

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
October 25, 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).

<b>Mayor Lombardo</b>	<b>P</b>		
<b>Councilwoman Cuccaro</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman Sarno</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Martin</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>Councilwoman Todisco</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Mathieu</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Council President Petruzzelli</b>	<b>P</b>

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

Borough Clerk read Resolution 16-282.1

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-282.1**

**CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH AVENUE PROJECT 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 subject 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; Councilman Sarno, Second, Councilwoman Todisco to adopt Resolution No. 16-282.1.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilwoman Cuccaro</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Sarno</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Martin</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>Councilwoman Todisco</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Mathieu</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Petruzzelli</b>	<b>AYE</b>

Workshop Resumed at 8:08 p.m.

Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello mentioned the County will inspect Center Street. Quotes received ranged from \$750.00 to \$5,100 for line stripe.

Councilwoman Todisco asked what about the plan for paving outside borough hall. Discussion followed. Mayor Lombardo read an e-mail concerning a citizen requested blue lines be painted. Councilman Petruzzelli said in other towns the DPW have done this work. He suggested red, white and blue. Mr.

Guarriello said you need two double yellow lines. Councilwoman Todisco suggested Streets and Roads review this before a decision is made.

Mr. Guarriello mentioned the sidewalk program is complete. He stated the DOT project is to start around Thanksgiving. Mr. Guarriello suggested we hold off till spring. All agreed to wait until spring. Councilwoman Cuccaro asked if the sidewalk work has been inspected. Mr. Guarriello said it was inspected. Mayor Lombardo mentioned the paving on Myrtle Avenue. Councilman Petruzzelli mentioned the inspection on Center Street. He asked when the sidewalk would be put in at Center and South. Discussion followed and it was determined that the county be contacted to find out when it will be finished. Mr. Guarriello will contact the county.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud - **NO REPORT**

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

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Lombardo:

The fall/winter edition of the Garwood Gazette is in final review by the editors and is expected to be at the printer the end of this week or early next week. I thank those departments that submitted information to the Gazette.

I have an update on our newest ribbon cutting events:

Experts of Home - 70 North Avenue - November 5 at 12 noon

Active Life Fitness - 94 North Avenue - November 5 at 12:30 PM

South Avenue Arts - 221 South Avenue - November 12 at noon

I would personally like to thank all the organizations and residents that participated in the 26th annual Clean Communities event this past Saturday. There was a total of 113 participants, which was one of the largest groups we've have in recent years.

I have met with Ms. Vicki Drake, Administrator of the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund on behalf of Freeholder BJ Kowalski. I explained the purpose of what we wanted to accomplish by passing this resolution.

Mayor's Saturday will be held this Saturday, October 29th at 11:00 AM in Council Chambers. We encourage residents to stop by to ask questions, express concerns, or just to chat.

Because of election Day on November 8th, there will be no council meeting on that date. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Garwood Borough Council will take place on Tuesday, November 15th.

### NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ariemma brought up Senior Focus grant. It was concluded that the borough apply for the full grant amount of \$25,000.

### Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilwoman Cuccaro - 1/ I am still advocating for bringing bulk back. A lot of residents even after all of these years are still unhappy about the cut to this service.

2/ We received a very nice thank you e-mail from a resident in assisting them in getting their fire hydrant painted. I brought this up at the last meeting. He even sent over the photo of this nice and shiny hydrant.

He thought it would have taken forever to have them get out there but he came home one day and there it was all spiffed up. I have been riding around town looking at other hydrants and there are plenty that are in need of sprucing up. So if anyone has a hydrant outside of their home or on their street I would suggest calling the water company and putting in the request. It is amazing how a freshly painted hydrant can make the whole street look better.

4/ Now for this one Mayor I would hope I would not hear the gavel please. I have had people stopping at my house as well as at least a dozen phone calls concerning people questioning their candidates of choice signs on private property. This happened all of last year when councilman sarno and I ran, but we chose to take the high road and ignore it. But this year it has reached epidemic proportions, as well as a lot of theft of national election signs. Some residents have even caught people doing it, and following them home to question their trespassing and theft.

Since when in Garwood has our freedom of speech by having our candidate of choice signs on our own property been questioned? A few people I have spoken to also felt intimidated enough to remove the sign as to not cause any other consternation. This is a travesty. Please people have some respect, I would never in my wildest dreams think to question anyone concerning the signs they choose to display no matter the party affiliation. NEVER.

We can all have a difference of opinion and agree to disagree in any circumstance, but this is not about going along to get along. We ran a campaign last year about giving a voice back to the people, and I am very proud to say that I think we are accomplishing that. Everyone needs to realize that we are all human beings and as such should be treated with respect.

Councilman Martin **ABSENT**

Councilman Mathieu mentioned that two Middlesex County towns are being forced to reassess. He suggested council consider not waiting for a court order to address this matter. Brief discussion followed.

Councilman Sarno - thanked everyone for acknowledging the loss of his mother. He commented on the Planning Board appointments. Chatham votes on the Mayor's appointments and asked Mr. Renaud to provide an explanation. He commented on opposition to the gas tax. Brief discussion followed.

Councilwoman Todisco commented on the retroactive resolution and the message that it sends. Ms. Ariemma was directed to put the resolution on the agenda. Councilwoman Cuccaro supports the resolution.

Councilwoman Todisco - Councilwoman Cuccaro and I happened to be invited to attend a training this past Saturday on Planning and Zoning Boards held by the New Jersey Planning Officials. It was all the way out in Hillsborough, but we took the morning drive out there. To start the workshop, they begin by telling us there would be a test at the end. What a way to wake everyone up! Although some were concerned, the teacher inside me wasn't worried. Sure enough, Councilwoman Cuccaro and I aced our tests at the end.

In all seriousness though, it was an eye-opening experience because it gave a thorough walk through of the different Planning and Zoning Board procedures and the role of the County Planning Board. There was some talk of redevelopment in general as that is a major issue across the state. During the end of the presentation, the awards given by the NJPO were mentioned. I wanted to share this since Garwood has recently received two awards from the NJPO—one for the Recreation Complex and the other for The Pointe/Muse. Since we were not required to take the class, we both decided to reimburse the Borough for our registrations, but we appreciated the opportunity to learn a bit more about the Planning and Zoning Boards as they are a key component to the functionality of our Borough.

Council President Petruzzelli - mentioned the revaluation cost and bonding for it. He suggested the garbage truck be purchased vs. the revaluation. He mentioned the \$5,000 check received for the tree planting from Open Space Trust Fund.

**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.

Pat Di Fabio, 414 Hemlock Avenue read a prepared statement and asked Councilman Mathieu questions. Councilman Mathieu responded he does know how much revenue is received regarding the complex and he said smaller units for the redevelopment project however not sure how small.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue mentioned the cost for re-assessment vs. revaluation. He mentioned the gas tax and the ballot question. He commented on the resolutions and suggested it address the expenditures as well. He mentioned painting blue lines is ridiculous. He suggested banners vs. painting the streets.

Councilwoman Todisco commented on the cost for revaluation which is Garwood's only option.

Jenn Blumenstock, 315 Spruce Avenue mentioned a business owner requesting a bench outside their business. Mayor Lombardo responded he has directed this business owner to contact the Chamber of Commerce.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:55 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