

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING

June 9, 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 Representative Adam Colicchio and Borough Engineer Donald R. Guarriello.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello had no report.

Adam Colicchio reported the leases have been received for Burger King commuter parking. He stated ordinances will be prepared to incorporate these into borough code.

Councilwoman Todisco asked Mr. Guarriello about Gallows Hill Road paving. Mr. Guarriello said Cranford would fix the area.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma read the following statement:

The Administrative Review Committee has been formed to explore and implement procedures that either produce or improve the efficiency of Borough operations and departments. Discussions have included shared services arrangements with the Borough of Fanwood for certain management functions and other related matters in the Department of Public Works. These matters are not ready for discussion in public session however there will be discussion at the council meeting on June 23rd. It will be determined if that will take place in closed or open session and that announcement will be made prior to discussion. Regardless any voting on the proposal is done in open session. The proposal if accepted will not cause any reduction in services provided by the Department of Public Works. Comments on the subject can be made however council cannot answer questions presented at this meeting. Please consider attending the next meeting to present questions to council.

Ms. Ariemma reported that Property Pilot Government software will make a presentation at the next council meeting. After brief discussion it was determined that the 1st meeting in July would serve better since there may be excessive business at the 23rd meeting.

Ms. Ariemma announced that the county is putting forth the Union County Open Space Grant and Greening Union County Grants for 2015. She explained that funds have to be matched and the budget has been finalized for 2015. She explained that in can be considered in next year's budget. She also sought guidance on what exactly council would like to apply for. Brief discussion followed and ideas were mentioned. Councilwoman Todisco mentioned working on Hartman Park or considering skipping one year in the grant process because of the required matching dollars. The Buildings and Grounds committee requested to be the group to come up with grant suggestions. All agreed to defer this to the next council meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

Ms. Ariemma said that at the last meeting Council President Nierstedt mentioned canceling a summer meeting. The second meeting in July was suggested. Council, if they are inclined can leave this matter pending. At the first meeting in July Ms. Ariemma will report if the second meeting will have business that must be considered. Council can decide at that time to cancel or not. All agreed.

NEW BUSINESS –

Just a reminder - the Village at Garwood residences on Second Avenue will have their official ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, June 25th at 2:00 PM.

A few of the borough officials were invited to tour the facility this past Monday, and the Certificate of Occupancy should be issued within the next few days.

Approved tenants have been notified of their selection through the qualification process and should be moving in shortly.

The second annual "Garwood Rocks" was held this past Sunday, June 7th, in the center of town, and was well attended. The Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce and our representative Carol Kearny deserve our thanks for a job well done, as does our fire, police and DPW departments for their efforts in patrolling, maintaining safety, and cleaning the areas.

The only negative report I have is that a few residents of the borough were annoyed by the low flying Geico advertising plane that circled the town during our event and Westfield's street fair, which was held on Saturday.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Martin no report.

Councilman Mathieu no report.

Councilman Petruzzelli no report.

Councilwoman Tarantino mentioned that she toured the Village at Garwood and spoke with the director concerning the limited parking at the site. She said they would be meeting to discuss alternative to this issue. She commented on Garwood Rocks, specifically the presence of the Police Department, noting they were very visible.

Councilwoman Todisco mentioned she will work with the Historical committee to plan the dedication process for the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex.

Council President Nierstedt read the following report:

At its May 27 meeting, the Planning Board held a public hearing, heard a presentation by Jeff Janoda, a licensed planner from H2M Associates, and voted to recommend to Borough Council that the area that is being described as the Petro and Casale properties – although it does contain additional lots – be declared an Area in Need of Redevelopment. This is the first step of the redevelopment process. The Council will take action after receipt of the board recommendation, and then actions will focus on the development of a redevelopment plan for the area. I don't see the plan being completed until the fall of this year, at which time the Planning Board will review and make recommendations to the council. The public hearing for the plan adoption will be at the Borough Council.

The Westfield Senior Citizens Housing Corporation has scheduled a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at "The Village at Garwood", 320 Second Avenue at 2:00PM on Thursday, June 25 if anyone wishes to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Glen Gold, 543 Willow Avenue explained he has received a citation from the police department concerning his shed. Chief Underhill and Mr. Gold agreed that there is a problem with shed. Chief Underhill suggested perhaps community groups be contacted for assistance. Councilman Martin offered assistance from the Knights of Columbus and offered to discuss this with the resident.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue mentioned the matching grant issue. He expressed his displeasure with matching grants and having to match tax payer dollars that are already tax payer funds.

Brian Trusdell, 240 Second Avenue asked about the proposed DPW shared service matter. Ms. Ariemma responded that council cannot answer questions at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: 7:33 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Council President Nierstedt, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Todisco.