

Borough of Garwood Meeting of the Mayor and Council

MINUTES

January 10, 2019

Start Time: 7:44 p.m.

Tonight, I would like to dedicate our moment of silence to Benniey Alimonti. He was a proud resident of Garwood and he served our country in the Korean War as well as our borough as a special police officer from 1965-1973 and later as a Councilman. As a Councilman, he served as Fire Commissioner, Police Commissioner, and Council President. When I met his son, Ben, at the service on Sunday, he shared how his father even contemplated running for Mayor, but decided not to in the end, and ended up moving to upstate New York, where he enjoyed the country. The Garwood community appreciates the life and service of Benniey Alimonti.

Moment of Silence.....

Salute to the Flag.....

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, advertised on January 3, 2019, 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:

Mayor Todisco	P	Councilman Ince	P
Councilman Benoit	P	Councilman McCormack	P
Councilwoman Blumenstock	P	Council President Lazarow	P

Also present Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Christina M. Ariemma and Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim, Esq.

MINUTES:

Regular and Workshop Minutes of the Mayor and Council held on December 11, 2018.

Re-Organization Meeting Minutes of the Mayor and Council held on January 2, 2019

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock, to accept minutes as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) **NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES –**
 - a. Mayor's Advisory –
 - i. 12/10/18, RE: Weekly Round-Up
 - ii. 12/13/18, RE: Daily Update
 - iii. 12/13/18, RE: Daily Update
 - iv. 12/14/18, RE: Weekly Round-Up
 - v. 12/21/18, RE: Weekly Round-Up
 - vi. 01/04/18, RE: Daily Update
 - vii. 01/04/19, RE: Weekly Round-Up
 - viii. 01/07/19, RE: Daily Update
- 2) **UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS** – 12/20/18, RE: Ordinances 801-2018, 802-2018
- 3) **UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS** - 01/04/19, RE: Ordinance 800-2018
- 4) **UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS** – 01/08/19, RE: Ordinance 804-2019
- 5) **RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY** – 12/18/18, RE: Minutes from the meetings held November 1, 2018 and November 8, 2018

ALL RECEIVED AND FILED

ORDINANCES:

NONE

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:

POLICE: Councilman Ince, Chr.

During the winter season it is important to prepare for potential emergencies.

- Stay informed to Borough events and issues by checking our website at GarwoodPD.Org and our social media outlets at:
 - GarwoodPD@Twitter
 - GarwoodPoliceDepartment@Facebook
 - GarwoodPoliceNJ@Instagram
- Sign up for instant text and email notifications through Nixle.com
- Register yourself or family members with special needs at Ready.NJ.Gov to be added to our list of residents needing special assistance such as power for medical equipment and oxygen.
- Prepare for short term power outages with an ample supply of food, medication, water and blankets.

STREETS AND ROADS/ECOLOGY: Councilwoman Blumenstock Chr.

Reoccurring Activities

- Complete regular public works services including residential pickup(s) of household waste and white goods.
- Setup and take down the tables/chairs for the seniors events at the firehouse on the first (1st) and third (3rd) Thursday of the month.
- Check and treat reoccurring problem sewer lines on a weekly basis.
- Perform maintenance on miscellaneous public works vehicle and equipment as needed.
- Clean up the litter and debris throughout the grounds at the Sports and Recreation Complex on a daily basis.
- Pick up the debris/litter/leaves from both sides of the underpass sidewalks on Center Street and Kennedy Plaza.
- Repair broken street and traffic signs in various locations of the Borough.
- Clean up the liter/debris from inside and around the bus stop enclosures along North and South Avenue(s).
- Remove the debris from all walkways, decks, bleachers and the basketball court within the Sports Complex on a regular basis.
- Clear the debris from the tops of all stormwater drainage inlets on the North and South side of the Borough before and after all rain events.

Miscellaneous Activities

- Perform winter pothole repairs in various locations of the Borough.
- Complete the repairs/preventative maintenance on all snow removal/deicing equipment.
- Deliver sand to the Sports Complex for the luminary's sale.
- Complete the 2018 bagged leaf pickup program on the north and south side of the Borough. Dispose of the bagged leaves at the Union County Conservation Center in Springfield.
- Complete the leaf cleanup and removal from all Borough owned properties. Complete the clean up the leaves in the right-of-way grass areas on the north side of the Center Street overpass.
- Remove the Holiday decorations from the Municipal complex utilizing Fanwood's bucket truck.
- Install the pet waste stations throughout the Sports Complex.
- Begin the annual residential Christmas tree pickup program. Dispose of the trees at the Fanwood Recycling Center.

In addition to regular garbage pickup, the DPW completed the 2018 bagged leaf pickup program on the north and south side of the Borough. The bagged leaves were disposed of at the Union County Conservation Center in Springfield. They also completed the leaf cleanup and removal from all Borough owned properties. Before the holidays, the department delivered sand to the Sports Complex for the luminary's sale and has now removed the Christmas decorations from the Municipal complex utilizing Fanwood's bucket truck. The annual residential Christmas tree pickup program has also begun. Trees have been disposed of at the Fanwood Recycling Center. This will continue each Wednesday through January. That's all for my report, Mayor.

FIRE: Councilman McCormack, Chr.

Thank you Mayor. The Fire Committee hereby approves the membership application for Curtis Gilford of Westfield and Chelet Joseph also of Westfield. They have passed their physical and background requirements. Commented on Fire Chief Tweedle's report.

FINANCE: Council President Lazarow, Chr. ***No Report***

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Council President Lazarow

Two items to report on today: Integrity Roofing completed their planned work on the Firehouse Roof this past Tuesday. Final inspections will be performed soon by our Borough Engineer, Mike Disko so that we can perform

closing documents on this account. Also, I want to encourage the council to vote for Resolution 19-141 to service the HVAC systems owned by the town. The new company we are going with for our HVAC inspections, In-Line, will save the Borough \$2600 per year from what we have been paying the last two years. This is a \$5200 savings over the next two years. In-Line is the same contractor that we recently hired to install the new thermostat system in Borough Hall for climate control.

LAWS AND LICENSES: Councilman Benoit

We have held a preliminary meeting at which we have started to discuss putting together a social media policy for the borough. We hope to have something written and disseminated to council by next meeting to have a further discussion on it.

RECREATION: Councilman Benoit

Their next meeting will be on January 21, 2019, and I will have a full report for council at the next meeting.

GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock *No Report*

LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Council President Lazarow

JANUARY ACTIVITIES:

In January the Library will continue its ongoing programs including.

Knitting Club – Every Monday and Thursday at 10:30am

Book Clubs – Monday afternoon and Thursday evening

Kid's Chess – Every Monday at 3:00pm

Explore It – (STEM program) Tuesdays at 3:00pm

Adult Craft – Tuesday, January 15th at 6:00pm

Story Time - Wednesdays at 10:30am,

Kids Craft – Wednesday January 16th

Lego Club - Thursday, January 10th and 24th 3:00pm

Yesterday, Maureen Coultas, from Hope's Promise (a therapeutic horse farm) visited the Library. After she told the story of how her horse, Chief, became a therapeutic riding horse, children were invited to meet her miniature therapy horse, Noble. The program was attended by about 35 people.

On January 17th, the folks from the Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand from 10 am till noon to assist seniors (age 60+) or their caregivers with information on services, such as meal delivery, respite care, adult day care and support services for caregivers.

On Wednesday the 23rd, a representative from Wild Birds Unlimited in Scotch Plains, will explain how to use bird feeders, food, water and shelter to attract native birds. He will also cover how to discourage nuisance animals and how to make your property bird friendly.

The Library is happy to report that it received the Freeholders Grant funds in the amount of \$3750. Under the terms of the grant the money is to be used for Children's programming. The Library used the money to fund its museum pass program, its summer reading program and its afterschool STEM program.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS: The Library will be closed 21st for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day.

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock

I could not make the re-org due to last minute babysitting issues, but I thank Councilman McCormack for attending and for filling me in. At last weeks re-org, three new Board members were sworn in: Ralph Trentacosta, Denise Ridente and Maureen Scepkowski. BOE member Tina Simitz was voted in as Vice-President. After three votes, the position of President is still contested. It is between Christine Guerriero and Sue Groning. The decision will now go the Union County Superintendent who will make the decision. Committees were also assigned during the meeting. That's all for my report, Mayor.

CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS LIAISON: Councilman Benoit

Their next meeting will be Wednesday January 16, 2019. I look forward to meeting everyone and working with the celebrations committee. I believe their first event for the year will be the annual easter egg hunt. As soon as I have more information on that, I will update council.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: Vacant *No Report*

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Jim Wright, Chief of Police: report for the month of November 2018

Len DiStefano, Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: report for December 2018

Judy Mack, Property Maintenance Officer: report for the month of December 2018

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Ince, to accept Officer's reports.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on School Board President appointment. He commented on the RVSA appointment and requested the resolution be tabled and reconsidered. He said he wants this position. He commented further.

Krystal Zawoyski, 208 Myrtle Avenue asked who is responsible for cleaning the brook.

Motion was made by Councilman Benoit, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock to close public comments session.

Mayor Todisco commented on the RVSA appointment.

Councilwoman Blumenstock thanked Mr. Paterson for volunteering, however agrees with the appointment as is.

Councilman McCormack commented of RVSA matters and the appointment.

Mr. Jardim commented on the matter as did Council President Lazarow.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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.”

RESOLUTION NO. 19-138

WHEREAS, Benniey J. Alimonti, 88 of Garwood, passed away peacefully on Wed. January 2, 2019. Benniey was born and raised in Garwood on March 27th, 1930 to Nazzarino and Margaret (DeMarco) Alimonti. He was one of four siblings including, Angelo, Joe and Carl; and

WHEREAS, Benniey J. Alimonti was a loader and gunner for 1 year and 9 months, Benniey served in the Korean War (1951) before transferring to the USAR for 8 years. After service Benniey worked 17 years in the parts dept. at Foley Machinery Co., Piscataway, NJ. While doing so he served in Garwood as a Special Police Officer (65-73) and went on to being Fire Commissioner (73). As well as becoming Police Commissioner (74-75). While serving as a councilman, he became council President (76).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby publicly express sympathy to the Alimonti Family; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be and they are hereby authorized to affix their signatures to this Resolution, which shall be presented to the family of Benniey J. Alimonti.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-139

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby directs the transfers of 2018 budget appropriations be and they are hereby made:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized to make necessary transfers prior to year-end and that these be ratified at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Body.

2018 Budget Transfer #4				
Resolution #19-139				
FROM:	Department	Account Name	Account Number	Amount
	Group Insurance	Employer Retired	8-01-23-220-200-1010	3,500.00
	Group Insurance	Employer Active	8-01-23-220-200-1000	6,350.00
				9,850.00
TO:	Gasoline & Oil	Gasoline/Fuel	8-01-31-446-200-0460	3,500.00
	Legal Services	Tax Appeals	8-01-20-155-200-0954	1,500.00
	Legal Services	Mt Laurel Litigation	8-01-20-155-200-0952	1,000.00
	Computerized Data	Comp Hardware/Software	8-01-20-140-200-0245	1,000.00
	Gasoline & Oil	Gasoline/Fuel	8-01-31-446-200-0460	2,850.00
			Total	9,850.00

Posted on 12/21/18 per Reso#18-228

RESOLUTION NO. 19-140

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby direct and authorize Mr. Robert Renaud, Esq. of Palumbo & Renaud to complete matters relating to the decision concerning docket No. UNN-L-2406-15.

FOR A COST NOT TO EXCEED: \$10,000.00

RESOLUTION NO. 19-141

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator/Clerk directed Superintendent of Public Works to solicit proposals for HVAC service maintenance for two-year contract, 2019/2020 for units; and

WHEREAS, two proposals were received as follows:

- 1) In-Line Heating & Air Conditioning Co. \$ 5,300.00
- 2) Clarke Air-Conditioning Services Co. \$ 8,600.00

WHEREAS, the service maintenance agreement includes four (4) inspections per year of equipment and general labor as per proposal submitted for the following:

Three (3) Lennox Unit Heaters

One (1) Carrier rooftop unit Model #48TME008A501
SERIAL #3702G10969

Located: 415 South Avenue - Fire House

Two (2) Lennox Gas Fired Furnace Model #G23Q5/61252
SERIAL #5895C76075 & 5895C76067

Located: 15 South Avenue - DPW

One (1) Weil Mclain Gas Fired Boiler Mode # AB666EHE SERIAL #P250AFEPN

One (1) York Package Unit Model #CHA163111R SERIAL #5692B04045

One (1) York Condense Unit w/air hander Model #LSA090C1Y SERIAL #5697E03006

One (1) Tappan Condense Unit w/air hander Model #69031C SERIAL #74E22068

One (1) Amana Package Air Conditioning Unit Model N/a Serial n/a

One (1) Lennox Package Air Conditioning Unit Model n/a Serial n/a

Located: 403 South Avenue – Municipal Bldg.

Inspection labor and service labor is included. Material, parts and equipment are not included.

Effective: January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby authorizes the Municipal Clerk to sign a service maintenance agreement with In-Line Heating & Air-Conditioning Co., 85 East 21st Street, Bayonne, NJ 07002.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-142

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby hires:

Corey Alan Greulich
40 S Spring Garden Avenue
Nutley, NJ 07110

As a Full Time Class E Laborer in the Department of Public Works, effective January 28, 2019, at a salary of \$20.03 per hour, and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract effective 1/1/2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that he will be on probation for a period of one year.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-144

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, in the County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby hire:

John A. Fugett
21 N Sixth Street
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

As a part-time bus driver for the Senior Citizen Bus Program, commencing January 14, 2019, at an hourly rate of \$16.00 per hour.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-145

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorize the Chief Financial Officer, Sandra Bruns to sign the agreement with Phoenix Advisors, LLC, 625 Farnsworth Avenue, Bordentown, NJ, 08505 for providing continuing disclosure agent services in accordance with law for \$1,050 to include an inclusive fee for up to three (3) outstanding issues, plus \$100 for each additional issue for which filings may be required.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-146

WHEREAS, James H. Wright, Chief of Police has recommended that Patrolman Jonathan Pridy, Police Officer in the Garwood Police Department be upgraded to Step 6 Patrolman, pending approval from the Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorize that Jonathan Pridy be upgraded from a Step 5 Patrolman, to a Step 6 Patrolman in the Garwood Police Department, effective January 11, 2019, at a salary of \$72,568 in accordance with P.B.A. Contract 2018-2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-147

WHEREAS, James H. Wright, Chief of Police has recommended that Patrolman Roberto Camporeale, Police Officer in the Garwood Police Department be upgraded to Step 5 Patrolman, pending approval from the Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorize that Roberto Camporeale be upgraded from a Step 4 Patrolman, to a Step 5 Patrolman in the Garwood Police Department, effective February 1, 2019, at a salary of \$65,545 in accordance with P.B.A. Contract 2018-2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-148

WHEREAS, James H. Wright, Chief of Police has recommended that Patrolman Edward Mironski, Police Officer in the Garwood Police Department be upgraded to Step 1 Patrolman, pending approval from the Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorize that Edward Mironski be upgraded from a Probationary Patrolman, to a Step 1 Patrolman in the Garwood Police Department, effective February 7, 2019, at a salary of \$45,778 in accordance with P.B.A. Contract 2018-2022.

Motion by Councilman McCormack to remove Resolution 19-143

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Ince, to adopt Consent Agenda as amended.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
		Council President Lazarow	AYE

RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION NO. 19-143

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that Stephen D. Greet, 409 Brookside Place, Garwood, New Jersey, be and is hereby appointed Commissioner of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority from the Borough of Garwood for a five (5) year term – commencing February 1, 2019 to February 1, 2024.

Discussion: Councilman McCormack commented on the matter and would like more conversation. Councilman Benoit asked what would happen if it's not voted on before 2/1/19. Councilman Ince commented on the matter. Mayor Todisco commented that council support the tabling and council can take two more weeks to decide.

Resolution was tabled by Councilman McCormack.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENT:

Celebrations Committee - Vincent Kearney

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following claims as approved be and the same are hereby ordered paid when properly signed and verified; and the payment of payrolls as listed is hereby confirmed and ratified.

A motion was made by Councilman McCormack, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock, to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
		Council President Lazarow	AYE

At 8:16 p.m. motion by Councilman Benoit, second by Council President Lazarow to enter Executive Session.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-149

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE SALE OF FLOW RIGHTS WITH TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD 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 matters.

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.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
		Council President Lazarow	AYE

ADJOURNMENT:

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on, **THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019**, in Council Chambers at 7:15 p.m. Workshop Session to start at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Council President Lazarow, to adjourn.

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk Borough of Garwood