BOROUGH OF GARWOOD
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
January 22, 2026

Time: _____
Moment of Silence
Salute to the Flag

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The Leader and advertised on November 13, 2025. Notification was sent to the Local Source Union County, 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 241, P.L. 1975). P.L. 2025, c.72 states that legal ads placed by the municipality will not need to be published in newspapers beginning on March 1, 2026 and will be posted on our Borough website under the section titled Garwood Legal Notices.

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Blumenstock	_____		
Councilwoman Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council President Boto	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____		

Roll call staff and professionals:
John Arthur, Borough Administrator
Adam Abramson, Borough Attorney
Michael Disko, Borough Engineer
Jonathan Pridy, Chief of Police

PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS/APPOINTMENTS:
Mayor Blumenstock requests a motion, followed by a second, to suspend the regular order of business for the purpose of:

1. Discussion and appointment of the vacant Council seat.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to suspend the regular order of business.

In accordance with Municipal Vacancy Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:16-1 et, seq.), the Democratic Municipal Committee has submitted the following three names for consideration to fill the unexpired Council term from January 22, 2026 through Certification of the Election Results of the November 3, 2026 General Election:

1. Deborah J. Ledger
2. Thomas M. Englese
3. Hursh V. Sureka

Mayor Blumenstock requests the Borough Council to nominate and elect a Council Member.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to elect a Council Member.

Discussion:

ROLL CALL*:*

Councilwoman Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council President Boto	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____		

Mayor Blumenstock announces she will administer the Oath of Office to the newly appointed Council Member and to take their seat on the dais.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to resume regular session.

All in favor_____, opposed_____

Swearing in of First Aid Squad officers
President- Glen Costello
Vice President- Luciane Raibin
Secretary- Kymm Balinth
Assistant Secretary- Stephanie Willix
Treasurer- Wilson NG
Assistant Treasurer- Jeff Regan

Chief- Joshua Regan
Deputy Chief- Kymm Balinth
Lieutenant- Gene Kobliska
Lieutenant- Stephen Smith
Lieutenant- Briana Sanchez

Reports:
Report of Borough Engineer
Report of Borough Attorney
Report of Borough Administrator
Report of Mayor Blumenstock

Comments from the Council:
Councilwoman Annarelli
Councilwoman Bianco
Councilwoman Nolde
Councilman Padusniak
Council President Boto
Council _____

MINUTES:

Minutes of the Mayor and Council Meeting held on December 18, 2026 and the Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on January 6, 2026.

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

All in favor ____, opposed _____?

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Union County Ordinance 863-2025 – fixing the salaries of members of the board of county commissioners, the county manager, county counsel and department heads for 2026
   https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/COMMUNICATIONS_-_Union_County_Ordinance_863-2025_-_Fixing_salaries.pdf

2. RVSA minutes approved at the December regular meeting
   https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/COMMUNICATIONS_-_RVSA_Approved_minutes_from_December_meeting.pdf

3. Cranford New Building Department Permit fees
   https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/COMMUNICATIONS_-_Cranford_Ord._No_2025-27.pdf

4. Union County Open Public Meetings Act Notice of the Pollution Control Financing Authority of Union County
   https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/COMMUNICATIONS_-_OPEN_PUBLIC_MEETINGS_ACT_NOTICE_OF_THE_POLLUTION_CONTROL_FINANCING_AUTHORITY_OF_UNION_COUNTY.pdf

5. 2025 Planning Board Year End Report
   https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/COMMUNICATIONS_-_Planning_Board_2025_year_end_report_adopted_1_14_2026.pdf

6. Planning Board Resolutions appointing Professional Planning/Engineering Services and Planning Board Legal Council
   https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/COMMUNICATIONS_-_Planning_Board_Appointment_Resolutions.pdf

ORDINANCES:
ADOPTION AND PUBLIC HEARING: **NONE**

INTRODUCTION:

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 26-01 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 26-01

AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 39:4-197.6 APPROXIMATELY 35 FEET NORTH OF THE CORNER OF NORTH AVENUE ADJACENT TO 260 NORTH AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD

[*Sponsored by Borough Administrator*]

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/26-01_-_Approving_handicap_parking_for_M._Barakat_-_260_North_Avenue.pdf

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to introduce Ordinance No. 26-01.

ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council President Boto	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____		

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 26-02 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 26-02

GARWOOD PLAZA OVERLAY ZONE ORDINANCE – BLOCK 114, LOT 4.02

AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT § 106-98.8 (GARWOOD PLAZA OVERLAY ZONE) (BLOCK 114, LOT 4.02) IN ARTICLE VIII (ZONE REGULATIONS) IN CHAPTER 106 (LAND USE) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD TO PROVIDE DISTRICT REGULATIONS FOR AN OVERLAY ZONE AND TO ADDRESS COMPLIANCE WITH THE BOROUGH'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS

[*Sponsored by the Borough Administrator*]

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/26-02_-_Garwood_Plaza_Overlay_Zone_-_BLOCK_114_LOT_4.02.pdf

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to introduce Ordinance No. 26-02.

ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council _____	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____	Council President Boto	_____

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 26-03 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 26-03

GARWOOD REST OVERLAY ZONE ORDINANCE – BLOCK 502, LOT 1

AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT § 106-98.7 (GARWOOD REST OVERLAY ZONE) (BLOCK 502, LOT 1) IN ARTICLE VIII (ZONE REGULATIONS) IN CHAPTER 106 (LAND USE) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD TO PROVIDE DISTRICT REGULATIONS FOR AN OVERLAY ZONE AND TO ADDRESS COMPLIANCE WITH THE BOROUGH'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS

[*Sponsored by the Borough Administrator*]

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/26-03_-_Garwood_Rest_Overlay_Zone_-_BLOCK_502_LOT_1.pdf

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to introduce Ordinance No. 26-03.

ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council _____	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____	Council President Boto	_____

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 26-04 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 26-04

NORTH AVENUE GATEWAY OVERLAY ZONE ORDINANCE – BLOCK 211, LOTS 8, 9 AND 10

AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT § 106-98.9 (NORTH AVENUE GATEWAY OVERLAY ZONE) (BLOCK 211, LOTS 8, 9 AND 10) IN ARTICLE VIII (ZONE REGULATIONS) IN CHAPTER 106 (LAND USE) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD TO PROVIDE DISTRICT REGULATIONS FOR AN OVERLAY ZONE AND TO ADDRESS COMPLIANCE WITH THE BOROUGH'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS

[*Sponsored by the Borough Administrator*]

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/26-04_-_North_Avenue_Gateway_Overlay_-_BLOCK_211_LOTS_8_9_AND_10.pdf

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to introduce Ordinance No. 26-04.

ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council _____	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____	Council President Boto	_____

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 26-05 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 26-05

SOUTH AVENUE GATEWAY OVERLAY ZONE ORDINANCE – +/- 3.66-ACRE PORTION OF BLOCK 301, LOT 1

AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT § 106-98.6 (SOUTH AVENUE GATEWAY OVERLAY ZONE) (+/- 3.66-ACRE PORTION OF BLOCK 301, LOT 1) IN ARTICLE VIII (ZONE REGULATIONS) IN CHAPTER 106 (LAND USE) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD TO PROVIDE DISTRICT REGULATIONS FOR AN OVERLAY ZONE AND TO ADDRESS COMPLIANCE WITH THE BOROUGH'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS

[*Sponsored by the Borough Administrator*]

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/26-05_-South_Avenue_Gateway_Overlay_-_-_3.66_ACRE_PORTION_OF_BLOCK_301_LOT_1.pdf

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to introduce Ordinance No. 26-05.

ROLL CALL:

Councilwoman Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council _____	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____	Council President Boto	_____

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL: Council President Boto, Chair

FIRE AND OEM: Councilman Padusniak, Chair

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Councilwoman Bianco, Chair

PUBLIC WORKS: Council_____, Chair

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilwoman Nolde, Chair

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Councilwoman Annarelli, Chair

LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Councilwoman Nolde

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Council President Boto

GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Mayor Blumenstock

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY LIAISON: Councilwoman Annarelli

BOARD OF HEALTH LIAISON: Council_____

PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Bianco

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Zoning Enforcement Officer's Report for December, 2025
https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/REPORTS_-_Zoning_Enforcement_Report_-_December_2025.pdf

Code Enforcement Officer's Report for December, 2025
https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/REPORTS_-_Property_Maintenance_December_2025_Monthly_Report.pdf

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

All in favor _____, opposed _____?

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Is there anyone in the audience who wishes to address the 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. 26-43

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2025 BUDGET TRANSFER #5

[*Sponsored by the Borough Administrator*]

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby directs the transfers of 2025 budget appropriations be and they are hereby made; and

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

FROM:	Department	Account Name	Account Number	Amount
	Group Insurance	Employer Active	5-01-23-220-200-1000	15,125.00
				15,125.00
TO:				
	Planning Board	Professional Services	5-01-21-180-200-0960	10,000.00
	Legal Fees	Municipal Attorney Fees	5-01-20-155-200-0950	5,000.00
	Municipal Court	S&W	5-01-43-490-100-0100	125.00
			Total	15,125.00

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby directs the transfers of 2025 budget appropriations be and they are hereby made; and

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

RESOLUTION NO. 26-44

RESOLUTION AMENDING VACATION HOURS EARNED FOR POLICE DISPATCHERS FOR THE PERSONNEL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

[*Sponsored by the Councilwoman Nolde, Chair of Police & Public Safety*]

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Borough of Garwood to treat employees and prospective employees in a manner consistent with all applicable Borough policies and employment laws and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has determined that there is a need to adopt an updated Vacation Hours Earned policy regarding dispatchers for the Policies and Procedures Manual to ensure that the dispatchers are scheduled in an effective manner for the function of emergency response in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has been notified by the Borough Administrator regarding the updated Vacation Hours Earned policy and been afforded an opportunity to review it prior to its ratification; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood that the Policies and Procedures Manual is hereby updated with the new Vacation Hours Earned policy and it shall supersede and replace all prior such policies, effective January 1, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 26-45

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MUNICIPAL HOUSING LIAISON

[*Sponsored by Councilwoman Bianco, Chair of Community Development*]

WHEREAS, per Affordable Housing regulations the council is required to appoint a Municipal Housing Liaison which must be a municipal employee.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby appoint John Arthur, Borough Administrator as Municipal Housing Liaison, effective January 1, 2026, in accordance with Chapter 106, Section 186 for the Code of the Borough of Garwood at an annual salary of $2,500 to be paid from the affordable housing trust.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-46

GCSUD GRANT ACCEPTANCE FY2027

[*Sponsored by the Borough Administrator*]

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Substance Use Disorder in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent substance use disorder in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey recognizes that substance use disorder is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore, has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent substance use disorder in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder through the County of Union;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Garwood Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year in the amount of:

GCSUD Grant	$3,549.00
Cash Match	$ 887.25
In-Kind	$2,661.75

2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-47

RESIGNATION OF POLICE OFFICER

[*Sponsored by the Borough Administrator*]

WHEREAS, on January 19, 2026, the Borough Administrator received correspondence dated January 19, 2026, from Chief Pridy advising that Trevor Witzel is resigning from his employment with the Borough of Garwood; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Witzel has advised that his resignation shall be effective January 19, 2026.

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

1) The Borough of Garwood hereby accepts and relies upon the January 19, 2026 letter of resignation from Trevor Witzel.
2) Effective January 19, 2026, Trevor Witzel shall have resigned from his position as Police Officer with the Borough of Garwood.
3) This resolution puts the Police Chief on notice to immediately process this resignation and to commence a search for a candidate to fill the position of Police Officer.
4) This resolution shall take effect immediately.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL:

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

Discussion:

ROLL CALL*:*

Councilwoman Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council _____	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____	Council President Boto	_____

RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by _____, second by _____, to adopt Resolution # 26-_____.

Discussion:

ROLL CALL*:*

Councilwoman Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council _____	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____	Council President Boto	_____

NEW BUSINESS:

Mary Kittle – Shade Tree Advisory Board Member – 01/01/2026-12/31/2027

Mural Committee:
John Arthur, Borough Administrator
Katya Lysak, Recreation Director
Jen Blumenstock, Mayor
Karina Boto, Council President
Pete Collura
Carol DelConte
Krystal Zawoysky

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 Annarelli	_____	Councilman Padusniak	_____
Councilwoman Bianco	_____	Council _____	_____
Councilwoman Nolde	_____	Council President Boto	_____

EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on **Thursday, February 12, 2026 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.

All in favor _____, opposed _____?

Time:_____