

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

**WORKSHOP**

**MINUTES**

March 22, 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:**

<b>Mayor Lombardo</b>	<b>P</b>		
<b>Councilwoman Cuccaro</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman Sarno</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Martin</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilwoman Todisco</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Mathieu</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Council President Petruzzelli</b>	<b>P</b>

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

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello reported that Beech Avenue DOT trees will be planted next week. Sidewalk bid is being rebid for more competitive results. DOT 2015 bids will be received on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Brief discussion followed. Mayor Lombardo asked how far down the NJ American Water project extends on Willow. Mr. Guarriello said to the end of Willow.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud mentioned the sewer rate ordinance is being introduced this evening. He provided a brief explanation.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma explained court matter and asked permission to post notice. Contact alternate staff. All agreed. May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. is Students In Government Night.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS - NONE**

**Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:**

Councilwoman Cuccaro - no report

Councilman Martin – no report

Councilman Mathieu – no report

Councilman Sarno – no report

Councilwoman Todisco – asked for Council's support in attending Cranford's Memorial Day parade by having the Clerk RSVP for council. She asked the borough attorney to prepare 2 handicapped parking ordinances. Mr. Renaud was directed to prepare handicapped parking ordinances.

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.

Bill Nierstedt, 320 Hickory Avenue read the following:

**UNION COUNTY CDBG PROGRAM**

On March 10 I represented the Boro at the Union County CDBG Revenue Sharing Committee in Cranford. The 19 participating municipalities submitted requests totaling over \$8 million, with actual federal allocations totaling only \$4,751,000. Garwood does not have any low-moderate income census tracts, so it is only eligible for projects involving affordable housing, senior citizens, the handicapped, or blight areas. Garwood received a total of \$15,000 for the Senior Citizen Social Services Program and \$3,000 for the Senior Citizens Handyman Program. I know we have discussed submitting different requests and that in the past we have requested funds for redevelopment studies, but have not been awarded funds. While I was not on the group that decided Garwood funds, I was on the Public Improvements committee, which awarded funds to towns like us that don't qualify for everything. Those towns received more funding – a minimum of \$25,000- for the construction of intersection ramps for the handicapped. As they may cost \$4,000 each, and it may not make sense to request them individually, I do believe that it would make sense for us to look on the North side of town, where the senior housing complex and school are located, speak with Don about what intersections don't have ramps, and, in tandem with proposed road improvements, coordinate NJDOT and CDBG funding. I think that is how we can get a better bang for the buck. I urge Council to consider submitting different requests this year and perhaps receive more funding.

**RARITAN VALLEY RAIL COALITION**

On March 7, I attended the Raritan Valley Line Rail Coalition meeting. Nothing much has changed in terms of the one-seat ride. Given NJ Transit's financial situation, and the cost for the Hudson River tunnel projects, we may not obtain additional one-seat direct rides to New York for quite some time. I reminded the group that regardless of that issue, Garwood remains the poor stepchild on the Raritan Valley line. I added the daily morning stops, and Westfield has 25; even Fanwood has 24. Garwood still only has 9. While I believe the group must continue fighting for tunnel construction and the one-seat ride, and that with anticipated development we will be able to get more stops, we must not allow them to forget that Garwood is still not treated fairly.

**GROVE STREET WESTFIELD TOWNHOUSE DEVELOPMENT**

A resident asked about the status of the above project located where Spruce Avenue becomes Grove Street in Westfield. For those who do not recall, this is a 16 unit townhouse development that includes 3 affordable housing units – a 19% ratio, I might add. Anyway, I learned that the developer who obtained Westfield PB approval for this project sold it to "Elite Properties", the same developer who is constructing the Fanwood Crossing project. While surveying crews were recently at the site, Westfield has not yet entered into a developer's agreement, so construction is not imminent, but it should commence later this year.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue mentioned the comment regarding intersection ramps matter. He asked questions about the CAP Bank Ordinance.

Rich McCormack. 101 Fourth Avenue commented on Mr. Nierstedt's report on CDBG.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:23 p.m. a motion to adjourn the workshop session was made by Councilwoman Todisco followed by a second from Councilman Sarno

Respectfully submitted:



**CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk**  
Borough of Garwood