

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

Workshop Session MINUTES of the COUNCIL MEETING **October 14, 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:

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.

Mayor Quattrocchi presented acknowledgements to the participants in "A Night Under the Stars" held on September 19, 2014 and sponsored by the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Garwood Family Y, and Spencer Savings Bank. They included Kathleen Villaggio, Chair of Garwood Celebrations Committee, Carol Kearney, Vice-President to the Chamber and Business and Industry Liaison to the Mayor and Council, Marta Alexandre, Spencer Savings Bank, Bonnie Cohen, Garwood Family Y, Christopher DeVine, Chair to the Chamber, Police Chief Bruce Underhill on behalf of the Garwood Police Department, and Fred Corbitt on behalf of the Garwood Street Department.

At 7:16 Ms. Ariemma read the following resolution.

Executive Session: Resolution No. 14-263.1

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ANTICIPATED LITIGATION RELATING TO THE CONTRACT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE ATHLETIC FIELD COMPLEX PROJECT IN WHICH THE PUBLIC BODY MAY BECOME PARTY, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT INVOLVING SAME 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 matter.

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: 7:17 p.m., Action: Enter Closed Session, Moved by Councilman Nierstedt, Seconded by Councilman Martin.

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

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

At 7:38 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Nierstedt, seconded by Councilwoman Todisco to end the executive session and the workshop session resumed.

Discussion regarding loading zone in front of new development on South Avenue. Councilman Nierstedt updated council on how the matter came to be. Chief Underhill stated the traffic division is reviewing the matter with the County and he will update when the report is received. It was concluded that when the traffic report is ready this would be revisited. Mr. Renaud explained that he would like to hear from the County regarding the matter and they have to adopt the legislation.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello reported the DOT project continues this week and should wrap up by next week. Council President Tarantino asked about the closing of South Avenue. Council President Tarantino asked about sidewalk work on Center Street and the failure to repair the brick pavers. Chief Underhill asked about the DOT work on Oak Street and mentioned the contractor may have broken the sidewalk. Mr. Guarriello to check.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud reported that the tax appeals for the North Avenue development have been withdrawn and dismissed.

Administrator/Clerk – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Tarantino reported the dumpster ordinance is up for adoption and asked if anyone has questions. No response. She mentioned the one seat ride and that Councilman Nierstedt will report later.

Councilman Martin no report.

Councilman Mathieu asked about Police contract negotiations. Councilman Martin responded he has a report for this evening. He also asked about the Parks and Rec ordinance and Council President Tarantino responded the committee is meeting next week to finalize the ordinance for council consideration.

Councilman Nierstedt reported on the status of the one seat ride. There was discussion regarding the matter. Council President Tarantino mentioned the special meeting on October 27th. She suggested all attend this important meeting. Councilman Nierstedt commented on the Planning Board meeting attended by council last week, specifically the Master Plan and COAH. He commented on the closing of South Avenue for construction. Chief Underhill reported the road will not be completed closed at all times and commented further. Councilman Nierstedt commented on an article in the newspaper concerning the former regional school system.

Councilman Petruzzelli no report.

Councilwoman Todisco reported:

County Police/Sheriff Resolution

I'm sure everyone has noticed Resolution 14-270 about Union County Sheriff and Police Departments. Unfortunately, although I had most of the research complete about how the other 20 counties in the state operate their Sheriff and/or Police Departments, I was still waiting for a couple call backs when Ms. Ariemma needed to know whether or not to put the resolution on the agenda last Wednesday.

However, I received information for each of the 20 other counties by Friday. With that said, this resolution definitely needs to be amended. In contacting the counties, I was told that Bergen, Camden, and Hudson counties have separate Sheriff and Police Departments. The one that struck me as odd was Bergen County since they have been in the news about merging, but I spoke with 2 different staff members there that said they were not merging. The research also showed that many other counties do not have a county police department at all. With that said, I feel the resolution needs to be amended to state that most other counties do not have separate Police and Sheriff Departments and we should also take out the line about how much Bergen County is projected to save.

Also, I do not feel comfortable passing a resolution requesting Union County to merge, but instead, it would be better to ask them to look into a merge. In looking at the County's 2014 budget, about 18% of its total budget is spent on Public Safety, which is only second to General Government by about 1.5%. About \$91.6 million was appropriated in 2014 for Public Safety. When broken down, the Sheriff's Department was appropriated about \$17 million in Salaries & Wages this year and about \$360,000 for other expenses. The County Police Department was allocated about \$7.9 million in Salaries & Wages and about \$200,000 in other expenses.

I know we have discussed this issue a bit in prior meetings, so I would be in favor of either deleting this resolution or rewriting a new one for the next meeting or amending this resolution tonight so that we can vote on it. What does everyone else think?

County Freeholder Meeting Schedule

Speaking of the County, I thought it would be a good idea to bring up the Freeholder Rotating Schedule tonight. We haven't heard a report from the Freeholder meetings in a while. As a reminder, Ann is this month, I am next month, and Lou is December.

Tax Assessor

I have one last workshop report that has to do with Finance. Last year, we brought in the tax assessor Ann Switzer to speak to the Council and the public about the idea of a revaluation. She did not recommend it at that time, since Garwood was in the proper range as determined by state guidelines and it is a very costly

action. As I mentioned last year, I think it may be a good idea to invite her to speak again this year about this subject and perhaps make it an annual report. What does everyone else think?
There was discussion on these subjects. All agreed to delete the resolution from the consent agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bruce Paterson 325 Willow Avenue mentioned the merger resolution and commented further.

Al DelConte 545 Locust Avenue thanked Donald Guarriello and council for getting the water company to fix the area in front of his house particularly the fire hydrant. He suggested council have guidelines for repairing areas disrupted by the company.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: 8:14 p.m. Workshop, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Councilman Nierstedt, **Seconded by** Councilwoman Todisco.

CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood