

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING **January 13, 2015**

Workshop session was opened by Mayor Lombard at: 7:01 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Cranford Chronicle, advertised on January 2, 2015, notification was sent to the Star Ledger and prominently posted on the municipal public bulletin board and filed in the office of the municipal clerk informing the Public of the time and place according to the Provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

Present: Mayor Lombardo, Councilman Martin, Councilman Mathieu, Councilman Petruzzelli, Councilwoman Tarantino, Councilwoman Todisco and Council President Nierstedt.

Also Present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M. Ariemma and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello was excused.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud mentioned the ordinances on tonight's agenda. He explained that this removes a provision that is not necessary.

Administrator/Clerk – Ms. Ariemma mentioned training for council. After brief discussion it was concluded that council take training on their own.

Ms. Ariemma mentioned the encroachment matter and discussion followed. Mr. Renaud mentioned that the cost to collect from property owners is more expensive than the cost involved. Discussion included the fairness of tax payers paying for other residents encroachments. Mr. Renaud mentioned preparing an ordinance concerning encroachments including bringing persons to municipal court. Ms. Ariemma suggested the DPW remove the fencing and drill the holes and therefore removing additional expense. After discussion it was concluded that Ms. Ariemma find out from Mr. Guarriello exactly what encroachments remain and report back to council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Lombardo mentioned that he will hold mayors Saturday and that monthly a council member will join him. He also mentioned that the Clerk's office will hold night hours for dog licensing on January 27, 2015.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Martin stated that Ms. Ariemma is a valuable employee that is not recognized often and he wanted to thank her and acknowledge her. Ms. Ariemma thanked Councilman Martin and council.

Councilman Mathieu mentioned that Cranford and Springfield are having free rabies clinic.

Councilman Petruzzelli suggested Councilman Mathieu reach out for the DPW Superintendent concerning the HVAC.

Councilwoman Tarantino stated she will report later on matters including the procedure document handed out this evening.

Councilwoman Todisco read the following statement:

1. Freeholder Meeting Schedule

I recommend that the Council continue to keep a rotating schedule for County Freeholder meetings in order to better understand what is taking place at the county level of government. I know it is not always easy to make the meetings and they require some travel, but I think this is important that we go on a rotating basis and report findings at Council meetings. I brought the schedule with me tonight to pass out. I would have started with Council President Nierstedt, but since he will go first at Mayor's Saturday, I figured we could just go in regular alphabetical order.

2. County Matching Grant Issue

A resident gave me documentation on the Open Space Trust Fund and it appears the original ballot question back in 2000 did not make any mention of matching grants. However, I would like to investigate this issue further to see what other counties around NJ are doing and report back to the council for us to have a discussion as to whether or not we want to advance a resolution to the County asking them to change the grant from matching to direct.

3. RVSA

I emailed our representative to the RVSA, Steve Greet, to ask him for an estimate of when we will know whether or not Garwood will see a decrease in the current increase being proposed this year. Presently, the taxpayers are looking at \$45 on the average home. I also asked him if he would like to attend our next Council meeting to discuss this with us.

Council President Nierstedt

1. Last month, this body adopted the ordinance regulating use of the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex. You may recall that I had asked that we amend the ordinance to prohibit the section allowing the killing of snakes 'on sight'. Do I have the support of my colleagues to direct the Laws and Licenses Committee to advance such an amendment?
2. I have prepared a draft letter for the governing body's review and mayor's signature regarding yesterday's commencement of the Off-Peak Evening Direct "One Seat" Service to New York on the Raritan Valley Line. While the Boro tremendously supports the 'One-Seat Ride", we can't help but notice that the new train schedule does not add any new service/stops for Garwood. I urge my colleagues to submit their comments to the Boro Clerk so that the letter can be advanced promptly.
3. When Councilwoman Todisco and I were distributing the Garbage and Recycling schedules last week to those who had not received them, we were reminded once again of the US Postal Service's late deliveries, and resident's fears that the Garwood branch may be closed. I have reached out to our federal elected officials and I will also prepare a letter for review and signature on this subject prior to our next meeting.
4. Martin Luther King felt "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?" This year, I, through the Celebrations Committee and in honor of the January 19 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King In Service Day, have created a partnership of the Boro of Garwood, St. Anne's Parish, the Garwood Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Grace Christian Fellowship Church, and New Communities to collect soup and crackers for distribution to Garwood seniors and those in need. Parishioners of those churches are asked to bring cans of soup, boxes of crackers or a monetary donation to their January 18 or 25 'Souper Sunday' masses to provide a bit of "God's warmth" to those less fortunate. Collection boxes will be in the rear of the churches, as well as here in Boro Hall. Monetary donations will be used to purchase additional soup/ crackers at local supermarkets who are also participating in the cause. I urge everyone to support this cause by dropping off soup/crackers at Boro Hall or at their church.
5. Last week the Boro south side lost power for a few hours. While this outage certainly did not fall into the realm of our Emergency Management team status, it made me wonder, Mr. Mayor if we have heard anything from our coordinator since last year's presentation.
6. I took note that in last month's packet that the Borough of Roselle Park distributed a resolution opposing Senate Bill No. 2412, and Assembly Bill No 3628 entitled 'The Water Infrastructure Protection Act'. This action was in response to a request from the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA) due to their opinion that it would negatively impact ratepayers. As the Boro is also a member of the RVSA, do my fellow council members wish to also adopt a resolution in opposition?

Councilwoman Todisco commented:

Garbage Schedule

As Council President Nierstedt stated, there was an issue this year with the USPS and the garbage schedule. This newsletter has important information regarding garbage, bulk pick up programs, and more, so if you have not received one, you can pick one up at Borough Hall or find it on the borough website.

NJ Transit – Shelter

To follow up on Council President Nierstedt's report about NJ Transit, I have a related issue I'd like to bring to the Council's attention. A resident who takes the train from our station reached out to me about the problem that we only have one shelter from the elements at the train station and this issue has been particularly rough with this cold spell we've been going through. Approximately 30 train riders are at the stop, but the shelter can only fit 5-10 people. I reached out to the Mayor of Fanwood Colleen Mahr about this since she works closely with NJ Transit on the One Seat Ride; I figured she could get me a contact, which she did. I spoke with John Leon, the government and community relations person, and he said the request for at least an additional shelter seemed reasonable to him. I have put the request in writing by emailing him as he suggested. Again, I wanted to let Council know where I was on this and that I will continue to work with John Leon on this as well as with Councilman Nierstedt as I know he is well versed with NJ Transit.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bruce Paterson of 325 Willow Avenue mentioned freeholder meetings, RVSA and Open Space. Brief discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: 7:46 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Council President Nierstedt, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Todisco.

CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood