

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
January 10, 2019**

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).

<b>Mayor Todisco</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>P</b>

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

Borough Engineer Michael Disko commented on the road projects, firehouse roof project, providing details on the projects. He commented on complaints received and that he will be sending letters concerning the matters. Mayor Todisco commented on Mr. Disko's report. Councilman McCormack commented on the firehouse roof project matter.

Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim – **No Report**

Mayor Todisco welcomed Mr. Jardim. He thanked council for the honor to serve.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma announced that since council meetings are now on the second and fourth Thursday of the month, the late office hours are now on Thursday's as well.

Mayor Todisco's Report:

1. New agenda structure - As you can see there are some minor changes to the agenda in an effort to better reflect the Council business of today and to avoid a Councilmember having to say "no report" because their committee is listed even though it only meets quarterly. While there are temporarily some vacant positions, including to the Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board and the Union County Transportation Advisory Board, once filled, I'd like to ask those reports be given during Workshop. Also, the liaison to the Board of Health will only be listed to give reports at the following Council meeting after each of their quarterly meetings. I've also asked Ms. Ariemma to add a Mayor's Report and Freeholder Liaison report to the Workshop Agenda. I've created and Ms. Ariemma distributed a rotating schedule similar to one use in past years, but a bit different as it includes me as Mayor in the rotation and assigns two or three of us to a block of two months at a time to be the liaison to the Freeholder Board.
  2. Breakfast with the Mayor - My first breakfast with the Mayor event will take place on Saturday, February 2nd from 10am to noon right here at Borough Hall. I'm happy to report that Chief of Police Jim Wright will be joining me and that headquarters will be open for tours for the kids that come with their families that day. Thank you to our Police Department for being so welcoming.
  3. Refer share serviced with BOE for cleaning services to Buildings & Grounds as the agreement expires on April 1st
  4. Refer idea shared by a resident last year on the inspection and supervision and permitting process of road work done by the utility companies to Streets & Roads
  5. Westfield Rink - I have been continuing to monitor the Westfield Rink, which is on our border as I have spoken with the Police Chief often on a weekly basis about it and frequently communicate with residents in the affected area about it. The last operations committee meeting was last night and since I had a Planning Board meeting, Council President Lazarow attended for me and has a report to share tonight.
  6. Planning Board - Met last night and unanimously approved the resolutions granting site plan approval with conditions to South Avenue II for the 72-unit residential project as well as 3 Lincoln Avenue for parking lot improvements. Also, discussed the ordinance Council referred to them last year on eating and drinking establishments. The Board recommends the ordinance with recommendations. Also, one board member wants to review the sidewalk cafes ordinance and report back to the Planning Board as the Board may want to make recommended changes to the Council. I will keep everyone posted. Also, I just want to say how grateful I am for all of the members of the Planning Board who volunteer for that position to help their community and I was very happy to welcome the new members last night, who bring great experiences and perspectives to the Board.
- Discussion concerning the eating establishment ordinance took place.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

**Councilman Benoit: No Report**

**Councilwoman Blumenstock:** I have a couple of things, Mayor.

We are less than two weeks away from Garwood's first Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service and things are really on a roll. We've had a great response to sign-ups, from seniors to our Girl Scout troops, there are a lot of people in our small town ready to get out and help. We've also been getting some very generous donations, but we're still not there yet. So I encourage everyone to go to our facebook page, MLKDayGarwoodNJ, to check out our Amazon wish list or to contact me for ideas on donations. Reach out to family and friends who might not even be in Garwood but want to give to great a cause. Every little bit helps. We've also had some sponsors come forward. RWJ University Hospital Rahway is donating 15 pounds of meat and cheese for our sandwich making. And Fiamma Brick Oven Pizza in Westfield has offered to help us with our pizza party that we'll be giving to the grade in Lincoln School that donates the most items. A special thanks to the Lincoln School administration and staff who are helping us with this friendly competition. We're thankful that we get to involve all of the students at the school through this and bring to them the message about giving to others. Please feel free to contact me through my email or phone number which are on the Garwood website if you have any questions about this day or would like to donate. I look forward to giving you a successful report about this day at the next council meeting.

Our Streets and Roads committee, now comprised of Councilman McCormack, Councilman Ince and myself, met this past week to continue the discussion about street sweeping that last year's committee left off with. As I previously mentioned in my reports, our street sweeper is no longer functional. We were able to finish out the fall season in October just by a hair, but the machine, if we even could repair it, there is not a lot of confidence from the DPW that it wouldn't go down right away again. And again, we have the situation where we could be throwing good money into bad. The street sweeper is from 1990 and has far exceeded the estimated lifespan of a sweeper. So the committee considered the next step. We do have as a part of our shared service contract that Fanwood can come sweep for us once a month during the sweeping season, which it did last spring when our sweeper was, again, not functional. The committee agreed that, while this is necessary to have as a back-up, the feedback we have been receiving from residents is that they would like the street sweeping to be more often and on a more regular set- schedule that they can get used to, thereby better ensuring they remove their cars from the streets. The only way to achieve this is to fund for a new street sweeper and by a vote of 3-0 the committee unanimously recommends that the council move forward with that. The sweeper had been a part of the department's five-year capital plan, and has long-been discussed in past capital planning meetings with department heads at budget time, but given the breakdown of the current sweeper and resident feedback, we felt it necessary to adjust the plan and move this equipment item up in priority. We also discussed as a committee that we bring this recommendation forth at this point, rather than waiting until April when discussing capital projects from other departments, simply because of timing. If we decide to move forward with it at this point, the possibility of having the sweeper for the fall season is possible, whereas if we wait, we could be looking at next spring 2020 until we could begin sweeping again on a set schedule.

Our Superintendent of Public Works was a part of this discussion as we discussed type of sweeper and cost. After extensive research, a regenerative sweeper seems to be the type that would benefit our municipality the most. More and more municipalities seem to be going this way, as they are more cost efficient in the long run. We currently have a mechanical sweeper, and Fanwood has a vacuum sweeper. However, a regenerative sweeper can clean a larger path than vacuum sweepers, help with our catch basins, remove heavy debris more efficiently and release less exhaust and particulates back into the environment, making it the most environmentally friendly out of all the types of sweepers. They have larger intake tubes so they do not clog easily and they have fewer moving parts than the mechanical sweepers making them easier and less costly to maintain. The estimate we received for a street sweeper of this kind is about \$265,000. However, wanting to be safe, we should most likely estimate 275,000 on the advice of our Superintendent. I should note that, if we do move forward at this time with the bonding process, our Superintendent is looking to demo some sweepers before a purchase is made so that our public works department can determine the best machine for their purposes. Our committee will be looking to attend those demos to see for ourselves and I want to open that invitation to the other council members so that they can also see the machine in action. Thank you, Mayor, that's all for my report.

Councilman Benoit commented on the matter, so did Council President Lazarow. Mayor and Council directed Ms. Ariemma to prepare a bond ordinance for a street sweeper for an estimated amount of \$275,000.

**Councilman Ince** commented on police matters and how the impact the Federal Shut Down has affected the department.

**Councilman McCormack** welcomed the new council members and Mayor.

**Council President Lazarow:** I am excited to report that along with Mayor Todisco, I will be attending a meeting next Sunday at noon with the newly formed Citizens Advisory Panel to review the 2018 5 year capital plan and the potential purchase of DPW equipment such as a new street sweeper. I look forward to getting feedback from this panel to get a better pulse of the priorities of our residents.

Last night while Mayor Todisco was at the Planning Board meeting, I attended in her place, the Gumbert Park/Westfield Rink Meeting. Operations reports were shared including total visitors per day as well as updates on parking and noise complaints. According to the operations manager, parking complaints from the Mews and the area behind & Grain and Cherrybrook have decreased as police enforcement has helped alleviate parking violators and signage of where to park from the Rink has also been bolstered to direct cars to the proper locations for parking. The area for concern continues to be the noise, especially weeknights after 9PM and weekend mornings. However, a discussion about moving adult league play from 8AM in the morning on Sunday to a later time did gain some traction. Commented on rink and citizen advisory matters

Board of Chosen Freeholders Liaison Report:

On the subject of the Freeholder Board, the Board re-organized this past Sunday and Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski was named Chairman and Al Mirabella was named Vice Chairman. Chairman Kowalski's initiatives for this year called "Empowering Union County," and the full list can be found on the County website. Of particular interest to me and I believe to the Borough will be the proposed shared services summit, office of business development, first responder training fund, and recycling initiatives.

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 five minutes.

Al DelConte, 545 Locust Avenue welcomed council and commented on handicapped ramps that cracked.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on the freeholders and requested the procedure for filling the vacancy. He commented on meeting nights and street sweeper. Asked who's paying for Mayor's breakfast.

**Motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Council President Lazarow to close public comments session.**

Mayor Todisco said she has a list of cracked ramps and will be addressing the matter.

Mayor Todisco explained the process to fill the vacancy. Mayor Todisco commented on the schedule of the Freeholders meetings in response to Mr. Paterson's comment.

Mr. Disko said he believes the State and County manage those roads.

Mayor Todisco said she is personally paying for her breakfast.  
She said she will consider the comment about the Citizen's Advisory Committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:44 p.m., a motion was made by Council President Lazarow, and seconded by Councilwoman Blumenstock to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



**CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk**  
Borough of Garwood