

BOROUGH of GARWOOD

MINUTES of the SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2014

The Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers and called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Quattrocchi. She asked all present to participate in a moment of silence, followed by a salute to the flag.

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader and Star Ledger on October 31, 2014 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).

Mayor Quattrocchi asks at this time please turn your cell phones to off or vibrate.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Quattrocchi, Council President Tarantino, Councilman Martin, Councilman Mathieu, Councilman Nierstedt, Councilman Petruzzelli, Councilwoman Todisco.

Also Present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina Ariemma

Mayor Quattrocchi announced:

This special meeting is called to discuss *the proposed ordinance changes to Chapter 126, PARKS, FACILITIES, PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION in the code of the Borough of Garwood. NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AT THIS MEETING.*

Mayor Quattrocchi mentioned we will take recommendations and that the ordinance will be on the November 18th agenda for introduction and adoption at the following meeting. Mayor Quattrocchi gave in depth background information on the committee that was put together and the proposed ordinance.

Council President Tarantino thanked everyone for coming. Council President Tarantino reported on the work the committee did to prepare the ordinance. She gave a detailed report on the proposed ordinance and amendments to be considered.

MAYOR QUATTROCCHI CALLED FOR DISCUSSION:

Councilman Mathieu spoke about business vs. calendar days. He suggested changing business to calendar days in the ordinance. Councilman Mathieu asked about the section to be amended in the ordinance concerning fireworks at the field. Ms. Ariemma stated fireworks at the field would only take place with the permission of Mayor and Council and is not recommended because of the turf field.

Ms. Ariemma reported that people or organizations can apply through my office to use the facility via permit or agreement and thoroughly explained the process. She also explained agreements must be approved by the Council and then is submitted to Green Acres for approval. There was lengthy discussion.

Councilman Mathieu mentioned the lights are extremely bright. Councilman Petruzzelli responded he has been in touch with PSE&G concerning the lights. Ms. Ariemma stated she also spoke with representatives concerning visors on the lights and moving them down. Councilman Petruzzelli further responded regarding addressing the bright lights. There was further discussion.

Councilman Nierstedt thanked everyone involved in preparing the ordinance. Councilman Nierstedt asked if it was necessary to repeat some of the wording numerous times throughout the ordinance. Ms. Ariemma will check with the borough attorney. Ms. Ariemma also clarified various sections that Councilman Nierstedt has questions on.

Ms. Ariemma suggested making changes tonight in order to introduce the ordinance at the next meeting.

There were questions concerning the fees for use of the complex. Ms. Ariemma explained how the fee amounts were determined.

Ms. Ariemma thoroughly explained certificate of liability insurance that may be required for organizations in certain situations.

Further lengthy discussion took place concerning amendments to be made to the ordinance.

Discussion concerning background checks took place.

Councilwoman Todisco also had questions concerning dogs in the park and fees concerning use of the park. Ms. Ariemma answered her questions.

Ms. Ariemma discussed no smoking in the park. It was concluded that Chapter 99 be amended to read no smoking in any borough park.

Councilman Petruzzelli discussed the fields that would be locked and unlocked.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jeff Breen, 115 Myrtle Avenue asked questions concerning the lighting. Councilman Petruzzelli answered his questions. Mr. Breen asked about the surveillance cameras and the scope. Police Chief Underhill also responded to Mr. Breen's questions and concerns. Mr. Breen asked who is being solicited to use the field. Councilman Petruzzelli responded we are not going to solicit.

Richard King, 412 Hazel Avenue thanked the Mayor for asking him to be on the committee. He mentioned an anonymous letter that residents received regarding this meeting and the proposed ordinance. He stated this is cowardly and false information being distributed.

Angelo Alimonti, 321 Hemlock Avenue thanked and complimented everyone for completing the project and the insurance angle of the project. Mr. Alimonti asked if the cafeteria is open to the public. Ms. Ariemma explained it is a prep kitchen not a cafeteria.

Mike Vena, 210 New Street commended the board and committee. He asked about having more lights with less wattage. Councilman Petruzzelli answered the lights we have are recommended at that wattage and placement.

Mr. Vena asked about overflow parking. Councilman Petruzzelli answered Mr. Vena's concerns. Ms. Ariemma also suggested certain users may be required to hire police to direct traffic and that may be considered in an agreement.

Mr. Vena asked why the park is being closed to the public at any point. Councilman Petruzzelli responded, summer recreation would be an example of why the park would be closed to the public.

Mr. Vena asked if an attendant would be hired and who would be paying for this.

Ms. Ariemma explained that regulations in the Green Acres Grant require the fees collected for by users must be put in a dedicated fund and used to pay for capital expenses, maintenance and operation of the complex.

Mr. Vena expressed his opinion on soccer field being open and baseball field being locked.

There was discussion concerning the baseball field being locked.

Councilwoman Todisco wanted to further discuss the lighting. Lengthy discussion took place.

ADJOURNMENT

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on, **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014**, in Council Chambers at 7:15 p.m. Workshop Session to start at 7:00 p.m.

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND ON THE UNION COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT YEAR 41 PROPOSALS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014, AT 7:15 P.M. OR SOON THERE AFTER.

At 8:50 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Nierstedt, seconded by Councilwoman Todisco. All Ayes.

CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood