

A Work Session of the City Council was held Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 6:15 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 board in City Hall.

Councilmembers Present: Louis G. Aloia, Stanley J. Moskal and Frank J. Calandriello
Councilmembers Absent: Tana M. Raymond and Joseph Delaney
Also Present: City Manager Thomas J. Duch, City Clerk Andrew J. Pavlica, City Attorney Joseph J. Rotolo, City Engineer Kevin J. Boswell, Superintendent of Public Works Sam Garofalo, Police Chief Kevin Amos and Interim Chief Financial Officer Roy Riggitano

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

City Manager Thomas J. Duch reported on the following:

1. The introduction of new Health Sanitarian Mary Giresi, (who started Monday, February 23, 2009), to succeed the retiring Frank Bland, (who is leaving after Friday, February 27, 2009).
2. The new City maps printed by the Chamber of Commerce.

ARRIVAL OF COUNCILMEMBER RAYMOND

At 6:20 PM, Councilmember Tana M. Raymond joined the Work Session during the Report of the City Manager. It was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

3. The graffiti on the back of the A&P Supermarket building on Columbus Avenue will be painted over soon.
4. The PSE&G solar energy seminar he will be attending the first week of March.
5. New Jersey Department of Labor blasting regulations which must be adhered to in connection with the Vornado Redevelopment off Passaic Street.

ARRIVAL OF COUNCILMEMBER DELANEY

At 6:30 PM, Councilmember Joseph Delaney joined the Work Session. It was duly noted for the record.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

6. The recent meetings he has had with Fire Official Gerald Walis concerning Income and Expense for the Fire Prevention Bureau and the Building Department, concerning Illegal Housing convictions.
7. The grant application for a School Resource Police Officer for the Garfield School System.
8. The meeting with State Officials which is scheduled to be held March 10th in Garfield concerning the Green Acres acquired park land along the riverfront, a portion of which will need to be condemned by the County in connection with the River Drive realignment project.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

9. The meeting he had yesterday at City Hall with the following Joint Insurance Fund Officials: Suburban Essex Joint Insurance Fund Executive Director David Grubb, Suburban Essex Joint Insurance Fund Deputy Executive Director James Kickhim, PERMA Account Manager Steven Sacco, PERMA Safety Director Patrick Lorimer, City Insurance Risk Manager Frank Covelli, Manager of Workers Compensation Robert Fox, Claims Oversight Supervisor Mary Loudonero, Workers Compensation Supervisor Kathy Lambe and Qualcare Representative Susan Burek, concerning excessive City of Garfield Workers Compensation Claims. He said that there will be a realignment of the Safety Committee and March 12th will be Safety Awareness Day in City Hall.
10. The \$8 million application to the New Jersey Infrastructure Trust Fund which is signed and ready to go with \$5 million for Water Improvement and \$3 million for Sanitary Sewer Improvements.
11. The updated Drug Free School Zone Maps and the updated DWI Free School Zone Maps.
12. Large Doc Solutions have completed their electronic recording of the Building Department records.
13. Various proposed DPW capital improvement projects.
14. Bergen County Open Space Trust has awarded another \$500,000.00 grant to the City for the Riverfront park project.
15. New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection vs. Occidental Chemical Corporation, et.al., re: Lower Passaic River Cleanup.
16. The proposed resolution awarding a contract to Firm Construction Contractors for Fire House No. Two Interior Improvements.
17. Graffiti removal projects throughout the City.
18. Shiva Shakti Center, Inc. located at 92 Pierre Avenue, will conduct their third annual anniversary ceremony for nine days which will include street closures and a parade.
19. The list of police posts receiving extra protection that was provided by Police Chief Amos, and the proposed reward to be offered for information leading to the conviction of the people involved in the murder that occurred last month on Mac Arthur Avenue.
20. The Water Leak Detection Program which, it is estimated, has saved the City 217,000 gallons of water per day.
21. The proposed resolution authorizing water leak detection services to be performed in the Elmwood Park Well Field.
22. The Public, Educational, Government (PEG) Access Training and Equipment Program offered by Verizon.
23. The written analysis and summary of 2006, 2007 and 2008 Water Billing/Purchases prepared by the Auditing Firm of Lerch, Vinci and Higgins, LLP, dated February 13, 2009.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS DEPENDENTS AUDIT

The City Council and Cabinet met with the following individuals concerning a Current Employee and Retired Employee Health Benefits Dependents Audit through mandatory meetings and records verification and proposed penalties for those who fraudulently include unqualified people on their Health Benefits Coverage: Ciro Giue, Financial Representative of Northwest Mutual, 180 River Road, Floor 2, Summit, NJ 07902; Benjamin Gallo, Voluntary Benefits Specialist with Colonial Life, 17 Brant Avenue, Suite 5, Clark, NJ 07066; and Frank M. Dartee, Colonial Life Representative specializing in Benefits Communication, 75 Lane Road, 4th Floor, Fairfield, NJ 07004. Also discussed was a proposed Opt Out Bonus of \$2,500.00 for those who have duplicate health benefits coverage with the employer of their spouse, and the need to rescind Resolution No. 09-63, concerning a Benefit Bank for City Employees.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution No. 09-83

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 7:45 PM on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, to discuss the following as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12:

- * 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; (Termination of employment of Finance Department employee Julia Zuccarro).

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) Stanley J. Moskal
Louis G. Aloia

ADJOURNMENT

After the City Council came out of Closed Session at 8:30 PM, there being no further business, Councilmember Raymond moved to adjourn the Work Session. Councilmember Delaney duly seconded the motion.

On call of roll, Ayes 5

Andrew J. Pavlica, CITY CLERK