

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING **July 22, 2014**

Workshop session was opened by Mayor Quattrocchi at 7:01 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 Tarantino, 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.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Fred Corbitt was present to report on mandatory leaf bagging procedures adopted last year. Councilman Nierstedt provided information on the program and requested Mr. Corbitt provide further information concerning overtime costs saved, use of the leaf vacuum and other curbside leaf removal matters. Council asked questions which Mr. Corbitt replied. They included resident compliance and complaints, leaf bag purchasing, equipment usage and maintenance. Councilwoman Todisco asked if any additional duties were performed by the department since leaf bag was reduced. Mr. Corbitt said leaves still have to be hauled which takes time however the department was able to focus on other tasks with the extra time. Councilman Nierstedt provided additional information on this subject.

Mr. Glenn Lewis, 451 Third Avenue, DPW Employee said he is surprised this is being discussed. He commented on how clean the town is with bagged leaves. He commented on the problems regarding leaf placement at the curb and other related matters.

Mr. Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue and Mr. Tom Pedas, 101 Chestnut Court commented on the matter. Councilman Mathieu also commented on the subject.

Mr. Ed Melka, 231 Spruce Avenue said the problem is landscapers. Mrs. Muska, 235 Spruce Avenue also commented on the subject.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello commented that the DOT project will start first week in August on Third Avenue.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud reported on the portable sign ordinance.

Administrator/Clerk – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS NONE

NEW BUSINESS NONE

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Tarantino reported that Laws and License has two outstanding ordinances to review and will be meeting next week finalize them. When they are ready, we will bring them before council for first reading.

Also Mayor, as everyone may be well aware, for the last couple of council meetings I have been bringing up the subject of lack of parking in the downtown area and the need for parking for commuters and residents and also for retail. Mayor, you were asked to put together a committee to review this situation and hopefully come up with a recommendation to bring to council. I'd like to report that the committee did meet last week and we had a good brainstorming session. A few ideas were thrown around that I am following up on and we will have another meeting soon to discuss the results. The goal is that one day we will have a recommendation to bring to council to help relieve the parking situation in the borough.

Thank you Mayor

Councilman Martin no report.

Councilman Mathieu no report.

Councilman Nierstedt no report.

Mayor Quattrocchi wished Councilman Nierstedt a very Happy Birthday.

She mentioned the OEM Director will be present at the August 12 meeting. She asked about recycling toner and ink cartridges. Councilman Nierstedt said he will get that information to her soon.

Councilman Petruzzelli no report.

Councilwoman Todisco mentioned the TB resolution matter. She has a sample resolution and provided council with the sample for consideration. She explained the matter in detail and asked for support. She commented on the BOH ordinance that regulates the sale of electronic cigarettes. She provided detailed information including how the regulation be implemented, the use of the funds collected and other related information.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following persons addressed the mayor and council.

Ed Melka 231 Spruce Avenue stated he is a lifetime resident. He commented on the flooding that was realized in his area during a recent heavy rain storm which he claims is a result of the construction of the AFC. Mayor Quattrocchi commented that the flooding during that heavy storm was realized in several other areas of town, including the underpass, North Avenue at the Cranford boarder. She referred the matter to Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello said the storm was a flash flood in which storm sewers are not designed to take away that much rain that fast so flooding is probable. He commented on the flooding at the AFC area. He explained how and why the water accumulates in that area relating to storm surge. He said almost every town along the corridor flooded during this storm. He said if you live in a flood zone these types of events will occur. Council President Tarantino said the residents know how their property behaves during flash floods. She said the residents are telling us they have a problem and we have to recognize it and fix it. Mr. Guarriello said nothing has changed and explained the detention basin at the AFC. The conversation continued and he explained that certain culverts at the edge of town cannot handle the flow. He said until the neighboring town makes improvements, the borough will continue to flood in certain areas. Mr. Melka commented further on the brook overflowing. He claims the flooding in his area is related to the AFC project, not to flash flooding. Council President Tarantino suggested something be done to correct the matter.

Paula Ehoff, 221 Spruce Avenue said this flooding was different than any other storm. She commented on the mulch put in the park traveling during storms and clogging storm drains. She commented on drains and other matters at the park. Mr. Guarriello commented on the asphalt holding a storm sewer plate. Discussion on the storm and rainfall continued. Mayor Quattrocchi commented on the Rahway River Watershed matter and Mr. Guarriello said if this is done, it will not improve the Cranford related matter. Councilman Mathieu said the jury is still out on whether or not the AFC is the cause or not the cause. He commented the AFC is a new variable that may be causing the flooding and that must be considered.

Irma Gaham 226 Spruce Avenue asked about how many trees where taken town. She asked balance be put back and the trees be replanted. Councilman Martin asked about Cranford improvements and Mr. Guarriello answered that Cranford has to do their brook.

Council suggested Council attend a meeting in the Township of Cranford to encourage them to make the repairs to stop the flooding.

Councilman Nierstedt commented on the trees and other related matters.

Al DelConte 545 Locust Avenue commented on the matters regarding the condition of the underpass, the fire hydrant that was replaced and is still not corrected, and the sink hole that continues to sink in front of his home. He commented that on the 500 and 600 block of East Street, that was recently paved are cracking. He suggested contractors and the water company be held accountable for these mistakes.

Councilman Nierstedt said he'd meet with Mr. DelConte tomorrow morning at his home. Mr. Guarriello said he is addressing the sink hole with the street department. He provided additional information and would contact the Water Company again. Mr. Guarriello suggested council add \$20,000 to annual budgets for road improvement purposes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: 8:22 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Council President Tarantino, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Todisco.

CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood