

Borough of Garwood
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
January 18, 2024

Time:

Moment of Silence

Salute to the Flag

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Union County Hawk advertised on January 4, 2024. Notification was sent to the Star Ledger, and is posted on the Municipal website, 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 Blumenstock _____

Councilwoman Boto _____

Councilman Foley _____

Councilman Lazarow _____

Councilwoman Nolde _____

Councilwoman Salmon _____

Council President Kearney _____

Roll call staff and professionals:

Kyle Harris, Borough Administrator

Adam Abramson, Borough Attorney

Doug Stoffer, Chief of Police

Mike Disko, Borough Engineer

Report of Borough Engineer

Report of Borough Attorney

Report of Borough Administrator

Report of Mayor Blumenstock

Comments from the Council:

Councilwoman Boto

Councilman Foley

Councilman Lazarow

Councilwoman Nolde

Councilwoman Salmon

Council President Kearney

MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on December 21, 2023.

Minutes of the Re-Organization Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on January 2, 2024.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to accept the Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

All in favor, opposed?

COMMUNICATIONS:

1) NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

a) 12/22/2023, RE: Affordable Housing Moves; CY24 Budget Guidance; Lame Duck Activity

<https://www.nijlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/219352>

- b) 12/29/2023, RE: Minimum Wage Increase; Brewery Waiver Extended; Show Off Your City
<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/219623>
- c) 1/10/2024, RE: Governor Delivers State of State Address
<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/220709>

2) RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

- a) 12/26/2023, RE: Minutes

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/FW_RVSA_Approved_Minutes\(2\).pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/FW_RVSA_Approved_Minutes(2).pdf)

3) GARWOOD PLANNING BOARD

- a) 01/11/2024, RE: Minutes for December 13, 2023

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/12_13_2023_PB_MINUTES_adopted.pdf

- b) 01/11/2023, RE: Year End Report for 2023

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/2023_year_end_report.pdf

ORDINANCES:

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 24-01 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 21, ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", ARTICLE V, ENTITLED "SPEED LIMITS", SECTION 13, ENTITLED "SPEED LIMITS".

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord._24-01-SPEED_LIMITS.pdf

A motion was made by _____ second by _____ to introduce Ordinance No. 24-01.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Councilwoman Boto | _____ | Councilwoman Nolde | _____ |
| Councilman Foley | _____ | Councilwoman Salmon | _____ |
| Councilman Lazarow | _____ | Council President Kearney | _____ |

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 24-02 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-02

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF REGULAR POLICE OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD.

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord._24-02-POLICE_SALARIES_2023-2026.pdf

A motion was made by _____ second by _____ to introduce Ordinance No. 24-02.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Councilwoman Boto | _____ | Councilwoman Nolde | _____ |
| Councilman Foley | _____ | Councilwoman Salmon | _____ |
| Councilman Lazarow | _____ | Council President Kearney | _____ |

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL: Councilman Foley, Chair

FIRE AND OEM: Councilman Lazarow, Chair

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Councilwoman Salmon, Chair

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilwoman Boto, Chair

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Council President Kearney, Chair

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Councilwoman Nolde, Chair

LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Councilman Lazarow

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Council President Kearney

GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Mayor Blumenstock

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY LIAISON: Councilman Kearney

BOARD OF HEALTH LIAISON: Councilman Foley

PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Salmon

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chief of Police Monthly Reports for November and December, 2023.

CFO/Tax Collector Report for 4th Quarter, 2023.

Zoning Enforcement Officer's Report December, 2023

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/December_2023.pdf

Property Maintenance Report for December, 2023.

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Property_Maint._Dec._Rpt.pdf

A motion was made by _____ second by _____ to accept Officer's reports.

All in favor, opposed?

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.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to close public comment.

All in favor, opposed?

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. 24-035

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that Stephen D. Greet 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, 2024 to February 1, 2029.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-036

WHEREAS, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce is hereby requesting authorization to close Center Street from South Avenue to Unami Park and Beech Avenue from Center Street to East Street additionally all intersections will be closed for 50 feet from Center Street between the hours of 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM for the purpose of conducting Garwood Rocks! Music, Cars, Shopping & Family Fun on Sunday, June 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce is also requesting that Municipal parking lots #1 and #2 be barricaded for use during the event; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce has also requested that police officers be present during this event.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorize the closing of said streets and Municipal parking lots for the purpose of conducting the Garwood Rocks! Music, Cars, Shopping & Family Fun on Sunday, June 2, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body authorizes that Police Officers and DPW employees be present during this event in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief of Police and Superintendent of Public Works.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-037

Resolution Pledging Sustainable Land Use

WHEREAS, land use is an essential component of overall sustainability for a municipality; and

WHEREAS, poor land-use decisions can lead to and increase societal ills such as decreased mobility, high housing costs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, loss of open space and the degradation of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, well planned land use can create transportation choices, provide for a range of housing options, create walkable communities, preserve open space, provide for adequate recreation, and allow for the continued protection and use of vital natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Given New Jersey's strong tradition of home rule and local authority over planning and zoning, achieving a statewide sustainable land use pattern will require municipalities to take the lead;

NOW THEREFORE, we the Council of the Borough of Garwood resolve to take the following steps with regard to our municipal land-use decisions with the intent of making the Borough of Garwood a truly sustainable community. It is our intent to include these principles in the next master plan revision and reexamination report and to update our land-use zoning, natural resource protection, and other ordinances accordingly.

Regional Cooperation - We pledge to reach out to administrations of our neighboring municipalities concerning land-use decisions, and to take into consideration regional impacts when making land-use decisions.

Transportation Choices - We pledge to create transportation choices with a Complete Streets approach by considering all modes of transportation, including walking, biking, transit and automobiles, when planning transportation projects and reviewing development applications. We will reevaluate our parking with the goal of limiting the amount of required parking spaces, promoting shared parking and other innovative parking alternatives, and encouraging structured parking alternatives where appropriate.

Natural Resource Protection - We pledge to take action to protect the natural resources of the State for environmental, recreational and agricultural value, avoiding or mitigating negative impacts to these resources. Further, we pledge to complete a Natural Resources Inventory when feasible to identify and assess the extent of our natural resources and to link natural resource management and protection to carrying capacity analysis, land-use and open space planning.

Mix of Land Uses - We pledge to use our zoning power to allow for a mix of residential, retail, commercial, recreational and other land use types in areas that make the most sense for our municipality and the region, particularly in downtown and town center areas.

Housing Options - We pledge, through the use of our zoning and revenue generating powers, to foster a diverse mix of housing types and locations, including single- and multi-family, for-sale and rental options, to meet the needs of all people at a range of income levels.

Green Design - We pledge to incorporate the principles of green design and renewable energy generation into municipal buildings to the extent feasible and when updating our site plan and subdivision requirements for residential and commercial buildings.

Municipal Facilities Siting - We pledge, to the extent feasible, to take into consideration factors such as walkability, bikeability, greater access to public transit, proximity to other land-use types, and open space when locating new or relocated municipal facilities.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-038

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby directs the transfers of 2023 budget appropriations be and they are hereby made; and

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.

2023 Budget Transfer #4

Resolution #24-038

FROM:

| Department | Account Name | Account Number | Amount |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Group Insurance | Employer Active | 3-01-23-220-200-1000 | 6,000.00 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total | | | <u>6,000.00</u> |

TO:

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Police | Uniforms | 3-01-25-240-200-0430 | 1,000.00 |
| Street Lighting | Regular Fees | 3-01-31-435-200-1115 | 3,000.00 |
| Telephone | Wireless Communication | 3-01-31-440-200-0165 | 2,000.00 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Total | | | <u>6,000.00</u> |

RESOLUTION NO. 24-039

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby approve the CFO/Treasurer to issue a check to refund the tax overpayment on the following property:

| PROPERTY OWNER/ADDRESS | BLK/LOT | AMOUNT |
|---|---------|----------|
| Maciej W. Wicik 335 Beech Ave Garwood, NJ 07027 | 603/5 | \$338.86 |

REFUND TO:

Maciej W. Wicik
335 Beech Ave
Garwood, NJ 07027
Amount of refund: \$338.86

EXPLANATION: Tax Assessor granted a Disabled Veteran Full Exemption on December 19, 2023. 2023 final taxes have been adjusted for the exemption resulting in an overpayment of 2023 taxes.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-040

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, in accordance with Borough Code, Chapter 99-12.1-B,C, hereby set forth the following:

1. The bulk pickup program will be held four times in 2024. Spring pick up will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024 and run for as many days as necessary to complete the program in accordance with the number of permits sold. Summer pickups will be held on Monday, June 10, 2024 and Monday, August 19, 2024 and run for as many days as necessary to complete the program in accordance with the number of permits sold. Fall pick up will be held on Monday, October 21, 2024 and run for as many days as necessary to complete the program in accordance with the number of permits sold.
2. The bulk permit program fee for 2024 is hereby set at \$115.00 per permit, per household for the disposal of up to 750 lbs. of bulk type waste

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the Borough Administrator to proceed to implement the above accordingly.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-041

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby appoints Eric Melendez as a Step 1 Patrolman in the Garwood Police Department, effective January 22, 2024 at an annual salary of \$51,250.in accordance with P.B.A. Contract 2023-2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-042

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISHING A GREEN TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD
WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood strives to save tax dollars, assure clean air and water, improve working and

living environments to build a community that is sustainable economically, environmentally and socially; a community which would thrive well into the new century; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood wishes to build a model of government which benefits our residents now and far into the future with green community initiatives which are easy to replicate and affordable to implement; and

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

Section 1: Establishment.

A group of citizens dedicated to the sustainability of the community and known as the Green Team, appointed by the Mayor is hereby established.

Section 2: Purpose

- a. To facilitate the successful completion of the requirements for certification of Sustainable Jersey;
- b. To educate and encourage all Borough employees, residents, and businesses to participate in green initiatives;
- c. To collaborate with public and private green committees to ensure the replication of best practices and to ensure a coordinated effort within the Borough of Garwood and with neighboring communities.

Section 3: Membership

- a. The Green Team will consist of no less than 10 members.
- b. The Green Team shall be persons who reside in or are employed by the Borough of Garwood and shall be appointed for a 3-year term commencing March 1, 2024 to March 1, 2027.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to adopt Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Councilwoman Boto | _____ | Councilwoman Nolde | _____ |
| Councilman Foley | _____ | Councilwoman Salmon | _____ |
| Councilman Lazarow | _____ | Council President Kearney | _____ |

RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by _____, second by _____, to adopt Resolution # 24-_____.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Councilwoman Boto | _____ | Councilwoman Nolde | _____ |
| Councilman Foley | _____ | Councilwoman Salmon | _____ |
| Councilman Lazarow | _____ | Council President Kearney | _____ |

NEW BUSINESS

| | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Dorinda Dec | Elaina Ficarra | Green Team | 01/18/2024—12/31/2026 |
| Doug Stoffer | Len Navarro | Shade Tree Advisory | 01/18/2024—12/31/2024 |
| Imani Humphrey | | Recreation Committee | 01/18/2024—12/31/2024 |
| Imani Humphrey | | Small Business Advisory Committee | 01/18/2024—12/31/2024 |
| Imani Humphrey | | Municipal Alliance | 01/18/2024—12/31/2024 |

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS AND REFUNDS AS LISTED ON FILE:

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 _____, second by _____ to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Councilwoman Boto | _____ | Councilwoman Nolde | _____ |
| Councilman Foley | _____ | Councilwoman Salmon | _____ |
| Councilman Lazarow | _____ | Council President Kearney | _____ |

ADJOURNMENT:

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on **Thursday, February 8, 2024** at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Information for meetings is posted on the Borough website: https://garwood.org/gb_notices

A motion was made by _____ second by _____ to adjourn. Time: _____