

Borough of Garwood
REORGANIZATION MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 2, 2018

Start time: 7:00 p.m.
 Please stand for a Moment of Silence.....

Salute to the Flag.....

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, advertised on December 21, 2017, and 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).

This meeting is called pursuant to the State Statutes for the purpose of organizing the Governing Body for the year 2018, to make appointments and to transact any business pertinent thereto.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Lombardo	P		
Councilwoman Blumenstock	P	Councilman Lazarow	P
Councilwoman Cuccaro	P	Councilman Sarno	P

Mayor Lombardo announced:

The first order of business is to administer the oath of office to:
 Councilwoman Sara Todisco – for a three-year term
 Councilman Elect Richard McCormack – for a three-year term

Mayor Lombardo requested that Councilwoman Todisco be escorted to the rostrum.
 The Oath of Office was administered by Sheriff Corvelli while Angelo Alimonti and Pat DiFabio held the Bible.

Mayor Lombardo requested that Councilman Elect McCormack be escorted to the rostrum.
 The Oath of Office was administered by Ms. Ariemma while his grandchildren held the Bible.

Mayor Lombardo requests ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Blumenstock	P	Councilman McCormack	P
Councilwoman Cuccaro	P	Councilman Sarno	P
Councilman Lazarow	P	Councilwoman Todisco	P

At this time Mayor Lombardo announced anyone in the audience wishing to make a presentation, may do so now. NONE.

Mayor Lombardo asked the Borough Council to nominate and elect a Council President.

Council President Todisco nominated Councilwoman Blumenstock, seconded by Councilman Lazarow
 Councilman McCormack nominated Councilwoman Cuccaro, seconded by Councilwoman Cuccaro.

Mayor Lombardo requested ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	NAY
Councilwoman Cuccaro	NAY	Councilman Sarno	ABSTAIN
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE

Mr. Renaud mentioned a 3/2 vote passes.
 Councilwoman Blumenstock was voted in as Council President.
 Ms. Ariemma expected to vote on the second nomination but was not called to do so.

Mayor Lombardo swore in Sergeant P.J. Lewis while his family held the Bible.

Mayor Lombardo presented former Councilman Louis Petruzzelli with a resolution acknowledging his years of service.

APPOINTMENTS 2018

Mayor Lombardo makes the following nominations, followed by roll call vote.

Municipal Attorney for 2018: Robert F. Renaud, Esq., of Palumbo Renaud & DeAppolonio, LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 18-001

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood are required to contract for Professional Municipal Attorney Services to provide Legal Counsel and other legal services to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood posted in accordance with law on November 14, 2017, and received proposals on November 30, 2017, under a fair and open process in accordance with P.L. 2004, c.19, as amended by P.L. 2005, c.51; and

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood:

1. That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Palumbo & Renaud, Esq., 190 North Avenue East, Cranford, NJ 07016, for the provision of professional municipal attorney services for the Borough of Garwood; and
2. That said Contractor shall receive fees not to exceed appropriations for 2018 Legal Fees in accordance with the 2018 Municipal Budget in accordance with the proposal dated November 30, 2017; and
3. That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and
4. That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-001 was made by Councilwoman Todisco and seconded by Council President Blumenstock.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

Council President Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	NAY
Councilwoman Cuccaro	NAY	Councilman Sarno	NAY
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE
Mayor Lombardo	AYE		

4-AYE, 3-NAY, Resolution 18-001 was adopted.

Municipal Tax Appeal Attorney for 2018: Robert F. Renaud, Esq., of Palumbo Renaud & DeAppolonio, LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 18-002

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood are required to contract for Professional Legal Services to provide Tax Appeal Counsel to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood posted in accordance with law on November 14, 2017, and received proposals on November 30, 2017, under a fair and open process in accordance with P.L. 2004, c.19, as amended by P.L. 2005, c.51; and

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood:

That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Palumbo & Renaud, Esq., 190 North Avenue East, Cranford, NJ 07016, for the provision of professional services for tax appeal counsel for the Borough of Garwood; and

That said Contractor shall receive fees not to exceed appropriations for 2018 Legal Fees for Tax Appeals in accordance with the 2018 Municipal Budget in accordance with the proposal dated November 30, 2017; and

That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and

That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-002 was made by Council President Blumenstock and seconded by Councilman Lazarow.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

Council President Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	NAY
Councilwoman Cuccaro	NAY	Councilman Sarno	NAY
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE
Mayor Lombardo	AYE		

4-AYE, 3-NAY, Resolution 18-002 was adopted.

Municipal Labor Attorney for 2018: Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq., of Cleary.Giacobbe.Alfieri.Jacobs, LLC

RESOLUTION NO. 18-003

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood are required to contract for Professional Legal Services to provide Labor Counsel to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood posted in accordance with law on November 14, 2017, and received proposals on November 30, 2017, under a fair and open process in accordance with P.L. 2004, c.19, as amended by P.L. 2005, c.51; and

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood:

That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Matthew J. Giacobbe, Esq., Cleary.Giacobbe.Alfieri.Jacobs, LLC, 169 Ramapo Valley Road, Oakland, NJ 07436 for the provision of professional services for labor counsel for the Borough of Garwood; and

That said Contractor shall receive fees not to exceed appropriations for 2018 Legal Fees for Labor Counsel in accordance with the 2018 Municipal Budget in accordance with the proposal dated November 30, 2017; and

That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and

That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-003 was made by Councilman Sarno and seconded by Councilwoman Todisco.

Discussion: NONE.

Roll Call:

Council President Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilwoman Cuccaro	AYE	Councilman Sarno	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Resolution 18-003 was adopted.

Municipal Prosecutor for 2018: Steven H. Merman, Esq.

[RESOLUTION NO. 18-004](#)

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood are required to contract for Professional Legal Services to provide a Municipal Prosecutor to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood posted in accordance with law on November 14, 2017, and received proposals on November 30, 2017, under a fair and open process in accordance with P.L. 2004, c.19, as amended by P.L. 2005, c.51; and

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood:

1. That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Steven H. Merman, Esq., 19 Doering Way, Cranford, NJ 07016 for the provision of professional services for municipal prosecutor services for the Borough of Garwood; and
2. That said Contractor shall receive fees not to exceed appropriations for 2018 Municipal Budget in accordance with the proposal dated November 30, 2017; and
3. That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and
4. That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-004 was made by Council President Blumenstock and seconded by Councilwoman Todisco.

Discussion: NONE.

Roll Call:

Council President Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilwoman Cuccaro	AYE	Councilman Sarno	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Resolution 18-004 was adopted.

Municipal Public Defender for 2018: Michael S. Simitz, Esq.

[RESOLUTION NO. 18-005](#)

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood are required to contract for Professional Legal Services to provide a Municipal Public Defender to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood posted in accordance with law on November 14, 2017, and received proposals on November 30, 2017, under a fair and open process in accordance with P.L. 2004, c.19, as amended by P.L. 2005, c.51; and

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood:

That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Michael S. Simitz, Esq., 345 Hemlock Avenue, Garwood, NJ 07027 for the provision of professional services for municipal public defender services for the Borough of Garwood; and

That said Contractor shall receive fees not to exceed appropriations for 2018 Municipal Budget in accordance with the proposal dated November 30, 2017; and

That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and

That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-005 was made by Councilman Lazarow and seconded by Council President Blumenstock.

Discussion: NONE.

Roll Call:

Council President Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilwoman Cuccaro	AYE	Councilman Sarno	NAY
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE

4-AYES, 1-NAY - Resolution 18-005 was adopted.

Municipal Engineering Services for 2018: Michael Disko, M. Disko Associates Consulting Engineering
RESOLUTION NO. 18-006

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood are required to contract for Professional Engineering Services to provide engineering and other related services to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood posted in accordance with law on November 14, 2017, and received proposals on November 30, 2017, under a fair and open process in accordance with P.L. 2004, c.19, as amended by P.L. 2005, c.51; and

WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood:

That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Michael Disko, M. Disko Associates Consulting Engineering, P.O. Box 1627, Union, New Jersey, 07083, for the provision of professional engineering services for the Borough of Garwood; and

That said Contractor shall receive fees not to exceed appropriations for 2018 Engineering Fees in accordance with the 2018 Municipal Budget and 2018 Capital Budget and other related appropriations, in accordance with the proposal dated November 30, 2017; and

That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and

That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-006 was made by Councilwoman Todisco and seconded by Council President Blumenstock.

Discussion: NONE.

Roll Call:

Council President Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilwoman Cuccaro	AYE	Councilman Sarno	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Resolution 18-006 was adopted.

Planning Board Liaison, Class III for 2018: Joseph Sarno, III, Councilman
RESOLUTION NO. 18-007

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby appoint Councilman Joseph Sarno, III as Planning Board Liaison, Class III, for January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

A motion to adopt Resolution No. 18-007 was made by Councilman McCormack and seconded by Councilman Sarno.

Discussion: NONE.

Roll Call:

Council President Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilwoman Cuccaro	ABSTAIN	Councilman Sarno	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE

5-AYE, 1-ABSTAIN, Resolution 18-007 was adopted.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Adoption upon Roll Call)

"Consent agenda items are considered to be routine and will be enacted with a single motion; any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of funds; any item requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda; all Consent Agenda items will be reflected in the full minutes."

- 18-008 Appointing Municipal Court Judge
- 18-009 Adopting By-Laws for 2018
- 18-010 Council Meeting Schedule for 2018
- 18-011 Official Newspapers for 2018
- 18-012 Depositories for all Funds
- 18-013 Depositories for Developers Escrow Account for 2018
- 18-014 Depositories for 2018 Municipal Court Funds
- 18-015 Depository for Savings & Investment Accounts for 2018
- 18-016 Authorizing mileage reimbursement for attendance at meetings
- 18-017 Authorizing the tax collector to conduct a tax sale
- 18-018 Interest charges on delinquent taxes and assessments
- 18-019 Delinquent tax rate for 2018
- 18-020 Setting rate for duplicate tax sale certificates

- 18-021 Authorizing cancellation of tax refunds less than \$10.00
- 18-022 Authorizing ADP Payroll Services as payroll service
- 18-023 Appointing Michael Disko Collection System Operator for 2018
- 18-024 Appointing Bond Counsel Steven L. Rogut, Esq.
- 18-025 Appointing Linwood Navarro as DPW Foreman.
- 18-026 Appointing Sandra Bruns as Tax Search Officer
- 18-027 Appointing Christina Ariemma as Assessment Search Officer
- 18-028 Appointing Christina Ariemma as Public Agency Compliance
- 18-029 Appointing Kathleen J. Wierzbinski as Clean Communities Coordinator
- 18-030 Appointing Allen Tweedle as Fire Chief
- 18-031 Appointing John Scalzadonna as Assistant Fire Chief
- 18-032 Appointing Leonard Spina as Superintendent of Fire Apparatus
- 18-033 Appointing Len Spina as Fire Official
- 18-034 Appointing Special Police Officers "Class B" School Crossing Guards
- 18-035 Appointing Special Police Officers "Class B" Alternate School Crossing Guards
- 18-036 Appointing Special Police Officers "Class C" Matrons for 2018

A motion to adopt the Consent Agenda was made by Councilwoman Todisco and seconded by Council President Blumenstock

Roll Call:

Council President Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilwoman Cuccaro	AYE	Councilman Sarno	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE

Consent Agenda was adopted.

The following are Mayors Appointments, no CONFIRMATION required:

GARWOOD BOARD OF HEALTH THREE YEAR TERM 1/1/18 – 12/31/20

Ellen Shelley Keith Bienkowski

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES FIVE YEAR TERM 1/1/18- 12/31/22

Maryann Severage Carolyn Warchol

GARWOOD MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE FOR 2018

Barbara Tweedle	Steve Kaelbltin	Sam Rocco	Walter Merfert	Ralph Bernardo
Mary Emmons	Virginia Marinelli	Allan Tweedle	Caitlin Tweedle	

CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE FOR 2018

Kim Brown	Thomas Englese	Jennyfer Guerrero
Carolyn Dunning	Susan Groning	Scott Haggmark

RECREATION COMMISSION FIVE YEAR TERM 1/1/18 – 12/31/22

David Legg

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR THREE YEAR TERM 1/1/18-12/31/20

Ken Capobianco

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL for 2018

Deputy Coordinator:	Doug Stoffer, Police Captain
Police Chief:	James H. Wright
Fire Chief:	Allan Tweedle
Superintendent DPW:	Clint Dickson
Doctor:	-----
First Aid:	Jimmy Willix
Engineer:	Michael Disko
Public Information Officer:	-----
Shelter Coordinator:	-----
Radiological Officer:	Sam Rocco
Tech/Advisor:	-----
Business Representative:	Joseph Ragonese
Representatives from Service Organizations:	
Knights of Columbus	Michael Collings
Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary	Denise Pelusio
Health	Ellen Shelley
Law	James H. Wright
First Aid	Jimmy Willix

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE FOR 2018

Pat DiFabio Bruce Paterson Helen Laucius Chelsea Brandt
 Adele Lewis Carol Lombardo Jenny Brown

PLANNING BOARD

TITLE	NAME	TERM
CLASS I – 1-YR	Charles Lombardo, Mayor	1/1/18 – 12/31/18
CLASS II – 1-YR	Louis Petruzzelli	1/1/18 – 12/31/18
CLASS III – 1-YR	Joseph Sarno	1/1/18 – 12/31/18
CLASS IV – 4-YR	William Nierstedt	1/1/18 – 12/31/21
ALT. II – 2 -YR	Steve Napolitano	1/1/18 – 12/31/19
ALT. IV - 2 -YR	Denise Ridente	1/1/18 – 12/31/19

UNION COUNTY COMMUNITY DEV. REVENUE SHARING COMMITTEE FOR 2018

Charles Lombardo William Nierstedt ALTERNATE: Ileen Cuccaro

UNION COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 2018

Clint Dickson

STANDING COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE	2018
Police, Public Health & Safety	Councilwoman Sara Todisco, Chair
	Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro
	Councilman Marc Lazarow
COMMITTEE	
Board of Health Liaison	Councilman Rich McCormack
COMMITTEE	
Streets, Roads and Ecology	Councilwoman Jen Blumenstock, Chair
	Councilman Rich McCormack
	Councilman Marc Lazarow
COMMITTEE	
Fire	Councilman Rich McCormack, Chair
	Councilwoman Sara Todisco
	Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro
COMMITTEE	
Finance	Councilman Joe Sarno, Chair
	Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro
	Councilwoman Jen Blumenstock
COMMITTEE	
Buildings and Grounds	Councilman Marc Lazarow, Chair
	Councilman Joe Sarno
	Councilwoman Jen Blumenstock
COMMITTEE	
Laws and License	Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro, Chair
	Councilwoman Sara Todisco
	Councilman Rich McCormack
<u>OTHER or SPECIAL Committees of the Mayor</u>	
Historical Committee Liaison	Councilwoman Sara Todisco
Recreation	Councilman Marc Lazarow
Senior Citizen Liaison	Councilwoman Jen Blumenstock
Library, Mayor's Representative	Councilman Marc Lazarow
School Board Liaison	Councilman Rich McCormack
Celebrations of Public Events & Holidays Liaison	Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro
UC Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board Representative	Councilman Rich McCormack
UC Transportation of Advisory Representative	Councilman Joe Sarno
Business and Industry/Chamber of Commerce	Carol Kearney
Special Review Committee of the Mayor	Councilwoman Sara Todisco, Chair Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro Mayor Lombardo
Commuter Parking Committee	Councilman Joe Sarno, Chair

COUNCIL MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE GOVERNING BODY AND GUESTS.

Councilwoman Todisco read the following:

Well I have to say, it feels really good to be back for another three years on this council. I am truly honored that the people of Garwood have put their confidence in me for a third term. Thank you to all of those that supported me along the way, especially my friends and family, and all those that cast their vote for me. I will work hard to serve all the citizens of Garwood - the ones that voted for me, the ones that didn't, and those that didn't make it out on November 7th. I'd also like to welcome Rich McCormick to the council.

While serving on the council has not always been smooth sailing, as there have been challenges, I'm very optimistic about the trajectory of Garwood. We are on a positive path forward. In 2017 and even earlier, sometimes it has appeared that the council does not always work together, but I'd like to point out that more times than not, this council has voted together. I am dedicated to continuing to debate the issues facing our Borough, voting on them, and moving on to the next order of business. I will continue to bring passion to this job because that's how I feel about Garwood. As a lifelong resident and volunteer for many organizations, I love this town deeply. Anyone that lives here and even others that are learning about Garwood - the best kept secret of Union County - know that it's a special place. I will continue to work to communicate more effectively with the public. The beauty of the New Year is the ability to in some ways hit the reset button and to have a fresh start. I truly hope this council can be more open and more proactive with tackling the issues. With that said, I'd like to lay out 5 goals I have for the New Year.

1. Obtain immunity with regards to the affordable housing mandate from the New Jersey courts through 2025 in order to protect the taxpayers from expensive and unwinnable builders remedy lawsuits. This council has made great strides forward by meeting many of the checkboxes required of us by the judge in the order on Oct. 30th.
2. Invest responsibly in capital purchases to ensure we are focused on the long-term. From my time on Council, we've come together to invest in emergency management equipment, numerous road projects, upgrading Police Department equipment such as the dispatch center, and two pieces for the DPW. The DPW still has a number of pieces of equipment that have outdated their useful life. As I've said before, I truly hope this area becomes a priority for this council.
3. Work with the mayor to ensure my campaign promises of a citizens advisory panel for capital projects and a volunteer reward program become a reality this year.
4. Continue to advocate for getting more taxpayer dollars back from Union County and that includes continuing the rotating schedule for council members to attend freeholder meetings. I know this is a difficult endeavor each year but I am still committed to seeing it through.
5. For the first time in my seven years on Council, I have been given the job of Police Commissioner and it's one that I am honored to have. I am dedicated to working with Chief Wright to make sure our Police Department is well supported and to help launch more community policing initiatives.

I wish everyone a very happy new year!

Mayor Lombardo introduced Senator Kean, former Mayor McCarthy, and former council members Bill Nierstedt, Jim Mathieu, Kathleen Villaggio and Ann Tarantino.

Council President Blumenstock read the following:

I'd like to start by welcoming back Councilwoman Todisco and welcoming Councilman McCormack to the Council. I look forward to working together for the people of Garwood. It was a very rewarding first year on Council for me. I certainly learned a lot and enjoyed speaking and getting to know so many residents. I came into this last year with a list of goals that I wanted to achieve and with the help of my colleagues on Council, we were able to make those goals a reality. We were able to purchase a much-needed and long-awaited garbage truck, which will soon be put on the streets. I hope that in the next year, we can really examine and begin to adhere to the capital plan for the Borough's equipment, whether DPW or otherwise, and begin to think of investing in our borough for the long-term. The beautification committee became a success when the Green Team was created and it is my hope that we can continue to encourage this type of community volunteerism that is the heart of our Borough. I made getting back some of our County dollars a priority, lobbying for and receiving a non-matching grant for the seniors, a grant from the Kids and Recreation Fund, as well as a Parks grant currently in review. We also held a Breaking Down the Budget Town Hall to provide insight into the budget making process and I hope that we can take it even a step further this year to formally solicit input from the residents on balancing costs and services.

As we head into this New Year, there is obviously still plenty to be accomplished. I hope that the whole Council can get behind the Hartman Park Revitalization Project as it progresses. Also, we've laid the ground-work to hire a property maintenance officer, and I would like to see that come to fruition this year. Most importantly, I want to let the residents know that I will continue to work to better communication between Council and the residents. We worked hard on it last year, holding more Town Halls, sending fliers and increasing social media announcements. But there is still obviously more work to be done and I'm always on the lookout for ways to improve it. I urge residents to continue to reach out to me by phone or email. I've had some terrific, enlightening

and sometimes even tough conversations with residents this past year. My hope is to continue those conversations and keep Garwood moving forward.

Councilman McCormack thanked everyone, his wife, daughters and son-in-law's and grandchildren. He acknowledged Sal Piarulli and Councilwoman Cuccaro. He commented on his running mate Michael Collings. He commented on a meeting with a Senator. He commented he is honored to serve.

CITIZENS WHO WISH TO ADDRESS THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL, PLEASE STAND, STATE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

Angelo Alimonti, 321 Hemlock Avenue commented on swearing in of Councilwoman Todisco and the old days.

Andy Blumenstock presented a gift to Councilwoman Todisco on behalf of the Democratic Club.

Sal Piarulli, 55 Fourth Avenue mentioned the Board of Education meeting tomorrow.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS:

Good evening everyone and welcome to Garwood - a small town with a big heart. On behalf of the governing body, I would like to thank everyone for being here tonight at Garwood's Re-Organization meeting. I am confident that together we will continue to keep Garwood moving in a positive direction that this governing body has endeavored to maintain.

After three years as your Mayor, I remain humbled by the privilege to serve you. It has been an honor to represent the residents of Garwood at local, county and state levels of government. It has been a privilege to serve with the members of the governing body, the municipal staff, all of the volunteer organizations and each one of the fine individuals that demonstrate why Garwood is an outstanding community in so many ways, and is recognized as such throughout the County.

At this time, I'd like to recognize and thank our major departments for a job well done. Our administrative staff, Ms. Ariemma, the Borough Clerk/Business Administrator and her staff, are the very center of the operations of Garwood, conducting efficiently the daily affairs of our government.

Newly appointed Police Chief James Wright and his officers maintain the public peace and safety with a high level of professionalism, enforcing our laws and ensuring the prevention and detection of crime in our Borough.

Newly appointed Fire Chief Alan Tweedle and his firefighters provide emergency fire fighting and rescue services throughout our Borough and local communities when required by mutual aid. These well trained firefighters stand ready to provide their services to our town at a very high level of performance.

Public Works Superintendent Clint Dickson and his staff of dedicated workers provide excellent multi-tasking duties such as leaf and garbage pick -up as well as snow plowing services.

First Aid Squad Captain Jim Willix and his staff ensures that the updated and proper methods of emergency medical assistance are provided to the residents when needed. They give assistance to those suffering from a sudden illness or injury or to those in need of transportation to local medical facilities. The Garwood First Aid Squad has been an important asset to the community for many years, and we hope for that trend to continue.

On a special note, I want to thank all the volunteers serving on our various board and committees, as they are the backbone of our community. Our volunteers' commitment and dedication are an integral part of our community, and without them, we would not have the new, exciting, and engaging programs, events, and activities that happen in our town. It is both heart-warming and gratifying to see a continued outpouring of their generosity, kindness and unity.

In 2017, because of retirement, we said good-bye and farewell to Police Chief Bruce Underhill who has served Garwood for 31 years. Borough Engineer Donald Guarriello left us after 36 years of service, and DPW Foreman Jeff Atkinson retired after 30 years of service. They will be greatly missed because of their positive contributions to the Borough of Garwood, and we wish them well in their newly found free time.

In a brief recap of other 2017 events, retirement situations at all levels were supported by the Administrative Review Committee of the Mayor and Council. They played a major part in creating the Chief Promotion Policy that was used a model for the Lieutenant and Sergeant Promotion Policy. The general Council selected and hired a new Borough Engineer, and the Police Committee selected a newly appointed Sergeant.

Various council committees have made a great amount of progress in the following areas: The Parking Committee that concentrated on completing the Parking Permit Program for the balance of the town, and meeting with our business community to discuss their concerns.

As a whole, the council continues to seek grant monies on the state and county levels, with the assistance of our Business Administrator.

The Mayor and Council are currently reviewing all roadways in the borough and prioritizing them for future repairs with DOT or county funds.

Garwood's Green Team was successful in setting up the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, highlighted by a monthly 3K walk in the Borough, several nutritional programs in conjunction with our ShopRite and working toward a

Community Garden plan. The Green Team also organized the beginnings of beautification of our downtown area with clean up and seasonal plantings. Many other projects are in the works and will come to light in 2018. A special thanks goes to Councilwoman Todisco, Councilwoman Blumenstock and Councilman Marc Lazarow for spearheading this endeavor.

In 2018, the Green Team will continue to work toward certification for Garwood as a Sustainable New Jersey community. There are certain criteria that must be met, and our volunteers are working hard to accomplish this goal. The Green Team is also looking to partner with surrounding towns to host events and joining together to accomplish mutual goals and projects.

The Community Partner and Outreach Committee partnered with the Garwood PTA, participating in several events including the Halloween Trick-or-Trunk, and family movie nights.

We have also welcomed eight new businesses to our town in 2017, and currently there are approximately 40 Garwood businesses in the Greater Westfield Chamber of Commerce.

As a start to 2018, I would first like to welcome Councilman Richard McCormack to the governing body. He will be bringing his many years of business experience and wisdom to the council. I'd like to also welcome back Councilwoman Sara Todisco, whose knowledge and boundless energy will provide for progress and forward momentum. I look forward to working with them and all the council for the betterment of Garwood.

We also must say good-bye to Lou Petruzzelli who has diligently served as a Garwood Councilman for the past nine years. I want to personally express my deepest gratitude and thanks for his dedication and commitment to Garwood and its residents. Now that he has left the Council, he is not giving up on serving our town. He now takes on a new task - that of firefighter in the Borough, as he has recently joined the Garwood Fire Department, after having been a firefighter in Union, before he moved to Garwood.

In 2018, the citizens of Garwood will still be able to pay their taxes on-line using a credit card. The Borough will maintain extended office hours on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month so residents can conduct their Borough business.

The following dates are to be noted for the coming year: Garwood Rocks on Sunday, June 3rd, Spring bulk pick-up will be held on Monday, June 11th, Fall bulk pick-up will be on October 22nd. The recycling program will remain as it is, every two weeks on Wednesdays. The Town Wide Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, June 9th and Sunday, June 10 (rain or shine) between 9 AM and 4 PM. To avoid the yard sale fee for those days, sign up is required at Borough Hall.

Every household in Garwood should have received their Borough booklet of information regarding recycling, garbage, events, and other useful information by now. If you need a copy, there are extras on the wall in the hallway outside the Borough office.

As in the past, I will continue to invite a Councilperson to join me for each Mayor's Saturday. This is to be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 11:00 AM. With the assistance of the Council's Business Liaison, Carol Kearney, I will be taking Mayor's Saturday on the road. She has reached out to local businesses setting up a location schedule, which will be posted at the Borough website and in our local newspapers.

