

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING **May 12, 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: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma, Borough Attorney Robert Renaud and Borough Engineer Donald R. Guarriello.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello reported he is waiting for DOT approval on the recently awarded project. Ms. Ariemma said approval has been received.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud commented on COAH matters.

Councilwoman Todisco mentioned the project on Holly Street. She asked Mr. Guarriello to address concerns she mentioned about the work being done in the area.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma asked council if they will be participating in the Cranford Memorial Day Parade. Councilmen Mathieu, Nierstedt, Petruzzelli, Councilwoman Tarantino and Mayor Lombardo agreed to participate.

Ms. Ariemma mentioned the UC Infrastructure and Municipal Aid Grant Program. She explained the grant is due on Monday so a decision has to be made. She suggested application for the side walk repair program and all agreed.

She mentioned the award notification of the 2015 DOT road project. She suggested it be discussed after the grant is completed for the sidewalk project in order for council to consider possibly bonding the two projects together.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Martin no report.

Councilman Mathieu mentioned the signage added by the GSRC has improved the area. He mentioned the revenue received from the rental of the complex. Ms. Ariemma answered.

Councilman Petruzzelli mentioned finance approves the request from the PD for capital purchases. Discussion followed and Council President Nierstedt said that he supports these purchases and they are necessary. Ms. Ariemma was directed to prepare a bond ordinance for introduction at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Tarantino mentioned the parking committee sent out letters to residents concerning residential parking. She said the ordinance will be directed back to committee because of the feedback that has been received.

Councilwoman Todisco reported the following:

I just wanted to update the Council on the bill that has been introduced by the Assembly called the Transparency Tax Act, which would essentially separate the tax bill among the municipality, school, and county. It would also spread the burden of tax appeals among all three entities rather than just the municipality as it presently. Our tax assessor did not offer an opinion on it as she said it won't impact assessments, but our CFO took a look at the bill and shared her thoughts as well as questions. I contacted the office of the Assemblyman who sponsored the bill and spoke with someone in his office that had me

forward our CFO's comments and questions. I am awaiting a response. I will update the council on this when I hear back. I also noticed in our Council mail that Union has passed a resolution supporting this bill.

Council President Nierstedt commented on the following.

Planning Board – I want to remind everyone that the Planning Board will hold its public hearing on the In Need of Redevelopment Study for the Casale and Petro properties on South Avenue at 7:30PM in Borough Hall on Wednesday, May 27. This is the first step in the redevelopment process, and we look forward to hearing the consultant's report, and input from Garwood residents.

Fire Division – The Fire Division has proposed a junior Fire Fighter program, which is a career education program to introduce young men and women over the age of 14 to the world of volunteering. The purpose of the program is to provide young adults with the basic understanding of emergency and non-emergency operations, conducted under the supervision of the department officer's. While there are certainly insurance issues to be discussed, and there will be insurance costs, I believe that this program is a positive one that we should encourage. With the Fire Division ranks decreasing, it is one goal of this endeavor to interest youth and their parents into the ideals; of volunteerism and perhaps assisting the Fire Division when they become adults. If there is no objection, I urge my fellow councilmembers to support this initiative and direct the Boro clerk to place the ordinance advancing this program on our next agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joseph Eid, 436 Second Avenue mentioned his household has 4 cars. Will his family get 4 permits? He mentioned that enforcement needs to be addressed for the program to be successful. He provided examples of the failure to enforce. He said he supports the ordinance but it needs to be enforced.

Rich McCormack, 101 Fourth Avenue mentioned there is too much speeding on his street. He said Opening Day for the Garwood Baseball League at the GSRC was awesome. He said the complex is great and he thanked Garwood.

Tom Pedas, 101 Chestnut Court mentioned the programs for seniors are not being held at the complex. Councilman Petruzzelli responded that seniors desire to remain in the Fire house. Councilwoman Tarantino said some small programs will be moved to the complex. He mentioned the field is too small to play on. Councilman Petruzzelli responded to Mr. Pedas' concerns explaining the field size has been since 1960.

James Surgent, 501 South Avenue, Surgent Elite School of Gymnastics suggested West Street remain a two hour limit. It was determined it will remain as such.

Rosemary Snow, 322 Willow Avenue mentioned the permit parking matter. She mentioned a pot hole on her street and asked when it will be repaired. It was determined it would be repaired by the DPW.

John Lies, 229 Third Avenue asked about his tenants getting permits. He was advised they would get permits as long as they own a vehicle that is registered to that address. He mentioned the Village at Garwood and the parking problems that may be realized. Brief discussion followed. Mr. Renaud mentioned council is trying to address a problem that residents have brought fourth. Council President Nierstedt explained that statically complexes for low income seniors over 62 generally don't all own a vehicle so the 40 spaces should be adequate.

Council asked Mr. Lies if they remove Third from the ordinance if he thinks his street will get the commuters that are pushed off of Second. Mr. Lies said he believes so and would like his street to remain.

Councilman Mathieu said the age of tenants in these types of complexes is generally older than 62 years.

Mrs. Dombrowski, Center Street complained about commuters and the proposed legislation. She suggested council designate an area on all public streets for commuters. She offered no suggestion for an alternate method than the proposed to keep commuters from parking on residential streets.

Mrs. T. Benc and Mrs. P. Elias of Lincoln School read the following statement:

We are so pleased that the Council is addressing the parking situation now. *Regardless of whether or not there is a new commuter parking ordinance*, the situation at Lincoln School needs to be addressed. We are happy that Mrs. Tarantino has assured us that the teachers and staff members at Lincoln School will have a place to park. We are also grateful for the opportunity to share our suggestions, such as taking into consideration that there are approximately ten spaces directly across the street from the entire length of the school property. Only two of the ten are in front of a residence. If the borough were to spray lines from the corner of Walnut to the *end* of Hartman Park and post signs stating that those fifteen to sixteen spaces are reserved **on days school is in session**, our school problem would be solved.

Lincoln School is an important part of our community and we know it is important to the Council members and citizens. Please help the school staff with the difficulty we have faced for years. We gratefully acknowledge the opportunity you have provided this evening. We are willing to offer more suggestions and ask you to contact us if you would like additional input regarding the Lincoln School situation. Thank you.

Tamara Benc and Patricia Elias
Lincoln School teachers and Co-presidents of the GEA
(Garwood Education Association)

*At the conclusion of our prepared remarks, Mr. Nierstedt asked several additional school-related questions. At that point we added that consideration should also be given to Lincoln School **visitors**. Most schools have several spots designated for visitors. Currently, if we have a parent coming in for an IEP meeting, a supervisor coming in to observe a student teacher, a presenter coming in to set-up for an assembly, etc., we have no place for that person/those persons to park. This need should be taken into consideration as well.

Dr. T. Quigley, Garwood Public School commented on the parking and it's relation to the issues with parking at the school.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on the parking matter and the redevelopment study.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: 8:28 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Council President Nierstedt, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Todisco.