

# **BOROUGH of GARWOOD**

## ***Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING*** **April 28, 2015**

Workshop session was opened by Mayor Lombardo at: 7:00 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: Clerk Stenographer Kathleen J. Wierzbinski, Borough Attorney Robert Renaud and Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma was excused.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello reported the information has been sent to DOT for 2014 projects and is waiting for a response. Mayor Lombardo asked if he had a chance to look at the infrastructure grant for the county. Mr. Guarriello responded no. Councilwoman Todisco asked how we are doing on the sidewalk repair list. Mr. Guarriello said he just received the list over the weekend. Councilman Petruzzelli asked about the status of pavers piled up under the under pass from the gas company.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud reported there are two ordinances on the agenda. Ordinance 15-09 is concerning residential parking and for introduction is 15-10 concerning repealing section 115-2 of the begging ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – none

### NEW BUSINESS –

Mayor's report

The Union County Office of Health Management is presenting a free workshop on mold and related health issues as well as safe cleaning procedures on May 11, May 20, and June 6th. Each pre-registered household will receive a free mold clean up kit and moisture meter. Please contact Borough Hall for more details and locations of the workshop. I recently had the pleasure of speaking at the 6th annual Westfield Y Health Bee, co-sponsored with United Health Care, on April 20th on behalf of Garwood's 7th grade participants. The 7th grade's team name was "Highway to Health" and they were very competitive in the event. The Borough of Garwood has been notified that our 2015 hydrant flushing project has been scheduled between May 4th and June 5th. Just as a reminder: We will be conducting our annual Students In Government Night next, Tuesday, May 5th at 7:00 PM. The next edition of the Garwood Gazette will be in the mail this week. Please take the time to update yourself on the latest Borough information. Also, thank you to all the Department Heads who contributed their articles of interest. On April 20th, I visited the Garwood Municipal Court for familiarize myself with the courts process. All of our personnel handled themselves professionally. If you are interested in seeing this aspect of the inner workings of Garwood's court system, I suggest you visit a court night, just to see how things are accomplished.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Martin no report

Councilman Mathieu suggested a walkway at the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex that would include bricks that residents and businesses could sponsor. Councilwoman Tarantino and Councilman Petruzzelli said they had discussed this to also include benches. Councilwoman Todisco said she had brought this idea up to the Historical Committee. Councilman Mathieu also talked about the OEM emergency plan to the County being overdue. Mayor Lombardo mentioned a new OEM Director has been appointed and everything will get back on track.

Councilman Petruzzelli no report.

Councilwoman Tarantino

It is recommended that council table Ordinance 15-09 in order to allow time for residents to be notified.

Councilwoman Todisco reported that she and Councilman Petruzzelli will be attending the Freeholders meeting this week.

Council President Nierstedt read the following report. As you know, this past week we celebrated Earth and Arbor Days, and we were fortunate to have two Arbor Day ceremonies. On Thursday, April 24, Mayor Lombardo and I met with the fourth grade at Lincoln School. Principal Mary Emmons read about the history of Arbor Day and the students created a Friendship Tree upon which they all hung leaves. We also planted a ceremonial tree on the school grounds. On Friday, the actual Arbor Day, I met with the pre-school children at the Garwood branch of the Westfield YMCA and we planted two trees – Eastern Redbuds – on the south side of the playground area. The children helped fill the holes and promised to water the trees all summer. We hope the trees will grow and provide shade for the playground area. We have discussed the In Need of Redevelopment Study for the Casale and Petro properties on South Avenue, and I wish to advise the public that we anticipate having the public hearing on the study at the May 27 Planning Board meeting. All are invited to attend.

Councilwoman Todisco asked if the council should attend this. Council President Nierstedt said yes. Councilwoman Todisco asked Mr. Renaud if they attended would this fall under an Open Public Meeting and would they have to give notice Mr. Renaud said no as long as they were not acting as a governing body.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue stated his concerns with county taxes and the counties spending at length. He asked Councilwoman Todisco to ask at the next Freeholder's meeting where 25 million of the tax payer's dollars went. He asked that the Mayor and Council stand up for their constituents and other towns do the same.

Claudia Benib, 427 Willow Avenue asked that the Mayor and Council consider opening up the recycling lot to the residents again. Councilwoman Todisco mentioned this subject is on the committee's radar. Claudia strongly expressed her feelings on the importance of recycling yard here in Garwood. There was brief discussion concerning the cost of this. Councilwoman Todisco mentioned she had heard negative things about Fanwood's recycling center. Council President Nierstedt stated recycling is a volatile market. The possibility of funding was mentioned by Claudia. Councilwoman Todisco stated the residents would definitely benefit from a recycling center in town.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** 7:35 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Council President Nierstedt, **Seconded by** Councilman Petruzzelli.