

February 24, 2021

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor@gardencityny.net

Village Hall is open. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Visitors are required to wear a face covering, maintain social distancing of six feet and sign in to a Visitor's Log outside of the office they are visiting. Furthermore, while multiple people can enter Village Hall, only one person will be admitted into each office space at a time and are asked to abide by employee instructions.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS FOR VILLAGE ELECTION

The Village is taking all safety precautions to keep poll workers and resident voters safe during the Village Election, which will be held Tuesday, March 16, 2021, from 12 Noon to 9:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 351 Stewart Avenue, Garden City:

- Poll workers and voters must wear masks
- Disposable gloves and face masks will be available
- Pens will be used once (voters can take them with them after voting)
- Tables and voting machines will be wiped down with disinfectant wipes every 30 minutes
- Social distancing will be observed at all times
- The Village is renting a tent so in the event of inclement weather and/or a large crowd, voters can wait under the tent under social distancing guidelines

BANs, BONDS AND REFUNDING BONDS

On February 9, the Village sold Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs), new Bonds and Refunding Bonds. The Village closed on the BANs and new Bonds on February 18. The closing for the refunding bonds will be held on March 2. The results of the sale are as follows:

BANs:

The Village sold \$43,100,000 in BANs for the Water Fund Well Treatment projects. There were eight bidders, with the winning bid going to BofA Merrill Lynch, who offered a 1.00 percent coupon rate with \$373,246 in premium. The interest due at maturity (February 18, 2021) is \$431,000, however, netting out the premium offered, the net interest cost is \$57,754 or 0.1340 percent. This was a phenomenal result, according to our fiscal advisor they have not seen interest rates this low on BANs.

New Bonds:

The Village sold \$6,809,000 in Bonds for various Village improvements. There were four bidders, with the winning bid going to BNY Mellon Capital Markets who offered \$542,399.26 in premium. To comply with IRS tax laws, the premium was used to downsize the par value of the bonds to \$6,360,000. The True Interest Cost (TIC) is 1.417 percent with a 23-year maturity. The total interest to be paid over the term of the debt (23 years) is \$1,669,758; that is roughly \$73,000/year.

Refunding Bonds:

The Village was able to refund the remaining debt of \$1,485,000 on 2010 bonds. There were eight bidders, with the winning bid going to Fidelity Capital Markets who offered \$148,714.65 in premium and a TIC of 0.26 percent. The Village was able to achieve a net savings of \$45,769 on this deal.

Deputy Mayor Robert Bolebruch, Finance Chairman, noted that a 1.4 percent interest rate over 23 years is impressive considering that a 10-year bond today trades at 1.35 percent. “We’re going out not 10 years but 23 years and we are only paying .05 percent more. That shows the kind of work that you did. Excellent,” he said, praising Village Treasurer Irene Woo and her Finance team.

Trustee Brian Daughney added, “The results of these bond issuances and refinancing is third-party validation that we know what we’re doing in the Village. We’ve been very good at managing our finances. We’ve gotten and kept our Aaa rating. But it’s more than that – they know what we’re doing; they see what plans we have for the future. The Village deserves some plaudits for keeping this in place and keeping things going at a very low cost.”

COURTS TO RE-OPEN FOR IN-PERSON HEARINGS MARCH 1, 2021

Garden City Justice Court will reopen for in-person hearings the evening of March 1, 2021. All capacity and distancing requirements that we adhered to during the initial reopening in October will still be in place. Safety is our first priority. We will be operating well within the State’s guidelines. We will continue to promote remote conferences as an option for defendants that can’t appear due to health reasons, or do not feel comfortable enough to appear, as well as using remote conferences to keep our in-person attendance as low as possible. Our plea by mail program, in conjunction with telephonic conferences with attorney-represented defendants, has been very successful. Using these alternative methods of adjudicating cases is right in-line with the State’s recommendations.

2020 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

The draft of the Village’s 2020 Stormwater Management Program Annual Report is now available for public review on the Village’s website, www.gardencity.net, and at Village Hall and the Library. The Village Stormwater Management Program Plan Documents are also available for public review at Village Hall. Comments and questions on the Village Stormwater Management Program can be submitted to 465-4017.

A GIFT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Howard Kroplick and Al Velocci of the Long Island Motor Parkway Preservation Society have offered to donate nine original Motor Parkway concrete posts and related ribbon wire to the Village. These gifts would add to the historical appreciation of the site near Stewart Field. It should be noted, however, that upon installation, the County might take ownership of the items under the terms of the Village/County lease. The value of the donation is approximately \$1,800. The posts are permitted uses by the County/Village

lease of the Stewart School/Motor Parkway Parking Lot area (subject to County approval of installation).

POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE PLAN ADOPTED

The Garden City Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan, which has been posted on the Village website for viewing since January 22, 2021, was adopted by the Board of Trustees Tuesday evening following a public hearing. Garden City Mayor Theresa Trouvé and Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson thanked the community stakeholders and representatives who participated in the collaboration. The Village participated in this collaborative effort while conducting a full review of Garden City Police Department policies and procedures. As a result of changes in legislation and input from the Garden City Reform Committee and Nassau County's Police Reform Initiative, PACT (Police and Community Trust), the GCPD has made modifications to its policies and procedures as outlined in the plan.

“This plan reflects the Village of Garden City’s and the Garden City Police Department’s commitment to serving all the people both equally and fairly. When applying the guidance presented by the state to the existing policies and procedures in effect, it was gratifying to realize that a great deal of the improvements in standards and practices this process was created to achieve, are already in place. The Village is committed to improving upon this strong foundation and will continue to promote fairness, transparency, trust, and legitimacy while working towards reducing racial disparities,” Commissioner Jackson said.

Several comments were received regarding the Garden City Police Reform Plan. The majority of the responses were supportive of the plan; two contained statements and questions, not suggestions, and one email contained The People’s Plan, which was submitted by a representative of Long Island United to Transform Police and Community Safety.” To view the plan, visit the Village website, www.gardencityny.net or click [here](#).

Garden City Reform Committee members include Mayor Trouvé; Trustee Mark Hyer; Reverend Earl Thorpe, Church of the Garden; ADA Ali Ajamu, Bureau Chief, DA’s Office; Alan Schwartz, Defense Attorney; Lauren Scarantino, EPOA; Donald Brudie, CPOA; Nancy Minett, Estates POA; Nicholas Vernice, WPOA; Ralph Suozzi, Village Administrator; and Inspector Steven Braun.

PARKING NON-OPERATIONAL VEHICLES IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

Trustees adopted a Local Law regarding parking non-operational vehicles in residential districts. “Non-operational vehicles” shall mean any vehicle which cannot be lawfully driven upon the public streets for any reason, including but not limited to such vehicle being unlicensed or unregistered with the Department of Motor Vehicles, in a state of disrepair, or incapable of being moved under its own power, which status as non-operational has existed for a period of more than 60 consecutive calendar days or an aggregate of 90 days within any six-calendar month period. It is hereby prohibited for any person to park or store, or permit others to park or store, any non-operational vehicle on any property, whether public or private, within any residential district in the Village of

Garden City for longer than 90 consecutive days. Any person who violates any of the provisions shall be guilty of a violation. Each and every calendar day that a violation shall exist shall constitute a separate violation of the provision(s) and the owner of the property shall be held liable for each separate violation. To read the Law, click [here](#).

STORAGE OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Trustees adopted a Local Law regarding the storage of construction materials and construction equipment in residential property zones. The Board has received numerous complaints from residents regarding the issue and has determined that the prolonged storage of construction materials and construction equipment in residential zones has an adverse economic effect upon property values of neighboring homes and can create a public nuisance and habitat for vermin. It shall be unlawful for the owner or lessee of any residentially zoned lot or property to place, store, deposit or keep (or allow for the placement, storage, depositing or keeping of) construction material or construction equipment on any residentially zoned property within the Village for longer than nine months following completion (as reasonably determined by the Superintendent of Buildings) of the construction project for which the material or equipment was used (or related to) on such residential lot; or more than 30 calendar days within any 90 calendar day period; or other than as provided under clause more than an aggregate of 45 calendar days in a calendar year. Any person who violates any of the provisions shall be guilty of a violation. Each and every calendar day that a violation shall exist constitutes a separate violation of the provision(s) and the owner of the property shall be held liable for each separate violation. No monetary fine shall be imposed until the Village has provided the owner or lessee 10-day written notice of violation. Should the owner or lessee not cure the violation within 10 days, the owner or lessee will be subjected to a fine of not less than \$200 for each violation. To read the Law, click [here](#).

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL BUILDING STABILIZATION – MAINTENANCE BOND

Trustees accepted a \$740,282 maintenance bond that guarantees for 18 months the completed stabilization work at the former St. Paul's School Building. Westar Construction Group, Inc., of Syosset, was the contractor.

STEWART FIELD ADDITIONAL PARKING AREA – MAINTENANCE BOND

Trustees accepted a \$391,500 maintenance bond that guarantees for 18 months the completed work at the Stewart Field additional parking area. Coastal Contracting Corp., of Huntington Station, was the contractor.

2021-22 BUDGET WORK SESSIONS

The Board of Trustees will hold 2021-22 Budget Work Sessions via Zoom beginning March 9, 2021 between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Here is the full schedule:

- Work Session 1 - March 9, 2021
- Work Session 2 - March 18, 2021
- Work Session 3 - March 24, 2021
- Work Session 4 - March 30, 2021