

# **BOROUGH of GARWOOD**

## ***Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING***

**June 24, 2014**

Workshop session was opened by Mayor Quattrocchi at 7:05 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.

Robert Ehrenbeck, Representative for the Union County Transportation Advisory Board reporting on the following matters. He also provided some background information on himself.

- Overview of UCTAB
- Items impacting Garwood:
  - Raritan Valley Line one-seat ride
  - Union County Sustainability Corridor / Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
  - South Ave. & Center Street intersection (possible renovation by County)
  - TOD resources

Councilman Martin asked what improvements are being considered. Mr. Ehrenbeck and Mr. Guarriello answered.

Mayor Quattrocchi also commented on the matter. Council President Palmer asked about the upcoming project on South Avenue and Center Street. Council President Palmer and Councilman Nierstedt commented on this including redevelopment. Brief discussion followed.

Mayor Quattrocchi presented an acknowledgement to the participants in the Garwood Rocks Street Fair held on June 8, 2014 and sponsored by the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. They included Carol Kearney, Vice-President to the Chamber and Business and Industry Liaison to the Mayor and Council, Gene Jannotti, Executive Director to the Chamber, Christopher DeVine, Chair to the Chamber, Deanne Hunt, CEO This is It Productions, Paula Ehoff, Garwood Family Y, Police Chief Bruce Underhill on behalf of the Garwood Police Department, Fire Chief Michael Tharaldsen on behalf of the Garwood Fire Department, and Fred Corbitt on behalf of the Garwood Street Department.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello reported on the curbing along South Avenue that is in disrepair. He reported the brick pavers would also need to be replaced. He provided detailed information on the matter. He reported the job would cost approximately \$75,000. He reported on the inlets on Maple and Willow. He reported that handicapped ramps are the reason there is water accumulating on corners. He reported further on the matter. He said to correct one intersection the cost is about \$20,000. He reported on the hydrants on Fourth Avenue. Councilman Nierstedt comment on the corner matter and that he agrees with the engineer's recommendation. Council President Palmer suggested the South Avenue curbing matter be directed to the Finance and Streets and Roads committee. Councilwoman Todisco asked if this can be included in a future road project through DOT grants. Mr. Guarriello said it is not probable that they will cover these costs because it is a County road. Councilwoman suggested curbing be considered in future road projects. Mr. Guarriello said curb, aprons and sidewalks are including in DOT projects done by the Borough.

At 7:51 p.m., Ms. Ariemma read the following resolution.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 14-220.1**

**CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LITIGATION RELATING ACP PARTNERSHIP v. GARWOOD TAX APPEAL, BLOCK 0301, LOT 0001, 550 SOUTH AVENUE, GARWOOD AND A PERSONNEL MATTER, 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 matters.

**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. 14-220.1 **Action:** Adopt, **Moved by Councilwoman Todisco, Seconded by Council President Palmer.**

Let the record reflect that no action will be taken during Closed Session.

**Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 6).

**Yes:** Council President Palmer, Councilman Martin, Councilman Mathieu, Councilman Nierstedt, Councilman Petruzzelli, Councilwoman Todisco.

At 8:50 p.m., a motion to end executive session was made by Councilman Nierstedt, seconded by Council President Palmer.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud no further report.

Administrator/Clerk – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS NONE

NEW BUSINESS NONE

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Palmer mentioned that she and Councilman Petruzzelli can't attend the next meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Brief discussion followed regarding canceling the meeting. All agreed to have the resolution read by the clerk and voted on later in the meeting. She mentioned the parking committee and Mayor Quattrocchi said she will be appointing the committee later.

Councilman Martin no report.

Councilman Mathieu asked about the process or procedures committee the mayor appointed. Mayor Quattrocchi said the committee met once and will continue to meet to discuss these matters.

Councilman Nierstedt inquired on the following:

1. With Flag Day last week, and Independence Day coming up in two weeks, I remind everybody of the American flag drop box located on Center Street above the brook. I want to publicly thank former Councilman Tim Hak who volunteered his time to empty and bring the flags to the Kenilworth VFW. The VFW Commander advised me today that he has three pick-up trucks full of flags and that they are arranging a July 4 'retirement' burn ceremony for them.
2. I am pleased to announce that three new recycling containers have been located at Washington and Lincoln Schools through the use of Clean Communities funds. There should now be equal garbage and recycling containers at each school.
3. I want to remind everyone once again of the free wood chips that are available at the eastern end of Willow Avenue near the DPW yard. Residents can pick them up at any reasonable time.
4. I'm not sure if everybody is aware of the flag pole on Center Street that was destroyed by a driver who left the scene of the accident, but the DPW is now looking into the costs of buying a new one – the initial estimate is around \$2,000.
5. Emergency Management Plan status? Back in January there were three openings on the committee- are they still open or have they been filled?
6. Parking Committee status? Second Avenue residents.
7. PSE&G study status?

Mayor Quattrocchi responded concerning the OEM Director by providing detailed information to council. Councilman Nierstedt responded this should be done before Hurricane season begins this year. There was discussion regarding the tree maintenance program run by the BPU and PSE&G.

Councilman Petruzzelli reported an informal estimate of \$60,000 for roof repair has been received from Fania Roofing. Also a proposal to replace the damaged carpeting has been received from Franklin Floors.

The cost for the damaged area is \$2,760.00 and for the adjacent office is \$3,585.00. The incident has been reported to the insurance company and an adjuster has inspected the claim, however a determination is still pending. In order to repair the roof, an emergency resolution for \$70,000 authorizing the expenditure has been prepared for council consideration. The resolution is deleted from the Consent Agenda and will be read in full under Resolutions deleted from the Consent Agenda.

The traffic light on the Corner of South and Center was ripped down by a driver of a tractor trailer on June 20, 2014. The matter has been referred to the insurance company for pursuit of the drivers insurance. The borough will pay for the replacement and be reimbursed minus our deductible. The insurance company will pursue the deductible but it could take time.

In order to authorize the repair/replacement to the traffic light, an award to Jen Electric for this work was approved by Chief Underhill in accordance with law and policy. There is an emergency resolution for \$40,000 authorizing this expenditure prepared for consideration this evening. This is being done as a precaution in the event the insurance payment is not obtained prior to the end of 2014. It is not anticipated that the funds for this will actually have to be raised in next year's budget.

He reported on the spraying of the brook for vegetative waste matter. There was a discussion regarding rats being spotted in other areas of town. There was a discussion regarding this matter. Ms. Ariemma said she would look for the notice done a few years ago.

Councilwoman Todisco mentioned the bus shelter on the corner of North seems to be on the sidewalk. She asked Mayor Quattrocchi to inquire with NJ Transit regarding the location of the shelter. She reported on the being reimbursed by the County for the TB program.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The following persons addressed the mayor and council.

Rick King 412 Hazel Avenue mentioned that his neighbor taking down a private tree was unable to complete the task and contacted the DPW for assistance. The DPW responded and cut a limb from the tree because it was deemed unsafe by the staff. There was a brief discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** 9:39 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Council President Palmer, **Seconded by** Councilman Nierstedt.

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