

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

WORKSHOP

MINUTES

July 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:

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|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Mayor Lombardo | P | | |
| Councilwoman Cuccaro | P | Councilman Sarno | P |
| Councilman Martin | ABSENT | Councilwoman Todisco | P |
| Councilman Mathieu | P | Council President Petruzzelli | P |

Also, present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma, Borough Attorney Robert Renaud and Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello.

Presentation: Mayor's Certificate of Award to Michael Ulaky for his service during WWII.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello – updated council on the following projects: Sidewalk program should start next week; 2015 DOT is on hold, he stated the project was supposed to start next week. The water company project is commencing soon; 609 East Street matter and vacating the street.

Mr. Guarriello explained the borough was contacted by a potential buyer for the house located at 609 East Street. The buyer a Garwood resident was inquiring about buying some of the property adjacent to the address that abuts the street. The buyer provided a survey that Mr. Guarriello determined that the area in question is not actually a block/lot but rather part of the street. He explained that council could vacate the street and it would then become part of the property however, he did not recommend that option.

Mr. Renaud commented and explained the public right of way. He explained council can allow a fence in the public right away. Questions were asked and comments continued. Councilwoman Todisco asked about the 2015 DOT. Discussion followed. Project is to be stopped to comply with the order. All agreed.

Borough Attorney Robert – mentioned the redevelopment resolution adopted by the Planning Board last evening. Mr. Renaud asked if council wants to meet with Affordable Housing (COAH representative, Jill Hartman). Mr. Renaud suggested July 26th. All agreed. Mr. Renaud asked if the Planner should be present. All agreed. Mr. Renaud mentioned the litigation regarding COAH's obligation. He explained the matter in detail. Discussion followed.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – asked council if they would like to participate in the 2016 Kid's Recreation Grant. The council decided not to participate for 2016.

Mr. Renaud mentioned advertising for redevelopment attorney to oversee the redevelopment matter. All agreed. Ms. Ariemma was directed to prepare and advertise the RFP.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - Mayor Lombardo

Here are the updates on issues that were brought before the Mayor and Council at our last meeting.

- 1) The van parked on the corner of Oak and Third labeled "Camera Police" is owned by the resident who lives on that particular corner. It is fully registered and legally parked.
- 2) The missing street sign on the corner of Myrtle Avenue and West was caused by a motor vehicle accident. There is an official Police Report on file.
- 3) I have made arrangements to have a representative of the Union County Mosquito Control Commission to make a presentation at the Garwood Senior Citizen Meeting. The program will be presented on Thursday, July 16th at 1:00 PM.
- 4) I reached out to the Union County Department of Human Services to discuss the "Seniors in Motion", part of Union County's initiative of "One County/ One Community" for the 2016 agenda. Through this initiative, the County would provide a 12 passenger van. The participating municipalities would be responsible for providing insurance, maintenance and a qualified driver with a CDL license. I personally spoke with the director of the initiative and asked her if the van was wheel chair accessible and she said no. She indicated that if this was a need, for an individual, she could secure a Union County Paratransit bus service. Just as a reminder, the Borough currently owns its own bus that is wheel chair accessible. In my opinion, this is a good program, but it would not be in the best interest of our Borough.

MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS:

- 1) This past Friday I had the pleasure of participating at the ribbon cutting at the new Food Emporium, located at the former Pathmark site on South Avenue. Our Food Emporium is the first of its kind in the entire state of New Jersey. The store brings much employment for Garwood residents. The store manager is a resident of Garwood, and the store employs about 100 people, the majority being Garwood residents.

2) I am happy to announce that Mayor's Saturday, scheduled for July 15th, has been cancelled. The reason I am pleased is because plans have been finalized with the Liquid Church to complete several projects in Garwood on that day, under their Summer Outreach Program.

First and foremost, in my opinion, is to give Borough Hall and Council Chambers a long overdue decorative facelift, not having been done in about 30 years. They have also accepted the task of installing a horse-shoe pit at the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex, as well as adding certified playground mulch in the play area of the Complex.

Councilwoman Todisco asked if the handicapped feature is used on our bus. Discussion followed concerning asking for funds vs accepting the van. Ms. Ariemma was directed to write to the County and ask for the funds instead of the van.

NEW BUSINESS - Councilwoman Cuccaro mentioned the fire truck being on the ballot. Ms. Ariemma said there are two council meetings prior to August 19. Brief discussion followed. Ms. Ariemma was directed to provide council with the procedure for submitting a question to the County Clerk to appear on the ballot for the 2016 General Election.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilwoman Cuccaro - NONE

Councilman Martin – ABSENT

Councilman Mathieu – NONE

Councilman Sarno – mentioned The Liquid Church project is commencing this weekend. He thanked the members and invited all to participate in this event.

Councilwoman Todisco – mentioned Planning Board refund matter. Brief discussion followed and the matter was referred to the Planning Board.

Council President Petruzzelli – mentioned the issue with the 2002 garbage truck and read the e-mail from Superintendent Dickson. Councilman Mathieu said the truck should be put out of service. Brief discussion followed. Council President Petruzzelli said the truck is not being used.

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.

Bill Nierstedt, 320 Hickory Avenue mentioned the fire truck matter and the redevelopment matter concerning requirements to obtain a fire truck. He suggested council seek information on that matter. He asked about bonding for a new garbage truck and certain council members opposing to buy a new garbage truck. He asked council reconsider buying a new garbage truck.

P. Mathieu 324 Pine Avenue said she heard it said the garbage truck is unsafe.

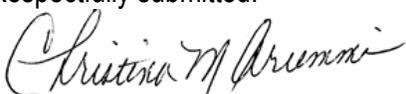
Matt Leonardelli, 352 Spruce Avenue explained 609 East Street matter and invited council to ask questions. No one responded.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue mentioned fire hydrant being moved and collapsing pavement. He mentioned the horseshoe pit for the complex and safety issues. He commented on the finances of the State and the issues. He commented on the County and the vans they are giving out.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:06 p.m. a motion to adjourn the workshop session was made by Councilwoman Todisco, followed by a second from Councilman Sarno.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood