

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING **September 23, 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.

At the commencement of the meeting, Mayor Quattrocchi made the following statement:

“An issue has been brought to my attention recently about an invitation to a political event being distributed by the Garwood Facebook page.

It should be noted that this is the first meeting of the borough council since the event took place so the incident has not been discussed by the governing body.

I spoke to the clerk, who operates the Facebook page, about this issue as well as to our borough attorney. After this issue arose, the Borough of Garwood Facebook page was deactivated. Our attorney is of the opinion that the municipality should not have Facebook page because inappropriate content can be posted and because the governing body has not adopted any policies regarding its operation.

The recent Facebook event was apparently reported to the County Prosecutor and the Board of Elections. If they undertake an investigation the Borough of course will fully cooperate.”

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello no report. Councilman Nierstedt asked if Mr. Guarriello looked at the street by Knights of Columbus to include for 2015 DOT paving. He said it would be between 50-75 thousand dollars. Brief discussion followed. All agreed. Councilman Mathieu asked Mr. Guarriello is input concerning the AFC project. Mr. Guarriello said he feels we are moving along well and there is light at the end of the tunnel. Brief discussion followed. There was discussion regarding children playing on the unfinished field and climbing the fence. Brief discussion followed.

Councilman Petruzzelli asked why the inlets were put in close. Mr. Guarriello explained how the grading is determined.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud reported the dumpster ordinance is up for introduction. He mentioned a development on South Avenue that is requesting council authorize a loading zone in front of the property. He commented on other matters he is researching at the request of the Borough Administrator, including COAH requirements and Tax Abatement payments at the Village at Garwood property. Discussion followed and all agreed to attend the Planning Board Meeting for October 8th. Ms. Ariemma was directed to notify the newspaper accordingly.

Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina Ariemma – ***NO REPORT***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE.

NEW BUSINESS – NONE.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Tarantino mentioned that the procedures committee will be meeting soon to complete tasks. The parking committee is meeting on October 1, 2014.

Councilman Martin ***NO REPORT***

Councilman Mathieu asked what the responsibility of the procedures committee is. Council President Tarantino and Mayor Quattrocchi responded. Brief discussion followed regarding the parking committee.

Councilman Nierstedt reported:

1. I attended last week's CDBG meeting in Cranford. Applications for 2015-16 are due this fall. The Boro Clerk and I discussed the Boro's applications today. We have traditionally received less than \$20,000/year and these funds have been used for the senior bus, the senior programs, and the handyman program. Last year we also submitted a request for funding for the 'In Need of Redevelopment Studies' for the North Avenue Paperboard company and the South Avenue Petro properties, and we were denied. I have encouraged the clerk to submit a new application this year for just the Paperboard property. We are open to suggestions from other Council members.
2. I also attended – with Councilwoman Todisco –last night's Cranford's governing body workshop meeting to discuss the Garwood Brook/Orchard Creek flooding issues. Cranford received us favorably and the township engineer updated us on the project. He has learned that the original DEP permits have expired, and the DEP stream flood control design standards have changed. He is currently scheduling a meeting with NJDEP to see if they will allow the project to advance under the Permit Extension Act. They do want to advance the project. We volunteered our assistance in any way that we can. They also asked us what measures Garwood was taking to reduce water runoff, as Cranford had already amended their storm water ordinance to encourage rain gardens and reduce impervious coverage. I said that we would be more than happy to review Cranford's ordinance to see if we should adopt anything they already have.
3. Resolution # 14 – Combining the County Sheriff and Police Divisions status.
4. Planning Board – COAH Affordable Housing fair Share Plan Update.

Councilman Petruzzelli mentioned there are issues with postal mail delivery in the borough. Brief discussion followed and it was concluded that Mayor Quattrocchi would send a letter to the congressman.

Councilwoman Todisco mentioned that the Cranford meeting began with the Board of Health meeting and there was discussion regarding rat problem in the Township. She commented that the problem seems to be worst in other areas including Cranford. She suggested a shared agreement for exterminating services for borough residents to utilize at a better rate.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Pedas 101 Chestnut Court asked about the security system at the complex. He shared a story of his visit to the complex. Councilman Petruzzelli said the camera system is a onetime finish and will be done when the project is more complete.

Bruce Paterson 325 Willow Avenue mentioned putting a tarp over to prevent children from getting in. He asked about the merging police departments and Council President Todisco responded.

Al DelConte 545 Locust Avenue mentioned the fire hydrant matter and the work done by the water company. He said the road/street has not been fixed, neither has the curb. Brief discussion followed. Mr. Guarriello will contact the water company again. There was more discussion and Mr. Guarriello said he would check with the DPW to determine if they obtained a permit. Councilman Nierstedt said he would follow up with the company again. There was a discussion regarding the length of time involved in making repairs to roads damaged by utility companies.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: At 8:04 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Councilman Martin **Seconded by** Councilman Petruzzelli.

CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood