

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING

January 14, 2014

Workshop session was opened by Mayor Quattrocchi at: 7:00 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, advertised on January 9, 2014, 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 Quattrocchi, Council President Palmer, Councilman Martin, Councilman Mathieu, Councilman Nierstedt, Councilman Petruzzelli and Councilwoman Todisco.

Also Present: Borough Attorney Robert Renaud, Borough Engineer Donald R. Guarriello and Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M. Ariemma.

Michael Bange of NJ AM Water made a presentation concerning projects being completed in the borough. He provided information on the projects being performed in the borough and future planned work.

Councilman Mathieu asked what a service renewal project is. Michael Bange explained the procedure.

Councilwoman Todisco thanked Mr. Bange for coming this evening and discussed some issue concerning the projects being done in the borough.

There was discussion regarding water treatment procedures that take place during winter months.

Council President Palmer mentioned clean-up process and work on newly paved roads.

Mayor Quattrocchi asked about size of piping being installed. She asked the process for cleaning the lines. Mayor Quattrocchi thanked Mr. Bange for his prompt response to her inquires.

Councilman Nierstedt asked is there a process for notifying the residents on the list. Mr. Bange explained the process. Councilman Nierstedt asked if pipe cleaning work is planned for 2014. Mr. Bange said not at this time. Councilman Nierstedt asked for map of pipes and Mr. Guarriello said he has this information. Councilman Nierstedt asked about relining. Mr. Bange provided the areas that have been relined.

Ms. Ariemma requested that she be copied on all emails to Fred or other staff. She mentioned that residents have noticed spiked bills for November and reported this to her. She said she advised residents to report this to NJ AM Water directly.

Bruce Paterson 325 Willow Avenue had questions that Ms. Ariemma asked Mr. Paterson send to her for review to be answered by Mr. Bange.

Al DelConte of Locust Ave inquired about the work done and the repairs not being completed accordingly. Mr. Bange said he will address work that is not satisfactory to the best of his ability; however he cannot address work done years ago.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello said he visited Locust Ave and there is curb settlement in many areas. He said he has visited the underpass and settlement has taken

place. He described the process and mentioned that he will direct the superintendent to fill the areas as needed. Councilman Martin commented that he has driven on the inlets and there was discussion as to why they are placed lower.

Borough Attorney Renaud mentioned an ordinance he prepared for consideration. He mentioned an ordinance dealing with corner properties that was tabled at adoption. He suggested this be reviewed for introduction.

Councilman Mathieu asked about the salary ordinance and Ms. Ariemma said Mr. Renaud did not prepare that ordinance and that she did. Councilman Mathieu did not address his questions to Ms. Ariemma.

Ms. Ariemma no report.

Unfinished business – none

New business – Mayor Quattrocchi stated that she has forwarded scholarship information to School Board Liaison Councilwoman Todisco. Mayor Quattrocchi mentioned that she has directed Laws and License to prepare a code of ethics for council.

Council President Palmer reported that Laws & License Committee is busy working on recommendations on various subjects. She asked Chief Underhill to comment on the ordinance concerning parking on East by Washington School. Chief Underhill provided the information. Ms. Ariemma was directed to put the ordinance on for introduction at the next meeting.

Councilman Martin no report.

Councilman Mathieu reported that he attended the new elected seminar this past weekend. He mentioned the 2% cap will expire and this affects the negotiation of the police contract. He mentioned prior negative experiences with contractors and that we can build a file to reject. He asked when the borough will be hiring the additional police officer. Councilwoman Todisco said police need to meet. Councilman Mathieu mentioned there is a class ending soon with candidates. Councilman Mathieu asked if Cranford has gotten back concerning Dispatch. Councilwoman Todisco responded and read an email from Cranford. Councilman Mathieu asked for copies of the proposals. Councilwoman Todisco said she would provide this information to the clerk for distribution.

Councilman Nierstedt reported on planning board matters. He discussed certain Planning Board matters that concern parking and it appears updating to these codes should be addressed. He mentioned Planning Board budget matters. He mentioned Martin Luther King service projects and that he has put together a group of volunteers that will do services in the borough including washing the paneling in the council chambers.

Councilman Mathieu said that he doesn't think Martin Luther King should be a service day for washing walls and that a great man's birthday should not be honored this way. He feels council should not be aligned with this idea.

Mr. Renaud mentioned parking downtown and the ordinance's failure for it to provide parking. He expressed some ideas and concerns regarding the parking we have in the borough and management of it.

Councilman Petruzzelli no report.

Councilwoman Todisco mentioned that she will be attending the training on the 25th. She suggested council continue to attend freeholder meetings in 2014 and prepared a schedule for attendance. Councilwoman Todisco mentioned the salary ordinance being introduced this evening. She explained the ingredients in the ordinance and the reason why it's being amended this evening. She said for the benefit of the public as well as the Council, I would like to explain the ordinance on the agenda tonight for first reading. This is a vote on the introduction of an ordinance to change the salary range, specifically for the Chief of Police. A salary ordinance sets the minimums and maximums of salaries within the Borough. There was an agreement made with the Chief a couple of years ago to give him the same raise as the PBA, which for 2014 is 1.75%. In order to do this, the salary range must be adjusted from \$112,000 to \$125,000 to \$120,000 to \$132,000. Councilwoman Todisco stated I would also like to inform the Council and the public of some information I recently received from our representative at the RVSA. Obviously after a year with a \$60,000 increase, I reached out to our representative and asked him to inform the Finance Committee as soon as possible about the bottom line for 2014. Although it is not the kind of news I like to share, I am happy that our representative reached out to me in advance of the budget meetings this year. He informed me that Garwood's payment to the RVSA this year will go up about \$37,000. He said the increase was originally \$39,000, but the RVSA was able to ultimately get it to \$37,000. Fortunately, it is not the \$60,000 increase like last year, but certainly more than I had hoped. He also said he foresees our payment to the RVSA flattening out by 2016 because of the moving average. Again, not the best of news, but I just wanted to let everyone know.

At this time, the Mayor offered the public comment.

Bruce Paterson 325 Willow Avenue mentioned report cards on contractors in the public sector. Mr. Renaud said it is very difficult to disqualify a contractor simply because you did not like the work done. He provided information on this subject and statute. He suggested council consider buying some of Casale lot for parking. He commented on the cost of water and the debt being created through rebuilding the infrastructure.

Al DelConte Locust Avenue commented the DPW on an outstanding job in the last snow storm. He mentioned the truck traffic on West and Maple should be addressed again. He mentioned the curb and gutter problems on the dead end of Locust. He asked if they will be looked at and fixed. He suggested the water company permits be pulled and looked at. He asked if work would be done, Mr. Guarriello said council has to approve work to be done. Mr. Guarriello showed pictures of the area and there was no dispute that the area is in need of repair. Brief discussion followed. Mr. Bange of NJ AM Water commended on old work and the company's ability to make repairs from work over five years old. Mr. DelConte suggested the area be policed better and the water company be held accountable. Councilman Nierstedt suggested the maintenance bond be reviewed. Councilman Nierstedt asked if there is a standard for investing old work. Brief discussion followed.

Councilwoman Todisco mentioned that during public comment persons should maybe address council for their full three minutes before council comments.

At 8:54 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Todisco, seconded by Council President Palmer to adjourn the Workshop Session.

CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood