

# Borough of Garwood Meeting of the Mayor and Council

## MINUTES

January 24, 2019

Start Time: 8:13 p.m.

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:**

<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.**

Motion by Councilman Benoit, second by Council President Lazarow, to suspend the regular order of business for the purpose of discussion and appointment of the vacant council seat

In accordance with MUNICIPAL VACANCY LAW, [N.J.S.A. 40A:16 et seq], the Democratic Municipal Committee has submitted the following three names for consideration to fill the unexpired term to November 5, 2019:

- 1) Vincent Kearney
- 2) Russell Graham
- 3) Ann Tarantino

Mayor Todisco requested a nomination.

Motion by Councilman Benoit to nominate Russell Graham to fill the vacancy, second by Council President Lazarow.

Discussion: Councilman Benoit thanked the three citizens for volunteering to serve the public.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
		<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

Councilman Graham was sworn in by the Pete Corvelli, Union County Sheriff. Councilman Graham thanked Sheriff Corvelli for swearing him in, thanked his wife and Mayor for their support.

Councilman McCormack commented that he is looking forward to working with Russ.

Councilman Graham took his seat on the dais.

Motion by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Council President Lazarow to resume the regular order of business. All in favor.

### **MINUTES:**

Regular, Workshop and Executive Minutes of the Mayor and Council held on January 10, 2019.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Ince, to accept minutes as presented. All in favor.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

- 1) **NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES –**
  - a. Mayor’s Advisory –
    - i. 01/11/19, RE: Weekly Round-Up
    - ii. 01/16/19, RE: Daily Update
    - iii. 01/17/19, RE: Daily Update
    - iv. 01/17/19, RE: Daily Update
    - v. 01/18/19, RE: Weekly Round-Up
- 2) **TOWNSHIP OF WESTFIELD –** 01/18/19, RE: Ordinances 2122 and 2123

**ALL RECEIVED AND FILED**

**ORDINANCES:**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance 19-01 by title only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 19-01**

**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW STREET SWEEPER IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$280,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.**

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock, to introduce Ordinance 19-01.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance 19-02 by title only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 19-02**

**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE LAND USE ORDINANCE TO REVISE ZONING REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO EATING AND DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS.**

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilman Benoit, to introduce Ordinance 19-02.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:**

**POLICE: Councilman Ince, Chr.**

Join Mayor Todisco and Chief Wright for breakfast at Borough Hall on Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup> between the hours of 10 am and 12 noon. Bring the kids as well for a tour of the Police Department.

& Grain will be hosting our next Coffee With-A-Cop event scheduled for Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> between 10 am and 12 noon. All our welcome to come out and meet the members of the Garwood Police Department, The first one’s on us.

**STREETS AND ROADS/ECOLOGY: Councilwoman Blumenstock Chr.**

In addition to regular garbage pickup, the DPW continued the annual residential Christmas tree pickup program, disposing of the trees at the Fanwood Recycling Center. They also performed leaf and branch cleanup at all Borough owned properties due to heavy winds. The Public Works employees worked a total of 17.5 man hours of double time on January 13<sup>th</sup> and 14 man hours of time and a half for sidewalk and street deicing operations. Additionally pothole repairs were done in the following locations of the Borough:

- o Intersection of West and Myrtle
- o 300 block of Hickory Avenue
- o 400 block of Pine Avenue
- o 400 block of Willow Avenue

A total of 4 tons of hot mix asphalt was used to perform the repairs. That’s all for my report, Mayor.

**FIRE: Councilman McCormack, Chr.**

On January 19th the Fire committee along with our Chief and Assistant Chief gathered to discuss the workings of our Volunteer Department we went Over many topics, but we did run into a time restraint as to our other obligations as councilmen with in our Boro , I will report after our next meeting. I would also like to inform the Governing body along with the Residence that on February 4th all are invited to a Fire drill at the Heidi property, in which as Fire Commission I would like to thank { Quick Copper Holdings LLC } for giving their property up for our Fire Department to conduct important life saving Drills.

**FINANCE: Council President Lazarow, Chr.**

\*The finance committee met to interview Steve Greet, our RVSA board representative for the past 10 years, and Bruce Patterson who volunteered at the last council meeting his expertise and knowledge to fill this role. The committee felt both offered a lot of passion and interest in continuing to fight on behalf of Garwood residents and we appreciate both of them taking the time to step up to offer their time. However, the finance committee unanimously will be recommending that the council appoint Steve Greet for the 5 year appointment and encourage the rest of council to support this resolution.

\*I was honored to join Mayor Todisco for the first Citizens Advisory Panel this past Saturday. In a nearly two hour meeting, the panel which consisted of a wide range of experiences, years in town, and overall perspectives to hopefully reflect our community-at-large, had a spirited conversation about the 5 year capital improvement plan that was made by the finance committee in 2018. In the end, there was a consensus from all attending members that they saw the significant need for purchasing the regenerative street sweeper and supported the town moving forward with bonding for this purchase. The panel is scheduled to meet again in February after the Finance committee meets with all of the Departments to hear about their budget requests for 2019.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Councilman Graham No Report**

**LAWS AND LICENSES: Councilman Benoit**

We have written a social media policy for the borough and submitted it to council for review. We will have our next meeting in the beginning of February along with our newest member.

**RECREATION: Councilman Benoit**

I attended the January 21, 2019 Recreation Commission meeting. It was a reorganization meeting. The discussion topics at the meeting ranged from the Garwood basketball program to the summer rec program. A committee was formed to look into revamping the Garwood Recreation Facebook page as a way to get information about their programs out to the residents. A change was made to the meeting schedule, and the meetings will now be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 6pm at the recreation complex. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>.

**GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock**

We held a club meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>, where we enjoyed lunch and bingo. I updated the members on the Council's Re-Org, and the Russo and Paperboard redevelopments. I also informed the seniors of my plan to create a set list of volunteers that could help shovel driveways and sidewalks for those seniors who are unable to do so after a snow. I am in the process of gathering volunteers, but am glad to say that we have already received a few and I am hoping to get a completed list soon. Our next meeting is on February 7<sup>th</sup>. That's all for my report, Mayor.

**LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Council President Lazarow**

**January/February 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, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

**Story Time** - Wednesdays at 10:30am,

**Kids Craft** – Wednesday February 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm

**Lego Club** - Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm

On February 13, representatives from INSECTROPOLIS will bring their Bugs on the Go program to the Library. Introducing children from K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade to arthropods and insects. They will bring along a live hissing cockroach, a giant millipede, an Emperor scorpion and a tarantula! Registration required. Limit 30.

On February 21, 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.

**LIBRARY CLOSINGS:** The Library will be closed February 18<sup>th</sup> for President's Day

**SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock**

At the BOE meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Quigley explained that the position for president was still being considered by the County Superintendent after a tying vote between Sue Groning and Christine Guerriero at re-org. During the meeting, a number of committee spots were filled including, Council Liaison, which will be Board Member Al DelConte. Various policies were amended and approved concerning budgets, transfer of funds and state and federal funds. Also, the Physical Education revised curriculum and the World Language revised curriculums were approved. That's all for my report, Mayor.

**CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS LIAISON: Councilman Benoit**

I was unable to attend the January 16, 2019 meeting. Fortunately, Mayor Todisco subbed in for me. It was a reorganization meeting at which Jennyfer Guerrero was made chair, and Monika Shvetz was made co-chair. Congratulations to the both of them, and I know they'll do a great job this year. I believe the first event up on the calendar is the Easter Egg Hunt at the field at the recreation complex and it is scheduled for Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>. I will provide more updates as I learn more about that event.

**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: Councilman Graham No Report**

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

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

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock, to accept Officer's reports. All in favor

**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.

Vincent Kearney, 306 Center Street congratulated Mr. Graham and also thanked the committee for his participation in the process.

Krystal Zawoyski, 208 Myrtle Avenue commented on the parking issues in her area as a result of Recreation complex.

Motion by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilman Benoit to close public comment. All in favor.

Mayor Todisco thanked Vincent Kearny for his comments.

Mayor Todisco commented on the parking issue and she will address the matter.

Councilman Benoit and Councilman Ince commented.

**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. 19-150**

BE IT RESOLVED that the ordinance entitled:

"BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW STREET SWEEPER IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$280,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS."

heretofore introduced, does now pass on first reading, and that said ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting to be held on the 14th day of February, 2019, at 7:15 P.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be reached, at the regular meeting place of the Borough Council, and that at such time and place all persons interested be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance, and that the Municipal Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance according to law with a notice of its introduction and passage on first reading and of the time and place when and where said ordinance will be further considered for final passage.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-151**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby hires Bryanna Brea as part-time Violations Clerk for the Garwood Municipal Court effective January 28, 2019 at the rate of \$13.50 per hour.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-152**

**GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S**

**"Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"**

**FORM OF RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of the Borough of Garwood, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit's hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-153**

**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 #5**

**Resolution #19-153**

FROM: Department	Account Name	Account Number	Amount
Group Insurance	Employer Dental	8-01-23-220-200-1020	2,300.00
Group Insurance	Employer Active	8-01-23-220-200-1000	5,700.00
			<u>8,000.00</u>

**TO:**

Utilities	Water Gas Electric	8-01-31-431-200-0163	2,600.00
Street Lighting	Street Lighting Fees	8-01-31-435-200-1115	2,000.00
Financial Admin	Audit Fee Deferred Comp Plan	8-01-20-130-200-0276	1,000.00
Legal Fees	Mt Laurel Litigation	8-01-20-155-200-0952	2,400.00
		Total	<u>8,000.00</u>

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-154**

**WHEREAS**, on January 23, 2019, the Borough Administrator/Clerk received email correspondence from Lashonn Durant, Municipal Court Administrator dated January 23, 2019, advising that she is resigning from her employment with the Borough of Garwood; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Lashonn has advised that her resignation shall be effective on January 23, 2019; and

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

- 1) The Borough of Garwood hereby accepts and relies upon the January 23, 2019 notice of resignation from Lashonn Durant.
- 2) Effective January 23, 2019, Lashonn Durant shall have resigned from her position as Municipal Court Administrator with the Borough of Garwood.
- 3) This resolution puts the Borough Administrator/Clerk on notice to immediately process this resignation.
- 4) This resolution shall take effect immediately.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-155**

**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.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-156**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that: Investors Savings Bank, Cranford Office, shall be the depository for the Municipal Court Regular Account and Municipal Court Bail Account. All disbursements shall be made by checks signed by Judge Gary Bundy, and Marisa Noelle Jimenez.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Council President Lazarow, to adopt Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**APPOINTMENT:**

Historical Committee - Stephanie Bianco

**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 Council President Lazarow, to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on, **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019**, in Council Chambers at 7:15 p.m. Workshop Session to start at 7:00 p.m.

**THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ON ORDINANCE NO. 19-01 and 19-02, ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019, AT 7:15 P.M. OR SOON THERE AFTER**

A motion was made by Councilman Benoit, second by Council President Lazarow, to adjourn.  
Time: 8:38p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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