

# **BOROUGH of GARWOOD**

## ***Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING*** **February 24, 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 16, 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, Borough Attorney Robert Renaud and Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello.

Mayor Lombardo sworn in Officer Valerio Zuena, while his wife Pauline and son Lorenzo held the Bible.

Members of Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority made a presentation concerning the 2015 rate increase. Chair and Garwood Liaison Steve Greet provided general information on the budget process. The discussion including the increases and decreases over the last several years, methods to reduce flow, I & I, and maintenance plan for sewer pipes.

Presentation by Bond Counsel Steve Rogut, Municipal Auditor Warren Korecky and CFO/Treasurer Sandy Bruns concerning the upcoming bond sale. Mr. Korecky outlined the process and provided information on the bond sale. Mr. Rogut mentioned the resolutions for consideration at the next council meeting. Council asked various questions which were answered thoroughly.

Mayor Lombardo asked if the anyone in the audience if they had any questions. Bruce Paterson 325 Willow Avenue asked about other costs and if they are included in the figures presented. Mr. Korecky said the cost is included in the sale.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello mentioned visited 116 Myrtle Avenue and reported on that conversation. He mentioned the change order for the 2013 DOT project.

At 8:10-- Ms. Ariemma read the following:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 15-152.1**

**CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING (1) CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, AND GARWOOD PBA LOCAL NO. 117 AND (2) MATTERS OF PROTECTION AND SAFETY OF PUBLIC PROPERTY RELATING TO THE GARWOOD SPORTS AND RECREATION COMPLEX, AND MATTERS OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE RELATING TO THE ABOVE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A., 10:4-12, Closed session, Meetings open to public; exclusion of public; subject of matter.**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b)(6) permits exclusion of the public to discuss "tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public"; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood to conduct an executive session closed to the public in order to discuss the above listed matters.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Borough of Garwood hereby move to go into executive session in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq., for the purpose of discussing the subjects stated above; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the matters discussed in and minutes of the closed session shall be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

**Motion: Action:** Adopt Resolution No. 15-152.1, **Moved by** Council President Nierstedt **Seconded by** Councilwoman Todisco

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6)

**Yes:** Councilman Martin, Councilman Mathieu, Councilman Petruzzelli, Councilwoman Tarantino, Councilwoman Todisco and Council President Nierstedt. Resolution No. 15-152.1 was adopted.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud mentioned he is working on various ordinances and agreements.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma mentioned the shared service contract with the Garwood Board of Education for janitorial services. It was determined that Councilman Mathieu, Buildings and Grounds Chair would contact Eric Larson to discuss the matter.

Ms. Ariemma mentioned that based on Councilwoman Todisco's report she proceeded to contact the recycling company to extend the contract to December 31, 2015. Brief discussion followed in which Ms. Ariemma explained that she felt the contact she made was not sufficient and would be proceeding to contact someone else at the company. She said she would keep council informed as more information is available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

NEW BUSINESS – none

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Martin no report

Councilman Mathieu reported he went to the County Freeholder meeting and it was uneventful and short.

Councilman Petruzzelli mentioned that he received an email from another council member asking about committee member's attendance at Finance meetings. He said that he'd rather council members ask council members directly about their attendance. Councilman Mathieu proceeded to ask Councilman Martin his attendance, however Councilman Petruzzelli said there were two meetings; he missed the first because of business and the second because he was in a car accident.

Councilwoman Tarantino reported:

We've been talking about a few items that cross committees, parking laws and license and police. Starting with the parking committee that was trying to resolve the issue of commuters parking in front of residential homes on our side streets – this is where we proposed to extend the 'residential permit parking' ordinance to cover more side streets and extend the hours to give offices time to patrol.

At the same time, we tried to find commuter parking for the cars we would be displacing. At this time we have 5 spots at Kennedy Plaza that are leased to commuters and we have successfully negotiated another 15 spots at the Burger King lot.

What we are currently working on with the Chief and DPW Superintendent is ordering the signs for the side streets that say 'residential permit parking'. The Chief is currently working on how many signs he needs and at what cost so we can work it into the 2015 budget.

Councilwoman Todisco reported:

1. Social Media Policy & Facebook

Mayor, I know you mentioned in your address at re-org asking the Council to create a social media policy so that we can bring back the Borough Facebook page, which will be great for communicating with the residents. Will Laws and License or the Administrative Review Committee be handling this issue?

2. Newsletter

It was great to see the quarterly borough newsletter mailed just a couple days after our last council meeting. However, I've been giving this some thought in terms of going greener with the newsletter. Perhaps in each issue of 2015, we could include a message about signing up for an online version and start collecting the addresses to be used starting in 2016. This will give residents a lot of time to get on the list before it stops going to every home. However, we can continue to have some copies printed for those residents that do not have computers or prefer to have a hard copy. They can pick them up at Borough Hall and the Library. This would save the Borough money on printing and mailing.

3. Opening Day

As a softball coach and member of the Garwood Baseball League, I have been working with the League to help organize an opening day event. This will take place on Saturday, April 11th. I wanted to update the Council on this. In addition to the usual baseball and softball opening day festivities, we will be having a few bands play, which we hope will open this event to more people from the community. One of the bands will be The Benjamins, which are a well-known cover band that have their headquarters right here in Garwood. Opening day usually draws hundreds of Garwood residents together and we are especially looking forward to this one as it will be the first at the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex.

Councilwoman Todisco stated that she doesn't think it fosters good relationship among council when members are taking the attendance of members at committee meetings. An elevated conversation followed and members disagreed on this matter. Councilman Mathieu defended his inquiry about the

attendance of members on committees and stated he will continue to ask these questions as he has done so in the past and with other members.

Council President Nierstedt no report

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Jean McComb 119 Willow Avenue asked if council would keep in mind when working on the fence that she has a dog and would like notification prior.

Bruce Paterson suggested council members deliver the newsletter themselves in person.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** 9:33 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Council President Nierstedt, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Todisco.