As discussed recently, I will support establishing a Rewards Card Program in conjunction with the local businesses in town. Councilwoman Blumenstock and Councilwoman Todisco will assemble a task force to create this program and to set up its guidelines. The objective of the program is to reward customers with some sort of advantage for continuing to patronize local businesses. The program can help improve communication between residents and businesses and overall, both the businesses and the customers come out winners.

Beginning in January of 2018, Garwood will have its own monthly newspaper called "Garwood Times", similar to the small local newspapers found in other communities in the area. Local businesses will have the opportunity to advertise and news and photographs will be gathered from all local organizations. The publication will be mailed to all households and businesses on a monthly basis.

A thank you goes to the Buildings and Grounds Committee who looked into the upgrade of Hartman Park. A playground, utilized by both the residents and the school, an upgrade hasn't been done for several years. Through financial support of 55 thousand dollars from the County of Union, this project, planned in 2017, will become an asset to our community in 2018.

Revaluation is in the immediate future of Garwood. The Borough is in receipt of a letter from the Union County Board of Taxation, from the acting director of the State's Division of Taxation to implement a town-wide revaluation to be completed by November 2019, effective in the 2020 tax year. The Borough has not been revaluated since 1985! A revaluation program that is undertaken will be to appraise all real property according to its full and fair value. A revaluation program seeks to spread the tax burden more equitably throughout our municipality.

The first step in the process is to submit updated tax maps to the State of New Jersey for review and comments. Garwood will have to hire a revaluation firm from a State approved list. This revaluation will be funded over the next five years from Borough taxes. The revaluation firm will be conducting meetings to explain the complete process. My understanding is that the firm will make three attempts to review both the interior and exterior of each property in the Borough. More details will follow.

Re-Development is moving along on three fronts. The first is the Casale-Petro property on the north side of South Avenue. This Phase One is currently before the Planning Board for preliminary and final site plan approval. If all goes well, the Planning Board will reach a decision in the very near future. As indicated by the redeveloper, the old buildings should be leveled in early 2018 and remediation will start.

The second is Phase Two of the Casale/Petro property across the street, on the south side of North Avenue, which is currently in the design stage. The Council has passed a resolution to go forward with the 72 rental unit design, and soon the developer will submit plans to the Planning Board for review.

Third is the Garwood Paperboard facility on North Avenue. It has been sold and the new owners are looking to discuss a future project at that location. There will be an open dialog with the newly formed joint committee of Council and Planning Board members.

At the last council meeting, the Council, by resolution, voted to hire a planning firm to assist with the new design. We expect there to be a public dialog on this development as well, similar to what we have had with the South Avenue properties.

Another action that I will be implementing is to work closely with the Finance Chairman to further develop a Capital Improvement Plan. Capital improvements refer to major non-recurring physical expenses such as land, public infrastructure, and equipment. The program will include a description of proposed capital improvement projects ranked by priority, and a year-by-year schedule of expected funding for these projects. The Capital Improvement Plan is a powerful tool for this community's comprehensive plan and strategic plan. The Capital Improvement Plan helps ensure that development occurs consistent with a municipality's plan and vision. Once the plan has been developed, I will create a Citizens Advisory Board to review the plan and offer suggestions and recommendations to the Mayor and Council. This process started with last year's Finance Committee's draft of a 5 year capital plan (2018-2022), and the Council and I believe there are still additional items that can be added.

In conclusion, I will continue to clearly demonstrate my commitment and dedication to Garwood and its residents, as I have over the past three years. I fully accept the challenges and responsibilities that the office of Mayor and public service bring. I promise to continue to do my best for the betterment of Garwood. My promise is simple and straightforward. I will give Garwood every ounce of my positive energy to make the decisions that need to be made, because at the end of the day, we all aspire to do the same thing - to make a stronger and more vibrant community for ourselves and our families. With the positive energy generated by the governing body and the residents of Garwood, our possibilities are endless, and there will be no stopping us now, or in the future.

On behalf of myself and my family, I wish everyone a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018, in Council Chambers, at 7:15 p.m. Workshop Session to start at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood