

Borough of Garwood
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Time: 7:00 P.M.

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	P		
Councilwoman Boto	P	Councilwoman Nolde	P
Councilman Foley	P	councilwoman Salmon	P
Councilman Lazarow	P	Council President Kearney	P

Also Present:

Kyle Harris, Borough Administrator

Victoria Holmes, Borough Attorney

Doug Stoffer, Chief of Police

Mike Disko, Borough Engineer

Steve Greet, RVSA Liaison

Cathy Cameron, Borough Clerk

The first order of business was as follows:

- Mayor Blumenstock administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Eric Melendez.
- John Buonocore, Executive Director of the RVSA, summarized the Authority's budget and clarified the billing process for Garwood.

Discussion ensued regarding excessive flow during a five month billing cycle in 2023.

Mr. Buonocore suggested Borough officials contact Westfield for additional information regarding the concern.

Report of Borough Attorney NO REPORT

Report of Borough Administrator NO REPORT

Mr. Harris summarized the Ordinances listed on the agenda.

Report of Mayor Blumenstock

Just a couple of things. First off, I want to take a minute to talk social media once again. I sometimes feel like I'm screaming into the void about this, but I am nothing if not persistent. So, I urge everyone again to please remember that our employees and volunteers are people who are working hard to give their time to the betterment of the Borough. And it's very easy to ruin someone's livelihood or reputation by posting something on Facebook, especially without knowing all of the facts. If there is something going on in the Borough you want to see addressed or want to know how we're addressing it, I ask that you come to me or the Borough Administrator to discuss it, rather than attacking someone online. I assure you, any incident that occurs in any of our departments is something we are aware of and will remedy properly. I support all

of Garwood's first responders. Yes, some are paid employees, and some are volunteers, but they are all taking risks to protect our residents. Now, that doesn't relieve anyone of accountability, but I hope it means that before you press the post button, you can take a minute to reflect on the outcome of a public post criticizing or shaming someone. As we see all too often, the consequences of that quick post can be far-reaching and can impact many lives. There are a lot of great things happening in Garwood and in terms of our first responders, there are many accolades that they deserve, and I loved seeing those commenting on the positive experiences they have had with our first responders. It's important that our community remember those and come together around those rather than tearing each other down. Switching gears, I want to take a minute to address another topic. Last year, the Council passed an ordinance regarding rental properties. Specifically, the registration of these residential rental properties and the mandatory submission of liability insurance for those rental properties. We discussed this over many meetings, held public hearings, answered many questions, but of course with this new year, as the letters for the collection of insurance paperwork are mailed out, I have been seeing and receiving more questions about it, so I thought I re-clarify what this is all about. In August 2022, the State legislature passed a bill requiring each municipality submit to the State liability insurance for each residential rental property in that municipality. In order to comply, we first had to figure out what properties in Garwood actually are rentals, which led to last year's rental property registration. Properties that we believed were rentals got a letter to register their property and if our information was inaccurate, the owner simply had to let us know. That registration paperwork did include a fee which we would use to offset the cost to an employee to collect these, work on them, submit them, hunt out who we haven't heard from etc. All rentals including Vermella and any future redevelopment are required to comply. I also want to note that it was always the case that landlords were supposed to register rental properties with the Borough. Some of you may even recall seeing the registration form on our website. However, it was not truly enforced because we had no submission mandates from the State. Now that this mandate has come down, we needed to begin that enforcement. Now we have a refined list of rental properties in Garwood, and though there are some still outstanding, we are definitely in better shape. Now that we have that initial step completed, we have now in this current year moved forward to collecting the liability insurance paperwork. This is something we are mandated to do each year. There is a small fee involved to cover administrative costs. None of this, the initial registration or yearly insurance collections are covered by the State in terms of costs to the Borough. I understand that this is all new to Garwood. It may seem like there's one thing after another, and I think we up here understand that because it feels like it's one new law from the State coming to us after another. But I've seen a lot of misinformation not only about the reasoning behind these new laws as well as the various details involved as to what landlords need to do or hand in. I ask that everyone please contact Borough Hall if you have any questions to get the correct information directly from the source. Unfortunately, this will not be the last mandate concerning rentals that Garwood will need to adhere to. We've spoken at length about the lead inspection program that we will need to roll out involving rental apartments older than 1978 and not already certified lead-free. The State gave municipalities a little more time to begin doing those, but not much as the date set by the State is July 2024. As we move closer, we will keep you updated non that front.

Comments from the Council:

Councilwoman Boto

Thank you, Mayor. I would like to congratulate Patrolman Melendez. Welcome to Garwood! I would also like to share that I attended Orientation for newly elected officials this weekend. It was full of useful information. The common theme was communication. Trust the Board Administrator, The Clerk and Department Heads. Communicate with Council members irrespective of parties and serve the residents to the best of our ability. In sum, communicate.

Councilman Foley NO REPORT

Councilman Foley summarized his attendance to a workshop.

Councilman Lazarow NO REPORT

Councilwoman Nolde NO REPORT

Councilwoman Salmon NO REPORT

Council President Kearney

Thank you, Mayor! A few quick things tonight. Beginning with an official and warm welcome to the family after the official swearing-in, of our newest Garwood Police Officer, Eric Melendez. Congratulations, and be safe, sir! First, I want to state my support for all the men and women of our Garwood Fire and Police Departments. Both departments are doing an excellent overall job for this town. While the Council serves an important oversight and policy-making role, the day-to-day operations of our first responders are, as they should be, in the hands of their respective professional command staffs and our Borough Administrator. Next, I've done some follow up work on the "Skip the Stuff" initiative which was discussed with the Small Business Association Board before our last Council meeting. A representative from Clean Water Action will be at our next Council meeting on February 22nd to give a brief presentation. Prior to that, I have researched a few towns which have adopted this already, to model our own Ordinance and Borough Code from. I'll ask to have it circulated to the Council prior to our next meeting, so we will be able to discuss any points of interest with the Clean Water Action Rep, and then hopefully move this onto the agenda for an Introduction in March! Also, we have a number of Ordinances up tonight, I'm requesting full support of the Council for the adoption of Ordinance # 24-02, and the introduction of Ordinance #s 24-04, 24-05, and 24-06, which all originated from the Police Committee. Closing with, I want to state my full agreement with Mayor Blumenstock's statements tonight regarding social media. Following on to what's already been said by several of my colleagues up here tonight: I think there is an incredible, and frankly escalating, lack of judgment shown on our local Facebook groups which all bear the name of "Garwood". While most people know these are not official sites of the Borough of Garwood, things said there are often seen by many people in our area, and they can reflect upon the entire town. I urge caution when using social media, especially when choosing to "name names". A rush to judgment, where all of the facts could not possibly be known, along with personal attacks and personal agendas mixed in, is really a toxic brew which can spill over and affect lives in the real world very easily. As a community, we absolutely need the ability to come together and discuss the issues of the day, but I don't believe the best way to do that is behind a keyboard. Going forward I urge everyone to engage respectfully, responsibly, and most importantly: with all the facts. Thank you.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on January 18, 2024.

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Nolde, to accept the Regular Meeting minutes as presented. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1) NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

- a) 01/19/2024, RE: Affordable Housing Hearing, State Plan Process, Bills Signed

<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/221565>

2) RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

a) 01/19/2024, RE: Minutes

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

ALL RECEIVED AND FILED

ORDINANCES:

ADOPTION

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\(2\).pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord._24-02-POLICE_SALARIES_2023-2026(2).pdf)

List correspondence concerning Ordinance No. 24-02. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance No. 24-02.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue requested clarification regarding percentage of increases and rank.

Mr. Harris provided clarification.

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Council President Kearney, to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 24-02.

Discussion: NONE

A motion was made by Council President Kearney, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adopt Ordinance No. 24-02.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Boto	AYE	Councilwoman Nolde	AYE
Councilman Foley	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Kearney	AYE

6-AYES Ordinance #24-02 was adopted.

INTRODUCTION

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 24-03 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 67, ENTITLED "BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES" OF THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY CREATING NEW ARTICLE VIII, "REGISTRATION OF RENTAL UNITS".

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord._24-03_Rental_Registration_Late_Fee.pdf

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Nolde, to introduce Ordinance No. 24-03.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Boto	AYE	Councilwoman Nolde	AYE
Councilman Foley	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	RECUSE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Kearney	AYE

5-AYES, 1-RECUSE Ordinance #24-03 was introduced.

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 24-04 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 34, ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT," ARTICLE I, "ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND ADMINISTRATION."

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord. 24-04_PD_Organization.pdf

A motion was made by Council President Kearney, second by Councilman Foley, to introduce Ordinance No. 24-04.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Boto	AYE	Councilwoman Nolde	AYE
Councilman Foley	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Kearney	AYE

6-AYES Ordinance #24-04 was introduced.

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 24-05 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY CREATING CHAPTER 21, ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", ARTICLE I "TRAFFIC AND PARKING", NEW SECTION 21-8.8.

<https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord. 24-05 - Paid Parking.pdf>

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Nolde, to introduce Ordinance No. 24-05.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Boto	AYE	Councilwoman Nolde	AYE
Councilman Foley	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Kearney	AYE

6-AYES Ordinance #24-05 was introduced.

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 24-06 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-06

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 21, ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC", ARTICLE I "TRAFFIC AND PARKING", SECTIONS 21-7 "ONE-HOUR PARKING 7:00 AM TO 7:00 PM" AND 21-8 "TWO-HOUR PARKING".

<https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord. 24-06 - Amend Hourly Parking.pdf>

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Council President Kearney, to introduce Ordinance No. 24-06.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Boto	AYE	Councilwoman Nolde	AYE
Councilman Foley	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Kearney	AYE

6-AYES Ordinance #24-06 was introduced.

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 24-07 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-07

AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES AND WAGES OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord. 24-07-SALARY_AMENDMENTS.pdf

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow , second by Councilwoman Salmon, to introduce Ordinance No. 24-07.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Boto	AYE	Councilwoman Nolde	AYE
Councilman Foley	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Kearney	AYE

6-AYES Ordinance #24-07 was introduced.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL: Councilman Foley, Chair

Councilman Foley provided a summary of the Finance Committee meeting.

FIRE AND OEM: Councilman Lazarow, Chair

The fire department in the month of January reported 22 incidents consisting of 13 day calls and 9 nights calls. Most of the calls were alarm activations. 20 hours were dedicated to mutual aid calls and a total of 160 firefighter hours were utilized. This included CPR training. Also, in February, 19 of our firefighters participated in Right to Know/Blood Borne Pathogen Training. Last night, I attended the fire department's monthly meeting. Thank you to all of the volunteers in this department for their welcoming embrace of me as their new commissioner. I discussed with the department the progress of considering new radios that Councilman Foley brought up in his finance report. I also am thrilled to share that at a special meeting held January 29, 2024, with a quorum present, the membership of Liberty Hose Co. #1, Garwood Fire Department, accepted the membership application from Sean Kessock. Sean is a Garwood resident and I am happy to welcome him to this group of dedicated volunteers.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Councilwoman Salmon, Chair

Mayor Blumenstock and I met with the developer of Garden homes this past week along with Victor Vinegra and our redevelopment attorney. He has informed us that he does not wish to proceed with the original plan of a storage unit facility at the paperboard site. Stating that it is not a lucrative business at this point. He has proposed a new plan with 20 additional unit as well as the possibility of an additional senior housing development in place of the storage facility. At the conclusion of the meeting, we requested that he look into other options that did not include additional housing. He agreed to look into other avenues. Mr. Vinegra advised him to look into pad site, for example a free-standing structure whether it be food or retail based as well as medical office space. The conversation for senior housing at this location is still ongoing. He will return to us with a revised plan at our next meeting. The Mayor and I have a zoom meeting tomorrow regarding an update on affording housing requirements coming next year.

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilwoman Boto, Chair

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Thank you, Mayor. My Report tonight consists of two parts. **First:** In addition to the Recurring Activities, the Department of Public Works continued to assist the Recreation Director with the bi-monthly inspections of Hartman Park and the Sports Complex; Perform preventative maintenance on

miscellaneous public works trucks and equipment; Setup and take down tables and chairs at the Sports Complex for numerous Recreation activities/events; Clean up the common areas around the Municipal Complex; Wash and lubricate all de-icing equipment and vehicles within the Department; Complete the annual residential Christmas tree pickup program. Dispose of the trees at the Fanwood Recycling Center; Assemble and continue to install the permit parking signs in various locations of the Borough; Install new one-way signs and posts at the intersection of Willow Avenue and West Street; and perform painting operations of the administrative offices. **Second:** The Public Works Committee met on Monday, January 29, in attendance were Council President Kearney, Councilman Foley, Borough Administrator Mr. Harris and me. We discussed four (4) items presented by Mr. Disko at our January 18th Council meeting. **FIRST: 502 Spruce Avenue drainage.** The sidewalk work, will be performed in the Spring since it has been previously authorized. Mr. Disko provided the quotes he received from Midwest Construction this afternoon, but the Committee has not had a chance to discuss. Once we do, we will provide an update. **SECOND: Corner Bump Outs.** Mayor Blumenstock and Mr. Disko requested a list of intersections which could benefit and we proposed the following: On the North Side - Second & Walnut; Third & Walnut; Third & Cedar; Third & Oak. We agreed that Third and Oak should be our "trial" intersection since there has been a lot of concern from the residents regarding traffic and since a 2022 paving grant currently exists. On the South Side – we discussed East and West streets. We also discussed Center Street, in addition to the raised bump outs we talked about the possibility of bike lanes and the narrowing of the street to slow down traffic and increase safety. We will discuss further after gathering more feedback. **THIRD: Drainage Issue.** North Avenue/Center Street – by the Mobil Gas Station and Train Tracks. It has to be determined if it may involve NJ Transit or if it requires Owner Property maintenance. A response from the NJDOT is pending. Once a response is received we will discuss further. **FOURTH: Ice Complaints.** Having received residents' complaints regarding ice as a result of sump pump discharge into the street. Mr. Harris recommended an Ordinance requiring new construction tie into storm sewer and on future road projects, have the Borough Engineer tie in existing sump lines when there is a storm sewer pipe in front of the property. We support Mr. Harris' recommendation.

Council consented to the Ordinance referenced in the above report.

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Council President Kearney, Chair

The Garwood Police Department has recorded 1863 calls during the month of January 2024. These calls include: 103 motor vehicle stops; 25 parking complaints; 95 fixed traffic posts (Radar, Stop Sign, Distracted Driving); 172 building/property checks; 40 medical assists; 83 community policing posts; 43 walking posts; 22 criminal investigations. The Garwood Police Department is participating in the Special Needs Registry through the Union County Prosecutor's Office. This program aims to enhance communication and understanding between law enforcement officers and individuals with disabilities and special health needs including those with autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia. The Special Needs Registry allows individuals or family members to voluntarily register, providing details such as name, contact information, nature of the person's needs, and emergency contact information. The Special Needs Registry is part of the ongoing process of equipping officers with critical information to support effective and respectful interactions with citizens with special needs. Please contact Detective Czachorowski at Garwood Police Headquarters for more information. The Garwood Police Department would like to make everyone aware that there are a variety of aggressive frauds that you may encounter during tax season. Fraudsters may use email, text, phone and the mail. If you get one of these messages, DO NOT reply or click the link and report it to the Police Department. Remember, neither the IRS or the State of NJ will ever call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a

bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes; Threaten to immediately bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.; Demand that taxes be paid without giving taxpayers the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed; Call unexpectedly about a tax refund. Please keep all this in mind during tax season, and that's all for this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Councilwoman Nolde, Chair

Garwood Partnership for Arts and Culture: The New Beginnings art show is ongoing in several locations around town including Everbowl, Cozy Corner, Alonso's Cafe, Al's Deli, Crossroads, and the Garwood Public Library. Please check out this celebration of the new year in art by Garwood artists before the end of the month. The next meeting of GPAC is Monday, Feb.12.

Historical: The Historical Committee met on Jan. 22 to discuss their upcoming presentation on their grant from Union County to the Council on Feb. 22.

Recreation: Special Events: Garwood Family Skate Night: Saturday, March 16th from 6 pm to 8 pm at Warinanco Sports Center. This event is free and open to Garwood residents of all ages. Pre-registration is required. To sign up for this free event, visit www.garwoodrec.com. Skates are available for rent on-site for \$4/pair. **Youth Programs: Kiddies Junior Robotics:** Registration is still open! The last day to register is Friday! This new program is run by Kiddies Kaleidoscopes and is open to Pre-K through 3rd Graders. This begins on Monday, February 12th, and takes place for 4 Mondays from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

Science Exploration: Registration is still open! The last day to register is Friday! This program will incorporate new projects and experiments different from the Fall program. Examples of projects include: digging for fossils, creating a solar system, making a lava lamp, and crystals and gems. This program is run by Kiddies Kaleidoscopes and is open to Pre-K through 3rd Graders. It begins on Wednesday, February 14th, and takes place on 4 Wednesdays from 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm.

STEM Beginner Youth Python Coding Program: This program is run by Zarembo Data Analytics and takes place during spring break 2024 (Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; April 3rd - April 5th from 9 am to 12 pm). Open to 3rd through 8th graders. Analyze Pokemon cards using Python; create a Morse code translator in Python and encrypt and decrypt messages in Morse Code; venture into data analysis with the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, an intro into recommendation algorithms, exploring pizza preferences of the turtles and visualization techniques leveraging Python. Laptops are provided.

Parent Assist Soccer: This program, for ages 2 ½ to 3 ½, is run by US Sports Institute and runs on Saturday mornings from 9 am to 9:45 am. Starts April 13th and goes until May 18th. This program is a fun and positive introduction to soccer for young children with a helping hand from Mom or Dad! Children will have fun learning the fundamental skills of soccer through fun-based games and activities.

Soccer Squirts: This program, for ages 3 and 4, is also run by US Sports Institute and runs on Saturday mornings from 9:50 am to 10:35 am. Starts April 13th and goes until May 18th. This program provides the fundamental skills of soccer including dribbling, passing, shooting, and defending. Classes will include a series of fun challenges, structured activities, and scrimmages adapted to ensure everyone achieves success.

Soccer Squirts: This program, for ages 4 to 5 ½, is also run by US Sports Institute and runs on Saturday mornings from 10:40 am to 11:25 am. It starts April 13th and goes until May 18th. This program provides the fundamental skills of soccer including dribbling, passing, shooting, and defending. Classes will include a series of fun challenges, structured activities, and scrimmages adapted to ensure everyone achieves success. **Adult Programs: Adult Ceramics:** The first class is tomorrow (Wednesday, Feb. 7th). Registration is still open for the Wednesday, March 6th, April 10th, and May 8th classes.

Self-Defense for Adults: This one-time, free 45-minute class is provided by USA Karate and Fitness and takes place this Saturday, February 10th at 2:30 pm. Registration closes this Friday! Learn the basics of self-defense in this fun and exhilarating workout. **Walking Challenge:** Stay tuned for more info on this challenge.

TryCAN: Garwood is a proud member of the TryCAN Collaboration! TryCan coordinates inclusive recreation and social development programs for children with special needs. Spring offerings include a hip hop dance class for ages 10 and older as well as TAEKWONDO for two groups of students ages 5-11 and ages 11 and up. These programs help teach sports and life skills while focusing on building individual skills, teamwork, and fun! For more information about these programs, please click on the Summit Community link on the borough's quick links or contact David Guida from the City of Summit by emailing dguidajr@cityofsummit.org or by calling (908) 277-2932.

LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Councilman Lazarow

February 9 at 10 am to Noon - [Ask Kiosk](#)-Aging Services Kiosk – Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand 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. February 13, at 3 p.m. Virtual Adult Craft - Pick up your craft supplies from the Library and then watch the Facebook tutorial at 3 pm. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 10 participants. Sign up on the Library website's events calendar or by phone. February 20, and 27 at 6:30 pm – Adult Chess - Informal chess games for adults. No registration required. Limit February 21 and 28 at 3 pm LEGO CLUB - Be inspired by this month's theme or build whatever comes to mind. Some will be displayed in our showcase. Registration required Limit 12. The Library will be closed for President's Day, Monday, February 19, 2024

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Council President Kearney

The Garwood Board of Education met on January 23rd. Action taken at the meeting relevant to the Borough was the Board agreeing to withdraw the policy regarding reservation of school facilities from its scheduled second reading. The policy was referred back to the relevant subcommittee for additional work after feedback provided by the Borough and the Public. Superintendent Kinney also provided an extensive report covering the District Goals, Strategic Plan Update and quite a bit of school news. In addition to being presented at the monthly Board meeting, the full Superintendent Report is posted on the Garwood Schools website, just click on "Administration" from the main page and follow the link under Mr. Kinney's name for the current report. I encourage everyone in Garwood, not just current parents with children in our schools, to check these excellent and detailed reports about our school district. Mayor Blumenstock and I attended our February monthly meeting with the Superintendent and Board President this week. These meetings are going well, and progress is being made! A reminder to all that Superintendent Kinney has requested assistance from the Mayor & Council to recruit volunteers for a new program called "Mustang Mentor". The concept is to put people in our community who have a skill, trade or talent, in front of our students to share knowledge, experience and perhaps inspire future career or hobby choices. These can be one-off talks, or something with multiple sessions if the volunteer is willing and there is an interest from the students. For more information or to sign up as a Mustang Mentor, please email Mr. Kinney at ckinney@garwoodschoools.org. The Board's next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20th, and that's all for this report.

GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Mayor Blumenstock

At our last meeting on February 1st, we got a treat from line dancing instructor Sari Levine, who got us all and dance the cupid shuffle. It was a fun way to end the meeting before we settled down for lunch and bingo. Our next meeting is February 15th at 12pm at the Knights of Columbus. I also encourage our seniors to sign

up for our next round of senior classes, which include Sari's line dancing class. You can get a calendar of all of our senior classes with sign up instructions mailed to you by calling Borough Hall.

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY LIAISON: Council President Kearney

Garwood Wellness Month is fully underway! Please see the Borough's social media feeds, or check Garwood.org/smallbusiness for a list of participating Garwood businesses, and their various promotional offers. One quick note for the Council and the public, Hotworx's official grand opening will be on Saturday, March 2nd at 11am. Finally, our next SBA Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 26th, and that's all for this report.

BOARD OF HEALTH LIAISON: Councilman Foley NO REPORT

PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Salmon NO REPORT

The January 24th meeting of the Planning Board was canceled and the next meeting will be held on February 28th.

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Boto, to recess for five minutes.

A motion was made by Council President Kearney, second by Councilman Foley, to resume the meeting.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Zoning Enforcement Officer's Report for January, 2024

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

Property Maintenance Officer's Report for January, 2024

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

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Councilman Foley, 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.

Steven Todisco, 54 Second Avenue, requested clarification regarding damage to a Fire Department vehicle caused by an accident.

Mr. Pritchard sang a song regarding veterans.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue, requested clarification regarding radio dispatch services provided by the County, and clarification regarding the false alarms occurring in the Borough.

Rachel Herz, 61 Fourth Avenue, requested clarification regarding the certification status/appointment of Garwood Fire Department officers.

Jill Pall, 54 Third Avenue, commented on the importance of obtaining all weather AED's and stated that her non-profit organization supporting AED awareness, The Aliver Foundation, had been formalized.

Coleen Hay, 516 Fourth Avenue, requested clarification regarding methods of payment for parking.

John Bartolick, 231 Hemlock Avenue, commented on paid parking.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nolde, second by Councilman Lazarow, to close public comment.
 All in favor.

Councilman Lazarow and Mr. Harris clarified the GFD vehicle damage concern.

Mayor Blumenstock clarified the false alarm concern.

Mr. Harris clarified the GFD certification/officer appointment concern.

Mayor Blumenstock provided the status of a grant submitted for additional AED's.

Mayor Blumenstock, Mr. Harris and Councilman Kearney provided clarification regarding payment methods for parking.

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. 24-043

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that Imani Humphrey is hereby appointed as a part time Public Moderator, effective January 18, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$25.00 per hour.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-044

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood has heretofore adopted Ordinance No. 24-02.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-02

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

WHEREAS, said ordinance reflects changes of salaries and/or hourly rates to be paid to said employees of the Borough of Garwood for the year 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Garwood that the CFO/Treasurer of the Borough be and is hereby authorized and directed to payrolls on Borough funds for the purpose of paying the annual base salaries and or hourly rates to the employees of the Garwood Police Department in the Borough of Garwood as set forth opposite each job classification. Said salaries to be paid bi-weekly less such deductions as in such cases made. The schedule of salaries hereafter set forth shall be effective as of January 1, 2023, or as indicated and in accordance with law.

NAME	TITLE/STEP		Base Salary
STOFFER, DOUGLAS	Captain		121,609.00
ROCCO, SAMUEL	Lieutenant		116,110.00
ROCCO, SAMUEL	Captain	effective 7/1/23	121,609.00
PERROTTA, DAVID	Lieutenant		116,110.00
WRIGHT, JOHN	Sergeant		111,523.00
LEWIS, PHILLP	Sergeant		111,523.00
HERZ, TODD	Step 10		102,508.00

KLEINSORGEN, JEFFREY	Step 10		102,508.00
ERIKSEN, SCOTT	Step 10		102,508.00
SUGGS, GEORGE	Step 10		102,508.00
CZACHOROWSKI, CHRISTOPHER	Step 10		102,508.00
PRIDY, JONATHAN	Step 10		102,508.00
CAMPOREALE, ROBERTO	Step 8		90,795.00
CAMPOREALE, ROBERTO	Step 9	effective 2/1/23	96,651.00
SANCHEZ, GREGORY	Step 6		79,080.00
SANCHEZ, GREGORY	Step 7	effective 11/1/23	84,937.00
SCHOENBERGER, ERICK	Step 2		55,651.00
SCHOENBERGER, ERICK	Step 3	effective 12/1/23	61,508.00
ZIMBARDO, DYLAN	Step 1		50,000.00

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Council President Kearney, to adopt Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Boto	AYE	Councilwoman Nolde	AYE
Councilman Foley	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Kearney	AYE

RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

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 Council President Kearney, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Boto	AYE	Councilwoman Nolde	AYE
Councilman Foley	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Kearney	AYE

ADJOURNMENT:

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on **Thursday, February 22, 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 Councilwoman Boto, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adjourn. Time: 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Catherine D. Cameron, R.M.C.
 Borough Clerk