

April 13, 2022

THE MAYOR'S UPDATE

cveneziale@gardencityny.net

BUDGET ADOPTION

The Garden City Board of Trustees adopted a \$65.393 million Operating Budget and \$4.8 million Five-Year Capital Plan during a meeting on Monday, April 4, 2022. Four budget work sessions took place in March, followed by a budget hearing on April 4 which yielded no public comments. The Board, which now includes three newcomers who were sworn in that same evening, unanimously adopted the spending plan. 2022-23 expense appropriations increased slightly year over year, totaling \$65.393 million, which will be funded via three sources - \$1.7 million in current year surplus, estimated revenues of \$10.4 million and a tax levy of \$53.3 million. This results in a tax levy increase of zero percent year over year. The increase allowed per the Tax Levy Limit Law is 2.88 percent for the Village this year. According to Village Treasurer Irene Woo, in the last eight years (including 2022-23), the actual property tax levy increase has been less than the amount allowed per the Tax Levy Limit Law. Major components of the 2022-23 expense budget include salaries, benefits and taxes, which represent \$36.9 million, consulting and contractual services (\$5.7m), contributions to capital projects (\$4.8m) and debt service (\$3.9m). Village revenues increased by approximately 7 percent, year over year, mostly due to an expected increase in the state aid mortgage tax (\$250,000) and parking tickets (\$250,000). Building Department fees and federal, state and local aid both remain steady for a combined \$3.8 million while other real property tax items total approximately \$1.1 million.

ST. PAUL'S MAIN BUILDING

Repairs to the St. Paul's Main Building roof areas, which were damaged by Storm Isaias, began April 11, 2022. Based on information provided by the Village Treasurer, we anticipate partial reimbursement from FEMA for the proposed roof repairs. This temporary roof repair is emergency repair work and not part of the prior building stabilization plan.

LIRR LANDSCAPING

The LIRR Landscaping Plan is underway and I have enlisted the help of Celia Peterson, Landscape Architect who is also a member of the Architectural Design Review Board, to assist in the proposed enhanced landscaping to the areas affected by the Third Track construction. In addition, Trustee Bruce Chester and members of the Third Track Committee are involved in the enhanced landscaping plans. I appreciate everyone's efforts in mitigating the impact of the Third Track construction to our Village.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ELECTIONS

The Garden City Fire Department held its annual meeting and elections this month. Congratulations to the following officers for the 2022-2023 year:

- Matthew Pearn, Chief of Department
- James Taunton, 1st Assistant Chief
- Jonathan Parrella, 2nd Assistant Chief
- Devyn Moody, 3rd Assistant Chief

- Thomas Rivera, Captain - Engine Co.
- Terry Randell, Captain - Truck Co.
- Matthew Carroll, 1st Lieutenant - Engine Co.
- Daniel Roeper, 1st Lieutenant - Truck Co.
- Robert Carpentier, 2nd Lieutenant - Engine Co.
- Chris Maier, 2nd Lieutenant - Truck Co.

Thank you Chief Moody, who will continue to serve as an Assistant Chief.

SCAM ALERT

A number of Garden City residents recently received a text message about a GCFD T-shirts \$10 off sale. As per the Fire Department, the seller is not an authorized dealer for them. Police Commissioner Kenneth Jackson said this is a common occurrence with schools and volunteer organizations. “We will confer with the Fire Department regarding this matter,” he added.

TOLL HOUSE LICENSE/RENT

The Board has authorized me to execute an extension agreement for the Toll House License between the Village of Garden City and the Garden City Chamber of Commerce. This item was deferred to the April 4, 2022 meeting from the March 17, 2022 meeting for further discussion and consideration. The Board approved a one-year term with rent set at \$1,000 per month. The Board of Trustees will review the terms of this agreement in a year.

NO DOG WALKING ON LIBRARY GROUNDS

Garden City Library personnel kindly ask patrons to refrain from dog walking on the front lawn as this space is dedicated to children’s programs. Signs have been installed as a friendly reminder on multiple approaches to the Library: at the corner of Seventh Street and Hilton Avenue, on Seventh Street in front of the Library entrance, at the corner of Seventh Street and Hubbell Plaza and at the West corner of the Library near the parking lot entrance. We appreciate your cooperation to help ensure a clean and safe outdoor space for young patrons to enjoy popular programs.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND TESTING

Backflow testing is required to help safeguard the backwards flow of water when a sprinkler system retracts into the ground. This device prevents contaminants such as fecal matter, pesticides and herbicides from being pulled backwards into the municipal water supply. The Village requires every home or business with an active sprinkler system to have an approved backflow device and the device must be tested each year by a NYS certified backflow tester. Every resident has a back flow test due date one year from their previous test date (from the prior year) and these due dates vary from resident to resident. We would like to thank all the residents that actively test their sprinkler systems and devices in order to keep the municipal water supply free from contaminants.

FRANKLIN COURT FENCE

The Board of Trustees authorized the immediate removal of the existing fence from the open space at Franklin Court during its April 4, 2022 meeting. Village crews removed the fence the following day.

EASTER SUNDAY VINTAGE CAR PARADE

The Garden City Police Department wishes to advise everyone that the annual Vintage Car Parade will be held on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. Between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., there will be parking field and street closures associated with this event. Motorists and residents are advised to make arrangements to avoid affected areas. Cars will start assembling at 10:00 a.m. in Parking Field 9E, located on the east side of Franklin Avenue, between Ninth and Eleventh streets. Parade starts promptly at 1:00 p.m. by exiting Parking Field 9E at Tenth Street. The cars will travel south on Franklin Avenue, west on Seventh Street, and terminate on Hilton Avenue.

HOLIDAY

I would like to wish all Residents, Village Employees and Village Executive Staff a Happy Easter and Happy Passover. Please drive safely during this holiday period. Village Hall closes at 12 Noon on Friday, April 15, 2022 in observance of Good Friday and will reopen on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.