with an election held by the Garfield Volunteer Fire Department, City Manager Thomas J. Duch appointed the following to their respective offices for a term of one (1) year:

James Kovacs Sr.	Fourth Assistant Chief
Michael Colon	Third Assistant Chief
Alan Tani	Second Assistant Chief
John Kopacz	First Assistant Chief
Kenneth Robertson	Fire Chief

City Clerk Pavlica administered the Oath of Office to the four Assistant Fire Chiefs.

Mayor Calandriello administered the Oath of Office to Fire Chief Kenneth Robertson, as his son Liam and step daughter/firefighter Breanne, held the Bible. City Manager Duch then presented Chief Robertson with the Badge of Fire Chief of the City of Garfield.

Fire Chief Robertson made the following comments:

“Who would ever thought that 25 years ago when I joined the Fire Department that I would be standing here for a second time being sworn in as Fire Chief. The honor of being elected Fire Chief from two different companies shows that, I must have earned all that I have accomplished. Having served in three different Garfield Fire Companies allowed me to gain a wealth of knowledge of the many aspects of the fire service, starting out in Truck Company 4 in 1987, then transferring to Engine Company 2 in 1989 where I served years and held many firematic and social offices working towards Chief in 2001, before transferring once again to Rescue Engine Company 3 in 2007, where I again rose through the ranks to Fire Chief. Although I am completing the un-expired term of Ex-Chief John Keating Jr. who was unable to complete his term, it is still a true honor to have been selected to fill this vacancy. Thank you to my Brothers for having the confidence in me to lead the Department not once, but twice.

I look forward to working with my Mutual Aid Towns who I always know will be there when called to assist the City of Garfield. I have seen first hand on many occasions just how well the Mutual Aid Community works together as Fire Chief and as a Mutual Aid Coordinator.

During 2012 the Fire Department will be moving forward and looking to the City for their continued support and the replacement of our 1992 Ladder Truck and our 1992 Water Rescue Vehicle, that is a retired and converted GVAC Ambulance.

The main objective for the year 2012 is to have all of our firefighters return home safely after every call.

Thank you to my fire company for all you have done, Thank you to everyone that is here tonight showing support for our fire department, and Thank You to our City Council for the anticipated support and cooperation you always give the fire department, and most of all Thank You, to my wife Deanna for being so understanding, for the countless missed meals, running out on family functions, being out at meetings, or just waking you up in the middle of the night as I leave for another call, my son Liam or as most know him as “The Little

Special Meeting January 6, 2012, Continued

Chief” thank you for being my helper and always getting me to go to more calls, and my daughter Breanne, thank you for your understanding, your help, and for becoming a member of Rescue Engine 3.”

Each Councilmember and City Manager Duch offered congratulatory remarks and best wishes for a successful year to Chief Robertson.

City Manager Duch thanked everyone for coming to this evening’s ceremony and he invited everyone to the Frank B. Calandriello Senior Center, 480 Midland Avenue, for refreshments and fellowship.

Father Edward Szpiech concluded the ceremony with a Special Benediction.

At 8:00 PM, there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK