

March 16, 2022

## **THE MAYOR'S UPDATE**

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### **2022 VILLAGE ELECTION**

The Garden City Village Election was held Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at the St. Paul's Field House. Polls were open from Noon to 9:00 p.m. Here are the official, certified Election results. This tally includes absentee ballots:

#### **"For A Better Garden City" Slate of Candidates:**

- Mary Carter Flanagan 1,667
- Charles P. Kelly 1,480
- Bruce A. Torino 1,490
- Lawrence N. Marciano 1,466

#### **Community Agreement Slate of Candidates:**

- Judy Courtney 1,209
- Michael Daab 1,161
- Tracey Williams 1,152
  
- Write-ins 195

### **PARKS SECURITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

Intelli-Tec is the vendor working on the Parks and Recreation security infrastructure project. To date, they have installed additional cameras at all five neighborhood parks as well as at Stewart Athletic Field. Work at the Garden City Pool and Community Park is substantially done, save for a few loose ends which are being taken care of this week. Remaining projects are the Senior Recreation Center and Saint Paul's School, which are scheduled to begin next week.

The scope of this project involved adding additional cameras to the existing network of security cameras at Parks and Recreation facilities, to improve internet connectivity at the Pool and Community Park, and to replace outdated networking equipment. The additional cameras will give the Village better information when it comes to tracking vandalism and other issues throughout our facilities.

### **TENTATIVE 2022-23 VILLAGE BUDGET**

The Village kicked off budget work sessions Thursday, March 10, 2022 with an overview of the Current Year Forecast and the 2022-23 Tentative Operating and Capital Budgets by Village Treasurer Irene Woo. Both Building Department Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Paul Blake presented their respective Department's operating and proposed five-year (2023-2027) capital plan summaries.

2022-23 expense appropriations total \$65.040 million, a slight reduction over the prior year. The proposed budget assumes a zero percent tax levy increase year over year. In fact, in the last seven years, the actual property tax levy increase has been less than the amount allowed per the Tax Levy Limit Law. Although the 2022-23 Proposed Budget remains flat year over year, there were

increases in the contribution to capital projects (\$300,000), consulting and contractual services (\$273,000), and gas and oil (\$100,000) that were offset by decreases in debt service (\$390,000) and salaries, benefits and taxes (\$320,000).

Major components of the 2022-23 expense budget (\$65.0m) include salary, benefits and taxes (\$36.9m); consulting and contractual services (\$5.7m); contribution to Capital Projects (\$4.8m); debt service (\$3.9m); contribution to the Library (\$3.1m); and general liability insurance (\$1.9m).

There are 54 current capital projects in various stages of completion that will mostly extend into the 2022-23 fiscal year; four projects authorized through bond resolutions but unissued total \$5.2 million. The \$4.8m of projects in the 2022-23 fiscal year is proposed to be funded through taxes.

Visit [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net) to view the 2022-23 Tentative Budget. Remaining budget sessions are scheduled to take place in the Village Hall Board Room and via Zoom on the following dates:

### **Budget Work Session 3**

**Thursday March 24, 2022 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.**

- Fire Department
- Finance Department
- Other Unallocated Expenses and Revenues
- Administration
- Library

### **Budget Work Session 4**

**Wednesday March 30, 2022 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.**

- Presentation of Changes/Final Budget

**Monday April 4, 2022 7:30 p.m.**

- Public Hearing and Adoption of Budget

If you wish to attend any of these sessions, please email Karen Altman, Village Clerk ([kaltman@gardencityny.net](mailto:kaltman@gardencityny.net)) before 3:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting and she will send you the link.

### **WATER WELL EMERGENCY REPAIR**

Board authorization is requested to declare an emergency so as to exempt from competitive bidding the emergency repair of Well No. 7, which has been identified by the Village's consulting engineer as having experienced a sudden drop in operational capacity and to authorize the Mayor and/or the Village Administrator to engage the contractor for said repair. The cost is estimated to be \$150,000. Well No. 7 is located at the Waterworks site.

### **RAYMOND COURT**

Raymond Court residents are sharing their concerns about speeding and excessive parking. The Police Department is utilizing its speed awareness trailer and assigning Police Officers to monitor the area to address traffic issues. According to Commissioner Kenneth Jackson, “We are aware of the speeding concerns and will do whatever we can to mitigate these issues.” The existing parking lot at Stewart Field was inadequate, forcing people to park on the south side of the four-lane road. After some negotiation, the Nassau County Legislature formally approved a lease agreement with Garden City which gave the Village the ability to clean up the area north of Stewart Field (formally Motor Parkway) and create an overflow parking lot that now provides approximately 30 additional spaces. It took years to negotiate with Nassau County to obtain that land and put a parking area back there. However, the traffic problem is still a problem. “We need to know if and what kind of traffic analysis was done at that time,” Mayor Cosmo Veneziale said. “Most recent residents are complaining about the same issues.”

### **STRUCTURAL REPAIRS AT THE SENIOR CENTER**

Board authorization is requested to create a new Capital Project for air conditioning and structural repairs at the Garden City Senior Center on Golf Club Lane. The project is estimated to cost \$440,000; the Village can use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) COVID relief funds to pay for the project. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion relief bill that was signed into law in March 2021. The stimulus package provides billions of dollars in direct financial relief for state and local governments. According to Village Treasurer Irene Woo, the Village was allotted aid of \$102 per resident for a total of \$2.2 million. The Village has received half of the aid for this year.