

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING March 25, 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).

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Quattrocchi (Not voting), Council President Palmer, Councilman Martin, Councilman Mathieu, Councilman Nierstedt, Councilman Petruzzelli, Councilwoman Todisco.

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

At 7:44 pm Ms. Ariemma read the following:

[RESOLUTION NO. 14-166.1](#)

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LITIGATION RELATING TO ARIEMMA VS THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD AND COUNCILMAN JAMES MATHIEU CIVIL SUMMONS DOCKET NO. UNN-L447-12 AND ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY WITH PUBLIC FUNDS, 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, 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 matter.

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: Executive Session Resolution No. 14-166.1, **Action:** Adopt, **Moved by** Councilwoman Todisco, **Seconded by** Council President Palmer.

At 7:44 p.m., Ms. Ariemma will remain in Council Chambers during the executive session portion of the meeting relating to Ariemma vs. the Borough of Garwood, Mayor and Council of Garwood and Councilman James Mathieu Civil Summons Docket No. UNN-L447-12. She will move to executive session in the conference room for the portion of the meeting relating to **ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY WITH PUBLIC FUNDS** when requested to do so. Ms. Ariemma will take minutes for the portion of the meeting that she is present and Mayor Quattrocchi will take the minutes for the other matter in executive session.

At 8:10 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Nierstedt, seconded by Councilwoman Todisco to end the Executive session and resume the Workshop session.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello reported the DOT 2012 is finished and 2013 is out for bid receipt April 11, 2013. Councilwoman Todisco mentioned the emergency road work and asked when it will be finished. Mr. Guarriello said soon as the weather clears up.

Mayor Quattrocchi mentioned a drainage issue at Hickory and Center. He said it is a flat area and that Hickory is on the list for repair and has been for some time.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud reported the ordinance for commuter parking is up for second read. The sandwich sign ordinance has been given to council for review and consideration at the next meeting. Mr. Renaud said he prepared an industrial user ordinance for council consideration. He explained the contents of the ordinance. Brief discussion followed. Ms. Ariemma was directed to put the industrial user ordinance for introduction at the next meeting. Ms. Ariemma was directed to submit the sandwich sign ordinance to the planning board for comment prior to introduction.

Administrator/Clerk – 2014 Student's In Government Date. I have contacted the school for an available date for SIG. They selected Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Upon your approval I will proceed with event details. All agreed to proceed with May 20, 2014.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Quattrocchi mentioned the pilot tree program being done with PSE&G and BPU. She mentioned they will be contacting Ms. Ariemma soon to inspect trees. Mayor Quattrocchi said trees taken down will be replaced.

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NEW BUSINESS None

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Palmer read the following statement:

You were all emailed an ordinance for Sandwich board signs. If I could give you a little history. A few months ago Laws and License was asked to look into the signs along North and South Avenue. There seemed to be a significant amount, different sizes and some were blocking the view at corner creating public safety. I met with Capt. Stoffer, Supervisor of DPW Mr. Corbitt and the Zoning enforcement officer, Mr. DiStefano. We through around a couple of ideas. After further review we decided that instead of eliminating all signs and creating ill will with our business, we needed to find a better solution. Mr. Renaud forwarded the Laws and License committee a few sample of sandwich board signs ordinances he's prepared in the past for other municipalities. We reviewed and created an ordinance that we thought would fit Garwood best. At the last meeting when I mentioned this, it was suggested that I forward this ordinance to our Zoning Officer since it was a Land Use ordinance. Bill, I wanted to let you know that I did that, he responded with suggestions and they've been taken into account. I hope everyone has had a chance to review the ordinance, if so we are open to questions tonight. If not, I'd like to direct Tina to put this ordinance on the next agenda for first reading.

Ms. Ariemma was directed to submit the ordinance to the board and if they recommend it, Ms. Ariemma should put it on the agenda for introduction.

Councilman Martin no report.

Councilman Mathieu followed up on an assembly bill that bans unemployment benefits for seasonal workers. He asked for council support. Mayor Quattrocchi reported on the bill that was introduced in 2011. She said she spoke to members of the assembly and that the bill was designed for shore communities. She said the bill was reintroduced in January of 2014 and it is in committee. Assembly said it will probably be there for some time before it moves. Councilman Mathieu said that being considered it is more important to show support for the bill. He mentioned the crossing guards in Garwood collecting unemployment. Councilman Nierstedt asked the mayor to confirm that NJ Business doesn't support the bill. Brief discussion followed on why people are seasonal employees and why they collect unemployment. Councilman Mathieu asked if they will second this so it can be voted on. Councilwoman Todisco commented that she feels this is a sensitive matter and a State issue and perhaps should be left to them. Council President Palmer said she agrees with Councilwoman Todisco's position on this matter. Councilman Mathieu asked again for council to consider this for voting. Councilman Martin said we are wasting everyone's time with this and it is a matter not for this council.

Mr. Renaud said we have a motion with no second and the discussion should end at this time and this should not be debated.

Councilman Mathieu said he agrees with Mr. Renaud but continued to debate the matter and he said we will no longer be voting on resolutions concerning matters of the State. Mayor Quattrocchi said the bill is in its infancy. Councilman Mathieu interrupted her with the comment that he has a second. He was called to order. Councilman Nierstedt said he will not second this but will support or oppose assembly bills in the future. He also said that he feels this is being pushed by Councilman Mathieu for political reasons. He suggested this stop now.

Councilman Nierstedt no report.

Councilman Petruzzelli mentioned the hiring of a construction manager and the proposals received.

Councilwoman Todisco mentioned that she has read the proposals and they are volumes. She mentioned shared services discussed with the County and that they will not be a service for this at this time. She mentioned the website calendar being updated and is pleased. Council President Palmer said she forwarded the site to residents and asked for their input. They liked the DPW schedule and calendar.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Anne Leonard 536 Myrtle Avenue suggested the town board be slowed down.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: 8:54 p.m., **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Councilwoman Todisco, **Seconded by** Council President Palmer.

CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood