

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING **September 8, 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, and Councilwoman Todisco.

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

Council President Nierstedt is excused.

Presentation by Lt. Jim Wright of two AED's obtained through a grant. Council thanked the Lt. for his efforts for this grant and all the other grants he has obtained.

Presentation by Carol Kearny, Business and Industry/Chamber of Commerce Liaison. Carol presented the borough with a check for \$1,000 donation from Garwood Rocks. She thanked the Police, Christine Hendricks, Councilman Martin, DPW, and Fire Department among others. She reported that June 16, 2015 is set for Garwood Rocks 2016.

Gene Jannotti on behalf of the Chamber thanked Carol and announced other events and programs run by the chamber.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello reported that the DOT project is underway. He said the sidewalk bids are out and scheduled for receipt on September 29, 2015.

Councilwoman Todisco asked if the DOT memo can be reviewed by Streets and Roads. Mayor agreed. Councilman Petruzzelli asked if the engineer could inspect the 300 block Hemlock. Councilwoman Todisco asked questions about the memo. She mentioned paving the area behind the DPW.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud mentioned the completed ordinances and that the parking is on for introduction. He mentioned the dumpster ordinance and other ordinances. He updated council on the affordable housing (COAH) litigation.

Councilman Mathieu asked about the COAH litigation. Mr. Renaud answered his questions.

He asked about the assessment on tonight's agenda. Mr. Renaud answered and explained that when there is no curbing homeowners are assessed for the initial curbing.

Ms. Ariemma read the following:

[RESOLUTION NO. 15-253.1](#)

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING POTENTIAL LITIGATION BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD AND EQUIPMENT RENTAL SERVICES RELATING TO THE CONTRACT FOR USER FEE BASED RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP PROGRAM OF TYPE 13 SOLID WASTE, 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.

At 7:17 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Tarantino, seconded by Councilwoman Todisco to enter executive session with respect to contract with Equipment Rental Services relating to the User Fee Based Residential Cleanup Program for Type 13 Solid Waste. At 7:38 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Petruzzelli, seconded by Councilman Mathieu to resume the workshop session.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS –

Councilwoman Tarantino read a statement.

As some of you may have read in the paper last week, I have officially withdrawn my name for re-election. I made this decision for personal reasons and it was not an easy decision to make. This Friday I will be going out for elective surgery and I will be out of commission for a period of time. Due to this I will be unavailable to attend committee meetings nor do the work required for those committees. I would also most likely miss several council meetings. Over the last almost 3 years, I have come to find just how time consuming this job is. I do it because I love it and because I truly care for this town and the residents of Garwood. During the next few months I will not be able to give Garwood council the full attention that this job truly needs and deserves. For these reasons, I am announcing with heavy heart that this will be my last meeting. Please do not count me out totally. I do plan on being as involved as I can on citizen committees and who knows, maybe I'll even be behind the dais again in the future. When I was in high school, they gave a course in civics. I don't think those courses are taught anymore and that's really a disservice to society. Every day of my almost 3 years in the position I learned something new and I'm sure if I had the honor of being on another term I would continue to learn more. This is a tough job. Our Borough Administrator and Police Chief run this town along with other department heads and they do a phenomenal job. I'd like to thank Ms. Ariemma and Chief Underhill for all the hard work they do and for guiding me through this process and answering every phone call and email and trust me, there were plenty. Mayor and councilmembers, it has been a pleasure working with you and it has truly been an honor serving the citizens of Garwood. I hope I get the chance to serve in the future again. Thank you.

Councilman Martin asked if she will be involved and she said yes she will. Councilwoman Todisco said that she has enjoyed working with Ann and complimented her for stepping down and allowing another to fill the spot.

Mayor Lombardo reported:

First, two reminders: First, Shop Rite of Garwood is hosting a "Help Bag Hunger" day on Wednesday, September 16th, and I will be on hand to participate in the event at 4:00 PM. Please join me there for a good cause.

Also, on September 18th, at the Somerset Hills Hotel, I will be accepting the Planning Award for the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex, at their awards breakfast.

I've been informed by long-time resident Anne Leonard that our last surviving gold star mother, Mrs. Margaret Steets, mother of Kevin Corcoran whom we lost in Vietnam, has passed away. For those who don't remember small gold star banners hanging in windows during and since World War I, they symbolize that the mother has lost a son or daughter in the war. Mrs. Steets was the last of Garwood's gold star mothers, closing a sad historical chapter in our Borough.

Constitution Day and Citizen's Day in the United States is an annually observed event on September 17th. This event commemorates the formation and signing of the US Constitution on September 17th, 1787. It also recognizes all, who by coming of age or by naturalization have become United States Citizens.

At this time I would also like to take a moment to honor all those innocent people who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. May we have a moment of silence please. If you have an American Flag at home, please display it proudly on Friday, September 11th, now known as Patriot's Day. September 19th is Mayor's Saturday and I will be joined by Council President Nierstedt. Thank you.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Martin no report.

Councilman Mathieu no report.

Councilman Petruzzelli no report.

Councilwoman Tarantino reported that 12 spots have been painted at the First Aid Squad.

Councilwoman Todisco commended Carol Kearny for her dedication to Garwood Rocks. She thanked Lt. Wright for preparing a grant for the AED's. She mentioned the dumpster ordinance has been given to council and she asked for discussion. Councilman Mathieu asked about the charge for person's that put them on their own property. Councilman Mathieu suggested that the fees are too high and that charging people for putting on their own property is unfair. Brief discussion followed which included the proposed fees. All agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

Council President Nierstedt absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bruce Paterson 325 Willow Avenue mentioned the dumpster ordinance and the fees. He made other suggestions and mentioned the residents on some streets do not have driveways and must put dumpsters in the street. He mentioned curbing and assessments.

Igor Flitsanov 301 New Street asked questions about the assessment and Mr. Renaud explained the process.

Paul Nieves 263 Fourth Avenue mentioned that he feels the man cannot get in his house. Brief discussion followed.

Councilwoman Todisco mentioned she would have the Streets and Roads Committee investigate the matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: 8:05 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Councilwoman Todisco, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Tarantino.