

A Work Session of the City Council was held Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 5:50 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 Work Session 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: Joseph Delaney, Louis G. Aloia and Frank J. Calandriello
Councilmembers Absent: Tana M. Raymond and Stanley J. Moskal
Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, City Attorney Joseph J. Rotolo, Labor Counsel Joseph Randazzo, City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell, Superintendent of Public Works Sam Garofalo, Water Consultant Willard Bierwas, Police Chief Kevin Amos and Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER RATE ORDINANCE

The City Council and Cabinet met with Water Consultant Willard Bierwas concerning a proposed amendment to the Water Rate Ordinance.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS PLAN

The City Council and Cabinet met with Mark R. Lawrie, Senior Vice President, Employees Benefits Division and Jamie Fossetta, Assistant Client Service Associate, Employee Benefits Division of Willis HRH, Willis of New Jersey, Inc., 350 Mount Kimble Avenue, 2nd Floor, PO Box 1969, Morristown, New Jersey 07962, concerning a projected 42.29% increase in the cost of Employee Health Benefits over last year.

RECESS, EXIT AND RETURN OF COUNCILMEMBER DELANEY

At 6:35 PM, Councilmember Joseph Delaney left the Work Session, resulting in a loss of quorum, so a recess was called.

At 7:05 PM, Councilmember Joseph Delaney returned, Mayor Calandriello again called the Work Session to order and all City Officials were present as before the recess. It was duly noted for the record.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE WATER RATE ORDINANCE

The City Council and Cabinet again discussed a proposed amendment to the Water Rate Ordinance.

PROPOSED PAY TO PLAY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City Council and Cabinet discussed Proposed Pay to Play Request for Proposals for various City positions.

PROPOSED CITY REVALUATION

The City Council and Cabinet discussed a proposed award of contract for a Revaluation of City properties for the 2011 tax year.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. The agreement between the City, PSE&G and the developer of record for the South Garfield/Vornado Realty Trust Redevelopment site that all costs of acquisition and initial installation of the Passaic Street Street scope including lighting, be at the expense of Vornado, including the maintenance contract on the lighting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

2. The announcement on December 1, 2009, by the New Jersey Division of Local Government Services that the \$82,000.00 Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act (CMPTRA) payment to the City of Garfield was not made as scheduled to help close the State's \$800,000.00 million budget gap, and the need by all City employees to curtail spending to make up the loss of funding.
3. His proposal that future sales of surplus City vehicles be made over the Internet as he has read that some other municipalities do.
4. The resolution which was recently passed by the Borough of Pompton Lakes stipulating that if an employee of the Borough has put in 25 years of municipal service to qualify for lifetime health benefits that the employee must have served at least 15 years with the Borough of Pompton Lakes.
5. A proposed ordinance concerning required background checks for City volunteers who have contact with the public.

City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell reported on the following:

1. The written Report of the City Engineer dated December 8, 2009.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 09-403

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 7:50 PM on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 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, (meeting today with State Department of Personnel concerning possible institution of an employee layoff plan; proposed renegotiation and request for give backs from the labor unions in their collective bargaining negotiations).
- * Tactics or techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public or any investigation of violations or possible violations of the law; (Matter referred to County Prosecutor concerning two Garfield Volunteer Ambulance Corps members allegedly altering a patient care record to place a person at the scent to avoid a traffic summons).
- * Matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplinary action of personnel unless the individual in the right request a public meeting in writing; (proposed appointment of Willard Bierwas as a Water and Sewer Facilities Manager; proposed amendment to the Police Table of Organization).

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 3, Absent 2 -
Councilmembers Raymond and Moskal

(Sgd) Joseph Delaney
Louis G. Aloia

Work Session December 8, 2009, Continued

ADJOURNMENT

After the City Council came out of Closed Session at 8:25 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Delaney moved to adjourn the Work Session. Councilmember Aloia duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 3, Absent 2 –
Councilmembers Raymond and Moskal

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK