

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council**

WORKSHOP

MINUTES

March 8, 2016

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, and UC Local Source, advertised on January 7, 2016, 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).

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Lombardo	P		
Councilwoman Cuccaro	P	Councilman Sarno	P
Councilman Martin	P	Councilwoman Todisco	P
Councilman Mathieu	P	Council President Petruzzelli	P

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

Presentations to Ryan Baron, Natalie Capoccia, Dietitian and Michael Tharaldsen.

Presentation from Carol Kearney, Business and Industry Liaison
Update on Chamber.

“First I would like to thank Mayor Lombardo and Councilwoman Todisco for attending the event at Vine Ripe Markets. There were approximately 70 people in attendance. Vine Ripe employs several people from Garwood and again I thank Mayor and Councilwoman for attending.

We now have a total of 500 members and 5 towns that belong to the Chamber of Commerce. A great new addition is Fanwood, the Business Association was dissolved and they now are full members of the GWACC and have brought 54 new businesses into our chamber.

GWACC Foundation is a new addition and has been designed to give scholarships to our high school students from the 5 towns and sponsor nonprofit activities. We were one of the sponsors for Movie Under the Stars last year and will sponsor again this year. Move Under the Stars is scheduled for September 9, 2016, at the GSRC.

Garwood has over 42 businesses as members. We will be having Grand Opening for: Moxie Pilates and Studio 2 at the end of March. Also I would like to add I received notification that a Hair Salon will open on South within the next month and an art gallery will open at the VFW location. Both these businesses will be joining the chamber.

YEA Program has 16 students and they are creating 7 businesses. There is an investor panel on March 16, at the Academy for Applied Health Sciences in Scotch Plains at 1776 Raritan Road all are welcome to attend. Hopefully they will get the shark tank this year. There is scholarship money available for this program. Please visit their booths at GARWOOD ROCKS.

Just one more item, the Chamber is running their first golf event which will be lots of fun for the name is NINE, DINE AND WINE for \$99 which is scheduled for May 11th. Which is a Wednesday.

Garwood Rocks date is June 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Meeting with all Borough Hall Department heads was a success. Police, Fire, DPW, County and the Y.

I am bringing some new attractions this year and will have more information to share in April.

As of this date we have 24 vendors signed up and our annual car show is growing daily.”

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello reported that 2015 DOT documents are still being reviewed. He mentioned the sidewalk project is out for bid and the sewer project on Center and Willow is underway.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS - Mayor Lombardo read the following statement:

Our Mayor's Saturday in March will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month, March 19th, at Borough Hall. I have invited Councilwoman Cuccaro to join me. This Mayor's Saturday will be changed a bit, from 10 AM to 11 AM, due to the annual Easter Egg Hunt taking place at 11:45 AM. I'm sure you'll hear about this event from our council's reports.

I was honored and pleased to meet with Pastor Ron Stafford and Pastor Mike Leahy of the Liquid Church to be located on Center Street, formerly the site of St. Paul's Church. Pastor Tracy Galloway of the Garwood Presbyterian Church set up the meeting and joined us for the discussions. The Liquid Church plans to open their doors in time for the Easter season, and they wanted to express to me their willingness to be good neighbors and an active part of our great community.

As so noted at our last council meeting, I am a member of the Union County Community Development Social Services Committee. The news I have to report is not good - funding for our programs has been reduced by \$450.00. We are not alone, however, as other communities also received the same news of funding reductions.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilwoman Cuccaro read the following statement

I would like to thank councilman Sarno for setting up a meeting with Chief Underhill addressing my concerns about the speeding issue in town and my info gathering on speed bumps. He advised me that he has been working on it. It is a process and speed bumps were he felt a last resort. He said Grant monies have been submitted, for a pair of signs beginning on 4th ave. He reassured me that he takes these speeding issues very seriously. He said he is happy to speak to anyone that shares my concerns to explain the process to them.

I would also like to thank Police officer Joseph Ostrander for stopping at my house early this morning to let me know that the gas company is going to be running a new service across the street from my house and they would be digging up my driveway apron as part of the process. If he did not take the time and go out of his way to notify me I would have had no way to pull out of my driveway and get to the office. Of course the Gas Company would see no reason to contact residents to let them know they may be stranded.

Councilman Martin – *no report*

Councilman Mathieu – mentioned he has been contacted by relatives of Harry Hartman requesting a sign being placed at Hartman Park in his honor. Councilman Mathieu said the family is willing to pay for the sign. Mayor Lombardo referred the matter to the Historical Committee. Councilman Mathieu provided information on Harry Hartman.

Councilman Sarno – *no report*

Councilwoman Todisco – provided information about the NJ Transit strike.

Council President Petruzzelli – *no report*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Is there anyone in the audience that wishes to address the mayor and council please step to the microphone, sign in, state your full name and address. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

Kathleen Patterson, 416 Center Street read a statement concerning speeding cars on Garwood streets. In her statement she thanked Councilwoman Cuccaro for bringing forth the matter. She provided detailed

information on speeding issues she has witnessed. She asked council to implement safety measures before someone is injured.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue mentioned the work being performed on his block by NJ AM Water is not up to par. He said they laid pipe over his old sanitary line and he feels he may have issued down the road because of this.

Bill Nierstedt, 320 Hickory Avenue, mentioned Arbor Day is in April.

John Casoni, 212 Walnut Street mentioned the speeding taking place on his street and asked the status of the parking signs.

Rich McCormack, 101 Fourth Avenue suggested more lines painted at the school and that flashing lights be added.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:26 p.m. a motion to adjourn the workshop session was made by Councilwoman Todisco followed by a second from Council President Petruzzelli

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood