

A Special Meeting of the City Council was held Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 6:45 PM in the Conference Room 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 provisions of 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

Councilmembers Absent: Stanley J. Moskal

Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, City Attorney Joseph J. Rotolo, Labor Counsel Joseph Randazzo, Superintendent of Public Works Sam Garofalo, Fire Official Gerald Walis and Police Chief Kevin Amos

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. The Boys and Girls Club of Garfield Coaches Association have agreed to temporarily assume control of the Junior Boilermakers Football Program. The Chairperson has resigned. The Competition Cheerleaders are under the authority for now of the City Recreation Department.
2. The private real estate transaction of the property of American Legion Memorial Post No. 255 located at 163 Cedar Street has fallen through. The Post has made an offer to sell the Post property which has been forwarded to Superintendent of Schools Nicholas Perrapato.
3. The 2010-2011 School Budget which was defeated by the voters at the polls on Tuesday, April 20, 2010. The deadline for the City Council to make cuts in the defeated School Budget is Wednesday, May 19, 2010.
4. The meeting he had with the Commander of Amvets Post No. 13 located at 326 Outwater Lane in which an amicable arrangement was reached to return the property to the City pursuant to the Reversionary Clause.
5. The recent meeting which was held with School Officials concerning the proposed sale of the City-owned "Railroad Property" which abuts the High School Stadium.
6. The closing of the old Community Development Block Grant account regarding the Monroe Street Improvement.

ARRIVAL AND EXIT OF CITY OFFICIALS

At 6:55 PM, Deputy Mayor Stanley J. Moskal joined the meeting and City Attorney Joseph J. Rotolo left the meeting. It was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

7. The Cop Sharing grant for which the City applied last year was denied, however, the City will reapply for funding this year.
8. The \$500,000.00 grant for the riverfront park project along the Passaic River.
9. An applicant has appealed a denial in the Garfield Housing Rehabilitation Program and the Program Director, Mr. William Katchen, will handle the matter. However, if the appeal by the applicant is unsuccessful, an additional appeal could come to the Mayor and Council.
10. The retirement of Tax Assessor Kurt Hielle on Friday, April 30, 2010.
11. The meeting he had with representatives of the Bergen Community Action Program located at 535 Midland Avenue for other community services they might provide and possibly assume space in the City Health Center located at 60 Elizabeth Street.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

12. The proposed shared services agreement with the Borough of Lodi in connection with the Garfield Health Department.
13. The stepped up enforcement of property maintenance regulations has resulted in approximately \$15,000.00 in fines being imposed by the Municipal Court.
14. Easement agreements which have been worked out between HP Garfield and homeowners near the intersection of River Drive and Cottage Place.
15. The shared services agreement between the Borough of Lodi and City of Garfield concerning Animal Control Services.
16. The suggested estimate from Patrick P. Lull of Viridian Responsible Energy that they could possibly save the City \$72,000.00 annually in energy costs.
17. The Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative, Inc. sent a notice concerning the providing of primary and preventative medical care to Bergen County residents with incomes between 100% and 200% of the prevailing Federal income poverty guideline who have neither medical insurance nor the means to pay for care.
18. The Public Service Announcement that he recorded and sent by Reverse 9-1-1 on Friday, April 16, 2010 concerning the need for Garfield citizens to return their 2010 Census Questionnaire.
19. The implementation by the City of the E-Ticket Program which would result in cost savings, greater efficiency and accuracy in the issuance, tracking and disposition of traffic tickets.
20. The April 20, 2010 e-mail he received from Emergency Management Coordinator Michael Marsh that the City of Garfield, NJ has received "Storm Ready" designation from the National Weather Service which helps the City with additional points for the Community Rating System that the City Building Inspector is working on for the City and entitles residents to a discount on flood insurance.
21. The elimination of 24 Crossing Guard positions out of 43, effective April 30, 2010.

2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The City Council and Cabinet discussed the 2010 Municipal Budget, including a proposed Excess Sewer Charge Ordinance or a proposed Sewer Charge Ordinance with different criteria.

RECESS, CHANGE OF VENUE AND RETURN TO ORDER

At 7:40 PM, a recess was called to move the meeting down the hall to the second floor Council Chamber to accommodate the large number of audience members in attendance. At 7:50 PM, Mayor Calandriello called the meeting to order in the Council Chamber and all City Officials were present as before the recess. It was duly noted for the record.

CITIZENS AND TAXPAYERS

Ms. Allison Clark, 42 Lanza Avenue, said that she was speaking on behalf of the parents and the crossing guards. She said that the parents were just informed that the majority of crossing guards have either been notified that they will no longer be working for the City or will be relocated to another part of the City in an effort to cut taxes. She said that as a citizen, she understands the need to save money, but as parents, you cannot put a price tag on children's lives. She said that there has already been

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crossing guards who have been injured while on post and she does not need any children to be injured. She said that the crossing guards not only make sure the children safely cross the street, but have formed friendships with them. She said that the children trust them and know them by their first names, just as the crossing guards know theirs. She said that there must be other areas in the Budget where cuts can be made that does not endanger children's safety. She said that once the layoffs go into effect, she will not want to send her children to school if their life will be in jeopardy. She said that this is outrageous. She commented on the way people drive around here. She said that the crossing guards are needed, and that the children need them because it is not safe out there. She said that it is not acceptable. She said that the parents pay taxes and the children deserve an education. She said that if the children cannot get to school safely, then they cannot get an education.

