

March 10, 2021

### **The MAYOR'S UPDATE**

[Mayor@gardencityny.net](mailto: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.

### **VILLAGE ELECTION MARCH 16, 2021**

The Village Election is taking place on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. In-person voting is taking place at Garden City Village Hall, 351 Stewart Avenue. Absentee ballots are also available. Polls are open 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 16, 2021.

#### **Who Are The "Community Agreement Party" Slate of Candidates?**

Mayor (Two-Year Term)

- Robert Bolebruch

Trustees (Two-Year Term):

- Rich Catalano
- Mark Hyer
- Yvonne Varano

Trustee (One-Year Term):

- Stephen Makrinos

Village Justice (Four-Year Term)

- Allen S. Mathers

#### **Who Are The "For A Better Garden City" Slate of Candidates?**

Mayor (Two-Year Term):

- Cosmo Veneziale

Trustees (Two-Year Term):

- Tom O'Brien
- Terry Digan
- Bruce Chester

Trustee (One-Year Term):

- Mary Flanagan

#### **How Many Candidates Can I Vote For?**

##### **Choose One:**

Mayor (Two-Year Term)

##### **Choose Three:**

Trustee (Two-Year Term)

(The three candidates with the most votes will become Village Trustees)

##### **Choose One:**

Trustee (One-Year Term)

**Choose One:**

Village Justice (Four-Year Term)

**Can I Only Vote For the Candidates Who Live In My Section of the Village?**

No. Residents can vote for candidates, village-wide. The positions of Village Trustee and Village Mayor are Village wide positions under state and local law and all persons, regardless of where in the Village the voter resides, can vote for any candidate for these positions.

**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

**PROPOSED 2021-22 VILLAGE BUDGET**

The Village kicked off budget work sessions Tuesday, March 9, 2021 with an overview of the 2021-22 Tentative Operating and Capital Budget by Village Treasurer Irene Woo. Building Superintendent Giuseppe Giovanniello and Assistant Recreation Superintendent Sandy Young presented their respective Department's operating and proposed five-year (2022-2026) capital plan summaries.

Village Administrator Ralph Suozzi noted the 2021-22 budget covers an 18-month window of time, in the shadows of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Woo thanked Mr. Suozzi, along with her Finance team, the Department Heads, Finance Chairman and Deputy Mayor, Robert Bolebruch, as well as members of the Finance and Audit Committee for their guidance during the process.

The 2021-22 proposed expenditure budget totals \$65.1 million. It represents a 0.57 percent (\$370,000) decrease over the prior year. The tentative budget is again tax cap compliant, with a proposed 1.95 percent Tax Levy Limit increase. In fact, over the last six years, the actual property tax levy increase has been less than the amount allowed per the Tax Levy Limit Law. "We would never be here today if it wasn't for you," Deputy Mayor Bolebruch said, as he complimented Ms. Woo and her team.

Major components of the 2021-22 expense budget (\$65.1m) include salary, benefits and taxes (\$37.2m); consulting and contractual services (\$5.8m); contribution to Capital Projects (\$4.5m); debt service (\$4.3m); contribution to the Library (\$3.3m); and general liability insurance (\$1.9m).

Proposed capital projects represent \$12.551 million. According to Mr. Suozzi, the Village is currently juggling 41 projects in various stages of completion, including the St. Paul's abatement project and the vinyl covering for the Tennis bubble, which have both been approved but are awaiting \$2.6 million in bond resolutions.

To view the 2021-2022 Tentative Budget, please click [here](#). Remaining budget sessions are scheduled to take place via Zoom on the following dates:

**Budget Work Session 2**

Thursday, March 18, 2021

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

- Fire Department
- Department of Public Works and Water Fund

**Budget Work Session 3**

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

- Library
- Police Department
- Administration
- Finance & Other Unallocated

**Budget Work Session 4**

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

- **Presentation of Changes/Final Budget**

**Budget Hearing and Adoption of Budget**

Monday, April 5, 2021

8:00 p.m.

- **Budget Hearing**
- **Adoption of Budget**

If you wish to attend any of these sessions, 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.

**EMERGING CONTAMINANTS REMEDIATION**

Work is progressing at all well sites. The NYS Department of Health has approved Well Nos. 7 and 11 to go to system. Final preparations and sampling equipment are being calibrated and wells will go into system shortly.

Well No. 10 is currently under rehab. Once the well is back on line the entire Well No. 10 treatment system will be sampled and will then go into service sometime in April.

Site work is being completed at Well Nos. 13 and 14 and the GACs have been refurbished. Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) treatment performance testing will be performed this month and the treatment system should be approved by the NYSDOH and online before the peak pumping season.

Well Nos. 15 and 16 are in construction. It is expected that the wells will be back in service with new treatment this summer.

Construction at Well Nos. 8 and 12 has begun with water main work from the Village well sites in the Garden City Golf Club to the Village's Waterworks site. Construction for the treatment systems began this week at the Waterworks site. Work will progress as quickly as practical. We hope the system will be online in the summer months.

### **WATER TOWER PAINTING**

At the water tower, inspection of welding and all modifications should be completed shortly and painting of the tank will begin once the containment is installed. We anticipate that painting will start on or around April 1.

### **SOLICITATIONS**

At this time, no one has permission to solicit in the Village. Applications to solicit for any cause must be made to the Mayor in writing, before soliciting is permitted. Applications are available at the Village Clerk's Office. Following an investigation of the person and organization, a license to solicit may be granted. Certain reasonable restrictions may be placed on a license. They include: hours of solicitation, the number of solicitors, the locality and period of time for which permission is granted. All persons soliciting donations are required to carry identification cards.

A Local Law the Board of Trustees passed in 1982 prohibits all unwanted commercial solicitations and distributions on all private residential property in the Village; and further prohibits non-commercial solicitations and distributions on private property to the extent desired by the resident. The Law was designed to protect residents from unwanted invasions of the privacy of their homes. Concerns from residents regarding the nuisance caused by door-to-door solicitations prompted its passage. It also reflects concerns that burglaries have taken place by thieves posing as salesmen to gain entry or to learn if occupants are at home. Residents can submit a "Do Not Solicit" form, which is available on the Village website, [www.gardencityny.net](http://www.gardencityny.net), under the "Solicitations" tab on the left side of the home page.