

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

**WORKSHOP**

**MINUTES**

April 12, 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.

Municipal Clerk read Resolution 16-182A

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-182A**

**CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR AND OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE 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 subject 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 Councilwoman Todisco, Second Councilman Sarno to adoption 16-182A for executive session.

<b>Councilwoman Cuccaro</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Sarno</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Martin</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilwoman Todisco</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Mathieu</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Petruzzelli</b>	<b>AYE</b>

At 7:24 p.m., workshop session continued.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello reported that bids on sidewalks and DOT 2015 are all in one bond. Mr. Guarriello explained the bids received. Ms. Ariemma explained the funding in Bond Ordinance 15-15 and also council's options. The Clerk was directed to amend the bond to \$460,000 and increase of \$65,000. 2016 DOT and 2016 Union County Infrastructure grants were discussed. Brief discussion regarding milling and paving of Center Street took place.

Councilman Petruzzelli mentioned that Spruce Avenue has a lot of broken roadway on the 100 block. Mayor Lombardo mentioned Safe Routes to School grants Chief Underhill responded.

Borough Attorney Robert mentioned all his matters are in Executive Session.

Councilman Mathieu asked if there is movement on COAH. Mr. Renaud said that this is for Executive Session.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma **-NO REPORT**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS - Mayor Lombardo read the following statement:

A reminder to the Council and all municipal authorities, which includes all boards and commissions, you are required to submit the Annual Financial Disclosure Statement to the State of New Jersey by April 31, 2016. Pastor Ron Stafford of the Liquid Church of Garwood has reached out to me, via e-mail, to schedule community volunteer projects in Garwood for July 16, 2016. They will be completing projects throughout Union County as part of their summer outreach program.

I have sent an e-mail to all department heads and committees to submit articles for the Spring/Summer edition of the Garwood Gazette. I ask that all councilpersons reach out to your committee chairs to support this effort. The more the residents know about our community, the more active participation we will have.

In the past few weeks, I have met with Mr. Kevin Kim, CEO of BSHM Group, LLC. He will be bringing Key Foods to Garwood in the building formerly occupied by Pathmark, on South Avenue. The focus of his store will be a more nutritious variety of foods, including fresh fish, meats, fruits and vegetables. The projected opening of the store is sometime this coming July.

Once again, I must apologize for moving the date of Mayor's Saturday. Due to conflicting schedules of the postponed Baseball Parade and National Library Week celebrations, this month's Mayor's Saturday will be held on April 23, at 11:00 AM here in Council Chambers. Councilman Joe Sarno will be joining me to talk to the residents who wish to stop by.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilwoman Cuccaro - I would like to recommend to the mayor or said committee, to have the ordinance 96-20 to be amended to provide relief for parking when there is 3 inches or more of snow on the road to homes that have no driveways. This is an extreme hardship for homeowners that have nowhere to park their car. Surrounding towns do not do it. Extremely unfair

I would also like to recommend that the application for variances be simplified as specified in Chapter 106 of land use and zoning. This entire variance package is 41 pages; residents need directions to read the instructions, and no one should have to be subjected to tears trying to understand the process and the paperwork that goes along with it, for extremely minor things, fences, driveways, little items such as these.

Which brings me to my final observation. The Garwood zoning officer Victor Vinegra is now stating that he is not taking calls from residents and taxpayers, concerning zoning issues, as he is much too busy. He has requested his phone number at Harbor consultants be removed from the Garwood site, and is now requiring a form to be e-mailed to his new e-mail address, and he will reply in this manner.

The zoning officer is an employee of the town and paid by the taxpayers. I have a very simple retort for this request, if you are much too busy to put Garwood first, then maybe it is time to be relieved of that responsibility.

We are elected by the people to put them first, not last, and to add another layer of paperwork to an already bloated application process is a travesty to say the least. Residents and taxpayers should not be reduced to tears to just try and understand the process, and fill out required paperwork. And the ironic travesty is hiring an attorney to the tune of thousands of dollars to basically fill out the paperwork and fight for them in situations that they should have no problem doing it themselves. Everyone is not made of money and a lot are living on fixed incomes, is this the way we treat our neighbors and constituent.

Councilman Martin – mentioned Captain Stoffer assisted him with a matter concerning unwanted faxes.

Councilman Mathieu – **NO REPORT**

Councilman Sarno – mentioned there are 4 new members on the First Aid Squad including himself. He said if anyone is interested please let him know. He mentioned community projects.

Councilwoman Todisco – **NO REPORT**

Council President Petruzzelli – mentioned an e-mail concerning donating to Joanne Tharaldsen. All Agreed.

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.

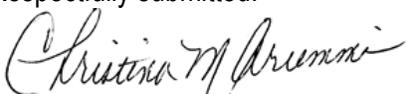
Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue mentioned matching grants and how wrong the matching matter is unfair. He suggested a resolution opposing matching grants. He mentioned the RVSA increases and letters written. He commented at length on the increases over the last several years. He said flow is down and wants more information on why the rate continues to increase.

Rich McCormack, 101 Fourth Avenue asked why Third Avenue is being done vs. other streets. Mr. Guarriello explained all streets are looked at and put in order by need. Discussion followed regarding roadwork. He congratulated Bruce on providing information concerning RVSA. He asked how much will the cost go up after the proposed development. Mr. Guarriello answered and provided information. Mr. Guarriello said the Planning Board should be considering the sewer capacity when approving applications.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:54 p.m. a motion to adjourn the workshop session was made by Councilwoman Todisco followed by a second from Councilman Petruzzelli

Respectfully submitted:



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