ARRIVAL OF INTERIM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER RIGGITANO

At 8:05 PM, Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggiano joined the meeting and it was duly noted for the record.

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Ms. Cheryl Socha, 85 Pacific Avenue, said that it is not right for the Council to cut from the bottom. She suggested cutting some of the people from the top. She opposed laying off police officers because they protect the people. She said that the crossing guards are here for the kids and that more than half the crossing guards are getting cut. She questioned what the City was going to do to protect the children.

Mr. Curtis Andrott, 19 Morris Avenue, spoke on City Officials collecting multiple salaries from various municipalities.

Ms. Ann Fevoli, 103 Division Avenue, questioned how the children will get to school safely. She commented that crossing guards were being laid off before finishing the school year. She questioned why they were not allowed to finish the school year. She spoke on what she claimed were dangerous intersections at Division Avenue and Madonna Place; and Banta Avenue and Madonna Place.

Mr. Mike Patti, 2 Fourth Street, Wayne, said that he is a crossing guard at Ray Street and Semel Avenue. He said that he sees traffic backed up in all directions. He spoke on people who run stop signs, inattentive drivers, people who do not obey crossing guard commands and he spoke on the abuse he takes as a crossing guard from students and drivers.

Ms. Jean Ricco, 71 Semel Avenue, said that she understands that cuts were made based on seniority. She said that she has worked as a crossing guard for twenty-five years, she has been cut, and people with less years of service have been kept. She questioned why she was let go when she has seniority over other people.

Ms. Lora Jones, 64 Wood Street, said that Semel Avenue and Shaw Street is a very dangerous intersection and she complained that the crossing guard there is being let go.

Mr. William Whren, 33 Wesminister Place, spoke on the ordinance that was introduced regulating pit bull ownership.

PBA Local No. 46 President Everett Garnto, asked questions and spoke on budgetary proposals and proposed layoffs and demotions in the Garfield Police Department. He advocated merging the Garfield, Wallington and Lodi Public Libraries. He claimed that the Wallington Public Library allegedly offered Garfield Library Workers employment in Wallington if the two libraries merged. He said that Water and Sewer Facilities Manager Willard Bierwas said on April 12th that the City should put in the Budget an anticipated additional \$300,000 which is a low figure. He said that it would be a tragedy to lose any of the new Police Officers. He said that a recent Bergen Record newspaper

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survey showed that Garfield had the 65th lowest paid Police Department out of 70 municipalities in Bergen County, that Garfield is the 8th in crime, and that the Garfield Police Force is 3rd out of 70 municipalities in Bergen County in writing summons.

State PBA Delegate Robert Ridarick, spoke on the history of the City spending, on laying off crossing guards and possibly police officers, spoke on the City Hall alarm being activated, on the proposed E-Ticket Program, on the good job the Judge is doing for the City and spoke in favor of keeping the younger police officers. He said that the members of Garfield PBA Local No. 46 agreed to leave the State Health Benefits Program when they were asked, years ago. He said that when the members were asked again to work with the City Manager and Mayor and Council to leave the Traditional Health Coverage, the membership said, "Yes, we will". He said that the PBA stepped up twice.

Garfield Police Captain Glen Mati, questioned, if the City was considering laying off crossing guards or police officers, if anybody had done a survey to see what affect this will have on the citizens.

Garfield Police Chief Kevin Amos, spoke on communicating with the City Manager and the Mayor and Council. He said that he told the City Manager what he thought if the Police Department lost guys, and he said that it was going to be a problem. He asked that everybody make an informed decision and keep safety in mind.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 10-129

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to exclude the public from a meeting in certain circumstances, and

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that such circumstances now exist,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garfield, Bergen County, New Jersey, that a "Closed Session" is hereby called at 10:15 PM on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, to discuss the following as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

- * Collective bargaining agreements including the negotiation of the terms and thereof with employees or representatives of employees of the public body; (Request to PBA Local No. 46 to consider \$350,000 in givebacks; white collar collective bargaining negotiations).
- * Matters involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds; (Pulaski Statue in Riverfront Park to be funded by private donations).
- * Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public or any investigation of violations or possible violations of the law; (the policy that crossing guards are laid off based on seniority; Health Department budget and Bergen CAP; proposed sharing of Health Department with the Borough of Lodi; Ambulance services in the City).
- * Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations or matters falling within attorney-client privilege; (proposed lay off plan to State Department of Personnel effective July 1, 2010; proposed water billing and sewer billing to be performed "in house"; proposed retirement of Police Detective Edward Mucha).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters so discussed will be disclosed to the public as soon as and to the extent that such disclosure can be made without adversely affecting the public interest or without violation of the confidentiality of personnel.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

(Sgd) Louis G. Aloia
Stanley J. Moskal

Special Meeting April 21, 2010, Continued

RECESS, CHANGE OF VENUE, EXIT OF CITY OFFICIALS
AND RETURN TO ORDER

Immediately after the City Council voted to go into Closed Session, a recess was called to move the meeting down the hall to the second floor Conference Room. At 10:30 PM, Mayor Calandriello called the meeting to order in Closed Session and all City Officials were present as before the recess, except Superintendent of Public Works Sam Garofalo and Fire Official Gerald Walis. It was duly noted for the record.

EXIT OF POLICE CHIEF AMOS

At 11:40 PM, Police Chief Kevin Amos left the meeting during Closed Session and it was duly noted for the record.

ADJOURNMENT

After the City Council came out of Closed Session at 12:05 AM, there being no further business, Councilmember Raymond moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Moskal duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK

