

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council**
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
January 23, 2018

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, advertised on January 4, 2018, 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).

Mayor Lombardo	P		
Councilwoman Blumenstock	P	Councilman McCormack	P
Councilwoman Cuccaro	P	Councilman Sarno	P
Councilman Lazarow	P	Council President Todisco	P

Also, present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud and Borough Engineer Michael Disko

Michael Bange of New Jersey American Water Company proposes a water main project for the south side of Garwood. He presented the project and the timeline including the lining process. He talked about the method by which residents will be notified. Lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Bange will attend the February 13th meeting for informing the public. Council unanimously agreed to authorize NJ AM Water to execute the water main project as proposed.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud updated council on the affordable housing matter and the upcoming meetings and requirements. He advised council the status of the requirements of the court order.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – **NO REPORT**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lombardo: I would like to thank “Crunch Gym” for hosting Mayor’s Saturday this past weekend and Carol Kearney, our Business Liaison to the council, for setting up the program. Council President Jen Blumenstock joined me as the council representative. I would like to thank all those who stopped by and we had many complimentary and positive comments about Garwood.

Once again I would like to welcome the Garwood Times to our town. The editor of the Garwood Gazette, on my behalf, sent an email to all the department heads and committee to send all their articles to the “Garwood Times” on a monthly basis for publication.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Blumenstock: I just want to give some background to Ordinance 18-02 on the agenda as it pertains to Streets and Roads. This particular ordinance refers to the salaries of the Department of Public Works, in particular the foreman’s salary. Last year, when we were undergoing the process of selecting a new foreman, as I read through the current contract, I noticed that it currently has that position making only an additional \$3/hr. It turns out that the salary rate has not been looked at or changed in over two decades. I also found out that longevity is no longer available to the DPW employees as it was when this salary was created. So laborers that have been employed for a long time and are grandfathered in, may be making the same or close to a foreman. And of course, at the time this salary was determined, benefits were fully paid for, something they no longer are. I brought all this to the committee and we discussed the various ways a foreman’s responsibilities have also increased as we’ve moved along technology-wise. Compared to surrounding towns we also discovered that we are way below what other foreman’s rate, and so it came out of committee 2-1 that we increase the foreman salary from \$3 an hour extra to \$6, still at the low end of surrounding towns, but what we think is fair and equitable.

Discussion regarding the increase followed. Mr. Renaud suggested an executive session to continue this discussion.

At 8:02 p.m. Ms. Ariemma read Resolution No. 18-047A

[RESOLUTION NO. 18-047A](#)

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL 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.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Cuccaro, second by Councilwoman Todisco, to enter into Executive Session.

Councilwoman Cuccaro	AYE	Councilman Sarno	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Councilwoman Todisco	AYE
Councilman McCormack	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

Workshop Session resumed at 8:06 p.m.

Discussion continued after Executive Session.

Councilwoman Cuccaro - **NO REPORT**

Councilman Lazarow - **NO REPORT**

Councilman McCormack - **NO REPORT**

Councilman Sarno commented on Ordinance 18-02. Council President Blumenstock answered and responded.

Councilwoman Todisco: Council President Blumenstock and I worked together to create a letter to businesses about a volunteer rewards card program, which I mentioned at our last meeting and each of you have a copy of that in front of you tonight. We've already casually discussed the idea with a number of businesses who already expressed interest. Essentially, this program invites all local businesses in Garwood to participate by providing 10% off services and/or purchases to qualifying volunteers who have the card. This is a great way to thank our volunteers and to encourage shopping locally here in Garwood. We want to continue to promote a strong business and community partnership. Once we hear from interested businesses by the March 15th deadline, we will be able to have the cards made up, then distributed to active volunteers.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

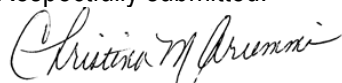
Is there anyone in the audience that wishes to address the mayor and council please step to the microphone, state your full name and address. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilwoman Cuccaro, Second by Councilwoman Todisco to adjourn
Time: 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood