

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
January 9, 2018**

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, advertised on December 28, 2017, 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).

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud explained Ordinance 17-29 and the Planning Board comments. Mr. Renaud explained the proposed amendments.

Councilman Sarno asked about Resolution 18-037. Mr. Renaud explained the resolution in detail. Councilman Sarno asked about Resolution 18-038. Mr. Renaud again explained the resolution in detail.

Councilwoman Todisco followed up on Resolution 18-038 suggesting council gets it first. Mr. Renaud confirmed. She also asked about the redevelopment plan for South Avenue. Councilman McCormack asked about Resolution 18-037. Mr. Renaud mentioned of shortfall and explained the matter.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma explained the proposals for tax map revisions. She suggested Mr. Guarriello prepare the maps and it be funded in the 2018 budget. All agreed. Ms. Ariemma mentioned the fire alarm matter at the recreation complex and told council she is doing her best to get it addressed and corrected.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lombardo

I am pleased to announce, on behalf of Victoria (CO-LEE-AH-NAY-ZEE) Coglianesse, Registered Dietitian at the Garwood ShopRite, a free six week weight management series at our Shoprite. The class will begin on Monday, January 15 thru February 19, for six weeks from 6 to 7P.M. Preregistration for this program is required, and you can call her at the ShopRite to register. Please support this educational, healthful program. Victoria is a major supporter of our Mayor's Wellness Campaign.

As I announced at our 2018 Reorganization meeting, with the assistance of Carol Kearney our Council Business Liaison, I will be visiting various business locations in Garwood for my Mayor's Saturday meetings. The January Mayor's Saturday will be held on January 20 at Crunch Gym, in the Garwood Mall on South Avenue, starting at 11:00 A.M. I have invited Council President Jen Blumenstock to join me. The schedule of upcoming dates will be posted at Borough Hall, Garwood's website, and the local newspapers. I invite all to stop by to express your concerns or just to chat, while you check out the great businesses in our town.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Blumenstock

1. I mentioned at the re-org that I would like to pursue hiring a property maintenance officer. We already passed the ordinance that allows us to do so, and so Mayor, if we could either discuss the next step here or if you could direct that to the proper committee, I think it's imperative that we move that process along. I think it would be a real win for the residents.

2. As mentioned before, Monday is Martin Luther King, Jr Day. In honor of his memory many surrounding towns have set up a Day of Service, organizing many opportunities for residents to give back. One such Service Day is being held in Fanwood and Scotch Plains. They have several activities going on around their towns, including making sandwiches for the Plainfield Homeless Shelter. I've already signed up with my daughters for this activity and I know Councilwomen Todisco has, as well. I'd like to encourage everyone to consider doing something this week to give back to those in need. Whether it be signing up with Fanwood's Day of Service or another town's Service Day or even doing something on your own, please honor Martin Luther King, Jr and his legacy by helping others. He once said "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" So this coming week, let's all ask ourselves that question and do our part to give back. And if anyone has any questions or would like any information about the upcoming Day of Service, please feel free to get in touch with me and I'll connect you. Thank you, Mayor.

Councilwoman Cuccaro mentioned she does not want to be on the Administrative Review committee because the Administrator is not on the committee.

Councilman Lazarow **NO REPORT**

Councilman McCormack commented on the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Sarno commented on Planning Board meetings

Councilwoman Todisco read the following:

1. MLK Day of Service - In celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, Council President Blumenstock and I teamed up to bring back the soup and cracker drive for Garwood's senior citizens that was started a couple years ago by Bill Nierstedt. You can help by bringing your donations here to Borough Hall and dropping them in the

designated box in the hallway. This drive will run through Tuesday, January 16th. I want to thank the Council President for helping me make this happen in a very short amount of time.

2. Volunteer Card – I want to thank the Mayor for designating Council President Blumenstock and I ask the task force to make my campaign promise of a Volunteer Rewards Card program a reality. We've already drafted a letter to distribute to all the businesses in town asking if they would be willing to offer a discount to support the program. In addition, we will also reach out with a press release in the newspapers. We are aiming to get all businesses signed up by March, so that we can have the card printed, then given out to the many volunteers that do so much to help our Borough, hopefully as soon as April. While no volunteer gives their time and energy to reap a reward, this will be a nice way for the Borough to say thank you to them. It also encourages people to shop locally, here in Garwood, because our business community is very important to ensure our town is a vibrant place.

3. County - I want to encourage my fellow councilpeople to join me in advocating for Garwood to Union County. The Mayor, Council President Blumenstock, and I attended the Re-organization meeting this past Sunday. The new Freeholder Chairman is Sergio Granados and the new Vice Chairman is BJ Kowalski. In the Chairman's address, Freeholder Granados laid out a set of initiatives in the areas of advocacy, equality, volunteerism, public safety and the environment. In particular, two first ever state offices were created – one is the LGBTQ Office and the other is Office for People with Special Needs. The Level the Playing Field grant was mentioned, which was launched to begin in 2018 and is one that Garwood has already submitted an application for. I know it can be an inconvenience to attend Freeholder meetings in Elizabeth or it might be tough to make it with our busy schedules, but I do think it's important that we attend Freeholder meetings when we can so we can hear decisions first-hand and can be present to advocate for Garwood. With that said, I will pass out a copy of the rotating schedule for Councilpeople to attend Freeholder meetings as I have done the past five years or so, and again, I hope my fellow Councilpeople will join me in this effort.

4. Hartman Park – There's been some talk about the Council asking the Board of Education for help with funding the Hartman Park renovation project. I wanted to put forth an idea. I would like to encourage the Council to write a formal letter making a request of the Board of Education, which could perhaps be drafted by the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Since school children, such as the Kindergarteners, use Hartman Park during the school day, it would certainly not be an unreasonable request, while I do recognize the park is completely Borough-owned and therefore, ultimately the Council's responsibility. While respecting the different domains of the Council and the School Board, ultimately tax dollars are tax dollars, regardless of the entity using them. In particular, I would like to recommend that the letter suggest that if the Board is willing to help in any way with funding, that it do so as a percentage of the final cost of the project based on what it feels appropriate. Contributing to the project would probably make the most sense once the final number is established and can then be applied to the bond ordinance. The Board may also want to agree to an amount not to exceed a certain number. Since the next Board of Education meeting is January 16th, if the Council agrees, perhaps we can direct Ms. Ariemma to send a short note over to them to let the Board know a formal letter about Hartman Park will be coming soon for them to hopefully discuss in February.

Discussion followed regarding involving the Board of Education in a meeting concerning the Hartman Park project. Councilman McCormack mentioned getting input from the Board of Education and why that's happening now. Councilwoman Todisco commented on the questions and the process. Brief discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Is there anyone in the audience that wishes to address the mayor and council please step to the microphone, state your full name and address. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

Jim Mathieu, 335 Hazel Avenue thanked council for discussions. He asked about the Recreation Center and Councilman Lazarow responded accordingly. Brief discussion followed on the complex matter.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue mentioned the Hartman Park Project. He commented on other matters. Sustainable Jersey was discussed. He commented on the fire alarm going off. He commented on the traffic analysis for South Avenue redevelopment. He thanked Councilwoman Todisco for the rotating the Freeholder schedule.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilwoman Todisco, Second by Council President Blumenstock to adjourn.
Time: 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood