

**Borough of Garwood**  
**MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 10, 2022**

Time: 7:00 P.M

Moment of Silence:

Please join me in keeping past Garwood Mayor Fred Strahlendorf in your minds and hearts tonight for our moment of silence tonight as he passed away a week ago. Mayor Strahlendorf proudly served our community for six years on the Council, from which he spent the last year as Mayor in 1992. He lived in Garwood from 1965 to 1996 and felt honored to have served his fellow citizens for six years. He retired from the NJ State Police Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control as Senior Inspector. Mayor Strahlendorf is survived by two children, Carol and Jon, along with 5 grandsons and 2 granddaughters, 3 great grandsons and 2 great granddaughters. Please join me in keeping Mayor Strahlendorf in our thoughts during tonight's moment of silence.

Salute to the Flag

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Union County Hawk advertised on December 2, 2021. 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:**

<b>Mayor Todisco</b>	<b>P</b>		
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>Councilwoman Loffredo</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Kearney</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Lazarow</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Council President Blumenstock</b>	<b>P</b>

**Also Present:**

Kyle Harris, Borough Administrator  
Adam Abramson, Borough Attorney  
Catherine D. Cameron, Borough Clerk  
James Wright, Borough Chief of Police  
Jeff Curry, DMR Architects

Report of Borough Attorney NO REPORT

Report of Borough Administrator

1. Borough Hall will be closed on Monday February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 for the Presidents Day Holiday. Borough Hall will be open until 4:30PM on Friday February 18<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on Tuesday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00AM.
2. Janitorial Bid Opening: On Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, we had the bid opening for the janitorial contract. I hope to have a recommendation to council at the next meeting as to direction the borough should go.
3. Willow Ave Construction: I heard from Elizabethtown Gas this morning, this project is still on-going with new service lines being installed. At this time we do not have at a timeline as to when the project will be complete.
4. Lastly tonight, Mr. Jeff Curry from DMR is here to provide a brief overview of their proposal for the DPW building as well as answer any questions from council.

**DMR PRESENTATION:**

Jeff Curry, Registered Architect and Project Manager for DMR Architects, provided a presentation which outlined the scope of work/cost proposed for architectural services to assist in the evaluation of the DPW building.

Mayor Todisco requested clarification regarding the process for public engagement.  
Mr. Curry provided clarification.

Mayor Todisco opened questions for Mr. Curry to Council Members.

Councilwoman Loffredo requested clarification regarding the time frames associated with Phase 1 of the evaluation process.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Curry clarified the timeframes and next steps relating to the overall evaluation process.

Mayor Todisco thanked Mr. Curry for his presentation.

**PRESENTATION:**

Mayor Todisco announced the first order of business is department overview presentation from the Borough Chief of Police.

James Wright, Borough Chief of Police, provided a presentation which outlined the roles and responsibilities of each division within the Police Department.

Mayor Todisco thanked Chief Wright for his presentation.

**Report of Mayor Sara Todisco**

Vermella at Garwood Station:

I have received the following update from Russo Development on their project known as Vermella at Garwood Station here on South Avenue. They are very excited to welcome the first tenants. On behalf of our entire community, I, too, welcome the newest residents of Garwood.

Construction Update:

To date, they have one hundred fifty two (152) Units located in blocks 1 and 2 (principally in the western portion of the project) for which Temporary Certificates of Occupancy (TCO's) have been issued, allowing those units to be leased and occupied by their first residents. Also, west side amenity spaces, common areas, parking structure and leasing offices have received TCO's and are opening. These TCO's are typically subject only to punch-list items (non-life safety or occupancy related) which are actively being addressed and completed.

Sixty three (63) additional Units located in Block 3 of the Project are expected to receive TCO's by on or about March 1, 2022.

The final eighty one (81) additional Units located in Block 4 of the Project are expected to receive TCO's by on or about March 28, 2022.

Their retail spaces are tracking about the same date as the Block 4 residential units, and we expect them to be TCO'd by late March, 2022.

Leasing Update:

Leasing efforts are very active, and interest is incredibly high. They feel encouraged that they will be at full occupancy quickly as more units become available for lease. They are currently nearing 21%

occupancy, translating into 63 leased units, of which they have 36 tenants in occupancy as of today, with leasing activity growing by the week. They signed two new leases this past week, with 11 showings, and multiple emails and reservations taken. We also are working with our Affordable Housing agent to ensure that the lottery process is properly administered, so that we can welcome our 30 Affordable Housing Unit residents, throughout the leasing process. Thus far we have already nearly fulfilled our Affordable Housing obligation, having leased 29 Affordable Units, with 15 already having taken occupancy.

The first meeting of the year for the Joint Committee consisting of two members of each of the following groups--this governing body, the Planning Board, and the Board of Education--will be meeting this upcoming Tuesday. The main topic for us to discuss is the janitorial contract we have with the Board of Education.

Fire Point Yoga and Juice:

It was an honor to be at the grand opening of Fire Point Yoga and Juice, located at 250 North Avenue, this past weekend alongside Council President Jen Blumenstock and representatives of the Greater Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce. I hope everyone will join me in welcoming this new business to Garwood. I'd like to again congratulate Jasmine Ramirez on opening her first yoga studio here in our incredible town. Also, they have a fabulous juice bar (Juice Hub), which is the third location for her husband, Arturo.

Girl Scout Visit:

After work today, I came here to Borough Hall to welcome the Girl Scout troop alongside Councilwomen Blumenstock and Salmon. I met many of the girls in this troop a couple of years ago and I continue to be impressed by their interest in Garwood and great questions as well as ideas. Even though there isn't too much to see in my office, I had fun telling them about the pictures on the wall and some of the books I've been given. I also mentioned that I share the office with our judge and the Planning Board Secretary who was my Girl Scout troop mom. I'm looking forward to being there next week to welcome another troop and I'd like to thank troop leader Vanessa Schubring for the invitation.

COVID:

There have been 132 new cases reported during January. That is down from the 192 we had in December. We remain at a total of three deaths. We are trending downward with COVID cases and are currently in the moderate level of transmission according to the State website. After consulting with our Borough Administrator and Health Officer, I would like to lift the mask requirement for visits to Borough Hall and for Council meetings effective Monday, February 28th. This is one week before the Governor is lifting the mask mandate for schools, which is the date many other towns in the County are using as the date to change their mask policy. I don't think we need to be like other towns and feel comfortable with this decision made in consultation with our professionals. I am very much looking forward to getting back to normal.

Council President Blumenstock inquired which retail stores will be at Vermella.

Mayor Todisco stated an update is not yet available.

Councilwoman Salmon inquired what the rental structure at Vermella is.

Mayor Todisco stated information regarding projected student enrollment will be forthcoming from the Board of Education.

**Comments from the Council:**

Councilman Kearney

Thank you, Mayor. No comments tonight, but I do have an item I'd like to bring forth for discussion.

Based on discussion in the Communications Committee both last week and last year, I'd like to see how the rest of the Council feels about submitting our reports in writing so they can be posted by the Borough on our

website and social media. This would get the information in the reports out to the public sooner than the official minutes, but for it to work I'd recommend all reports being sent no later than the day after a meeting so they can be formatted and posted. So how does everyone feel about this?

Mayor Todisco inquired with Council Members if they are in favor of having their reports posted on the Borough website and social media following each Council meeting.

Council Members stated in favor.

Councilman Lazarow NO REPORT

Councilwoman Loffredo NO REPORT

Councilwoman Salmon NO REPORT

Council President Blumenstock

On January 28th, I filled in for Mayor Todisco at the Rahway River Mayors' Council meeting, which was run by Mayor Prunty of Cranford and Millburn Business administrator Alex McDonald. Mayor Prunty advised that more municipalities had joined the new agreement with the Mayors Council, just as Garwood had a few meetings ago, allocating funds to go for engineering studies. She advised that this new agreement didn't mean that no money would be allocated towards lobbying in DC, but that a focus would be now on the engineering plans. Mayor Prunty had recently spoken to Senator Booker who gave the good news that the division of the Army Corps of Engineers that was assigned to the Rahway River project is back to New York as opposed to New England. This should mean renewed activity and interest on the Army Corps of Engineers part. However, Senator Booker advised the Army Corp wanted to revisit some of the mitigation plans that had been discussed previously years ago. Given that no one on the Mayors' Council was familiar with those plans, it was decided that Mott McDonald Engineering, who works with the Mayor's Council, will be scheduled to come in and review those plans with the members. Senator Booker is also trying to set up a direct meeting between the Mayors' Council and the Army Corp of Engineers. More federal funding has been allocated through the Infrastructure Act and the Disaster Relief Act, so hopefully things are starting to move in the right direction. We all know Ida was a game changer and has hopefully spurred our federal government to work more diligently to help us find some solutions to these flooding issues.

The Green Team will be working with the Shade Tree Advisory Committee. We met last week to discuss a grant program where we would receive tree seedlings to give to residents for planting. The Green Team is looking at late April date for distribution and more information will be following in the coming weeks. We also discussed ways to get the word out to residents to let them know they can sign up to have a tree planted in their front right of way by the Borough through our grant with Union County. The Green Team table at Garwood Rocks was discussed as one way we can educate the residents and sign them up for this program. Again, more information to follow.

Also on the Green Team front, I'd like to ask for your support for resolution 22-042. Garwood, as you know, has attained bronze status through Sustainable Jersey once again this year, which qualifies us to apply for their grants. We will be applying for a \$2000 grant that we are looking to put towards helping our local businesses as they transition into the plastic ban that is coming in May 2022. There will be no allowance of one-time use plastic bags in many stores, as well no Styrofoam food take-out containers, and plastic straws will be by request only. There are many new rules changes with various exceptions, and we want to help guide our businesses through this as well as take some of the weight off of them. The Green Team will be working with the GWACC as well as the GSBAB to hold meetings with our business owners to help assess

the various issues they might be having as well as provide resources to find solutions. Having met with some of our business owners already, they expressed a need for printed educational materials to inform their customers of the changes, such as posters, table tents, and small info cards. The requested funding from Sustainable Jersey will be applied to those materials should we receive the grant. So again, I'd like to ask for Council's support in this endeavor. Part of the Green Team's mission is to work as much as possible with our local businesses and, while the ban will be a challenge for some of them, we aim to do whatever we can to help them meet that challenge.

### **MINUTES:**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on January 27, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Council President Blumenstock, to accept minutes as presented. All in favor.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

#### **1) NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES**

- a) 01/28/2022, RE: ETR Restoration Progress, Daniel's Law, DEP Grant  
<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/162938>
- b) 02/01/2022, RE: Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Guidebook Released  
<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/163222>
- c) 02/04/2022, RE: Transitional Aid, Opioid Settlement, DOT Grants Available  
<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/163482>

#### **2) CHARLES LOMBARDO, CITIZEN**

- a) 01/21/2022, RE: Thank You Card

#### **3) RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY**

- a) 12/16/2021, RE: Minutes  
[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/RVSA\\_12-16-21\\_MEETING\\_MINUTES.pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/RVSA_12-16-21_MEETING_MINUTES.pdf)

#### **4) TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD**

- a) 01/26/2022, RE: Ordinances  
[https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Township\\_of\\_Cranford\\_-\\_Introduced\\_Ordinances\\_No.\\_2022-02\\_and\\_2022-03.pdf](https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Township_of_Cranford_-_Introduced_Ordinances_No._2022-02_and_2022-03.pdf)

#### **5) TOWN OF WESTFIELD**

- a) 01/31/2022, RE: Ordinance  
[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Town\\_of\\_Westfield\\_Ordinance\(1\).pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Town_of_Westfield_Ordinance(1).pdf)

**ALL RECEIVED AND FILED**

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

#### **FINANCE AND PERSONNEL: Councilman Lazarow, Chair**

The finance committee met last Wednesday to continue the process of going line by line to discuss the proposals of all the departments. We will continue our discussions next Wednesday and have made excellent progress so far. Also, I want to encourage the council to vote in favor of resolution No 22-045 which is in support of pending legislation that would restore energy tax receipts to local municipalities. I discussed this within our finance committee and if passed, Garwood could potentially receive aid over five years to restore municipal aid reductions and use additional to reduce the municipal tax levy.

Finally, I wanted to also bring up for discussion about increasing the salary range for bus drivers for our senior citizen programs. Our borough administrator has had the bus driver position posted for months at the current 17 to 22 dollars per hour range and has received only 1 applicant. I am agreeing with our borough administrator's recommendation to increase that range from 20-30 dollars an hour to hopefully increase interest in perspective applicants and am hoping that the rest of the council would be in favor of passing a new pay scale resolution for this position.

Mayor Todisco stated her support for Resolution # 22-45.

Discussion ensued regarding the hourly rate increase proposed for the Senior Bus Driver position. Mayor Todisco inquired with Council Members regarding support to amend the salary ordinance for the Senior Bus Driver position. Council Members stated in favor.

**FIRE AND OEM: Councilman Kearney, Chair**

I enjoyed attending my first meeting of the Liberty Hose Company as their new Commissioner, where I was accompanied by Councilman Graham who showed me the ropes and introduced me to everyone! As I told our firefighters the other night, I'm really looking forward to serving in this role and I will be here every meeting to both advocate for them and report on their work.

I also have the January Fire Department Activity Report:

There were 15 calls for service in Garwood along with 5 mutual aid calls for a total of 123 firefighter hours for all alarms. The regular January meeting was canceled due to Covid concerns. Additional activity as follows:

- CPR Recertification for all Members: 19 firefighters at 3 hours each
- Extra Duty / Snow Standbys on January 28th and 29th: 11 firefighters for 123 total hours
- Building Maintenance Detail: 12 firefighters for 36 total hours; and
- Driver Training: January 17th (8 firefighters for 3 hours each) and January 31st (3 firefighters for 2 hours each).

**FACILITIES, GROUNDS AND SHADE TREES: Councilwoman Loffredo, Chair**

Good evening, Mayor, Council and Members of the Public.

A few weeks ago, I reported on the issues with the doors, windows and chalking on Borough Hall. Last week, I toured Borough Hall with Borough Administrator Kyle Harris. I was able to see the repairs that are needed as described by Mr. Harris, Police Chief Wright and Fire Chief Scalzadonna.

A few things popped out at me –

- 1) Emergency Exit door in the Council Room has to be pressed hard in order to exit the building. This is something that should be addressed before a "said" emergency occurs.
- 2) The Doors to the Furnace room are rusted all over and eroding on the bottom of the door. The Furnace is a gas furnace and leaves can blow thru the bottom of the door into the furnace that could potentially become a fire hazard.
- 3) Fire House door has similar rust and erosion issues as the frame needs to be replaced.
- 4) Metal Panels on Borough Hall Building are also rusting and I also reviewed the minor caulking issues that allow rainwater to enter the building.

We are waiting on more quotes for these repairs. I hope to have more on this by the next meeting. In addition, after the meeting on 1/27, Borough Administrator Harris and I, reviewed the Recreation Center in the Evening Hours to review lighting issues. We found 4 non-working lights in the immediate area of the parking lot. DPW Superintendent Dickson, is reaching out for quotes for the correction of the lighting issues. Mr. Harris

reached out to PSEG and they have replaced the lightbulb. PSEG will also be adding a spotlight that will face towards the building, within 60 -75 days. Next, we have word that the supplies needed to fix the Garwood Clock are on the way. More on this in the coming weeks.

Going back to the DPW - This morning, I walked the DPW building with Superintendent Clint Dickson to get a closer look at the building and its current issues. Though, I have been assured that the building is deemed safe and similar to other local DPW buildings, I will say on the record, that we should not close our eyes to the current issues at the building while we await what we will decide to do with the new building. The new building would not be ready, if we chose to proceed, till 2023 or later. There are current mold issues that I have asked that Superintendent Dickson bring back the mold professionals to take another look. I do think we need to plan for some minor repairs in 2022 budget in the meantime. Finally, the Shade Tree Advisory had their first meeting of 2022 last Wednesday night. We received a \$2500 grant from the county last summer to plant shade trees. If a resident is interested in a shade tree, the shade tree advisory can review your property and make suggestions based on water/sewer/power lines and type of tree that would fit the property the best. Please contact [shadetree@garwood.org](mailto:shadetree@garwood.org) for more information. I am even planning to let them assess my property and I may just have a tree planted myself. The shade tree advisory committee plans to have a booth at Garwood Rocks on June 5<sup>th</sup> and are looking for volunteers to join the shade tree advisory and also residents interested in adding trees and/or seedlings to their properties. Mr. Harris will be applying for NJ Tree Recovery Campaign seedling program focusing on trees for residents' yards. The Shade Tree Advisory will partner with the Green Team to host an Arbor Day campaign in the municipal parking lot for distribution of these seedlings. That's all I have for tonight! Thank you!

Councilwoman Salmon requested clarification regarding asbestos testing at the DPW building.

Council President Blumenstock provided clarification.

Discussion ensued regarding asbestos and mold assessments/remediation at the DPW building.

Mr. Harris stated the projects will require a bond ordinance.

Mayor Todisco requested clarification regarding the status of quote for the light at the recreation complex.

Mr. Harris provided clarification.

Discussion regarding the status of cameras at Hartman Park ensued.

Mayor Todisco requested action be taken as soon as possible and stated support for a bond ordinance if necessary.

Council President Blumenstock requested clarification regarding the ramps at Hartman Park.

Mr. Harris provided clarification.

Councilman Kearney summarized his previous efforts made regarding projects needed for the Borough's buildings and grounds, and stated his continued support moving forward.

**STREETS, ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY: Council President Blumenstock, Chair**

In addition to regular garbage pickup, the DPW installed new parking signs in the municipal complex parking lot as well as washed and cleaned the interior and exterior of all snow removal vehicles and equipment. They also performed tree removal at the 416 Center Street utilizing Fanwood's bucket truck. Some mechanic operations performed in-house include: performing repairs to the snow blowers after the January 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>

storm, repairing the calcium chloride sprayer for the salt spreader on the 2013 7 yard plow vehicle, and replacing the plow lights on the 2005 mason dump.

Public Works employees also worked a total of 160 hours of overtime during the winter snow event on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and performed the following: deicing of all Borough streets, parking lots and school crossings before and after the storm as well as plowing all Borough owned streets, parking lots and sidewalks during and after the storm. They also traveled to the Union County Public Works Facility and loaded each truck with salt before and after the storm as needed. And just another big thank you to the department for a great job with the snow removal. We had a lot of residents expressing their gratitude for a job well done once again.

**POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Graham, Chair** NO REPORT

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: RECREATION, HISTORICAL AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEES:**  
**Councilwoman Salmon, Chair**

Recreation:

The revision of the Recreation Complex Rates is coming to completion. The increases are focused on outside organizations that are renting out the complex. In the past outside organizations have been paying a "Garwood Resident" rate. That scale has been revised and rates for outside organizations have been raised. Garwood resident rates have stayed the same and we have implemented a more stream-lined process to renting out the Turf field and the Recreation Meeting Room. Outside organization rates have been raised to \$100/per hour from \$50 per hour with an expected increase in the near future. I hope to have councils support tonight for our Borough Admin Kyle Harris to work with our Borough Attorney to get this set for our next meeting. Also, Family skate night was a huge success thank you councilwoman Loffredo for attending with your family to support Garwood recreation. Our spring program schedule is almost complete and will be available sometime next week. Garwood recreation has maintained their Facebook social media page so be sure to follow Garwood rec for updates.

Celebrations

Is hard at work planning their annual Easter egg hunt and their annual Easter egg brunch. They have an amazing line-up of events this coming year so stay tuned for updates from them.

Historical

The historical committee is working on their plans for this coming year and hopefully the reintroduction of Garwood Rocks rock hunt. Their next meeting is scheduled for the end of this month.

Discussion regarding the proposed rate increase to rental of facilities at the recreation complex ensued.

Discussion regarding Green Acres ensued.

Mayor Todisco requested Borough Counsel submit a draft amending the recreation facilities fee ordinance as soon as possible to Council.

Council President Blumenstock requested to include all Borough organizations in the ordinance amendment. Mr. Harris confirmed the Borough organizations will be included in the ordinance amendment.



**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Councilman Kearney**

Leading off tonight with the most popular topic from our last meeting: Borough social media accounts!

In our follow up committee meeting with the Borough Administrator, we learned there were several pages on various services in addition to Facebook which were discussed previously. We spoke with Mr. Harris regarding the concerns raised by our volunteer committees, working out concepts for maintaining several popular pages and volunteer access to them. We also discussed the need for Garwood to comply with state law regarding records retention specific to social media accounts operated by, or affiliated with, the Borough's government. Because of this requirement to maintain records Mr. Harris has decided, with the support of our Committee, that the use of Facebook Messenger or the instant messaging features of the other sites will not continue on Borough social media because it isn't possible to archive them properly.

So, moving forward the following sites will be "official" social media of the Borough and will be included in the online archiving service (which is provided courtesy of the Police Department operating budget).

Facebook Pages:

Garwood Borough - Government

Garwood Police Department

Garwood Fire Department

Garwood Celebrations

Garwood Recreation Committee

Garwood Free Public Library

Instagram Pages:

Garwood Fire Department

Garwood Police Department

Twitter:

Garwood Police Department (@GarwoodPD)

Additionally, the Borough will likely need to archive the Mayor Sara Todisco page as well as the new page set up by Councilmembers Loffredo and Salmon, because even though these pages are not administered by the Borough government a primary topic for them is, of course, the Borough's government. I heard right before the beginning of the meeting that it would be required.

The following social media will be deactivated:

Garwood Office of Emergency Management OEM (Facebook Page)

MLK Day of Service (Facebook Page)

Garwood Green Team (Facebook Page)

Mayor's Wellness Campaign (Facebook Page)

Garwood Recreation Committee (Instagram)

Content from the deactivated pages will be shared on the main Government page other than the Recreation Committee which will continue to use their own page.

We are referring this topic back to the Borough Administrator with a recommendation for him to propose policy updates to the full Council (which we would need to be adopted by Resolution) after he has finalized all the specifics regarding who will have access to post on the volunteer run pages and which employees will have access to the other pages.

Changing gears, discussion has also continued on the "GovPilot" application, and the front office staff had another presentation with that company. Just as a reminder, "GovPilot" is a cloud-based platform that can streamline and partially automate a number of things the Borough is currently doing manually in the office, such as permits, it's not a complete automation process but it streamlines it for the end user. While this is something I personally support moving forward with, the next stop for this item will be the Finance Committee as we head into budget season as there would be an annual fee.

Finally, our last discussion item in committee had to do with event calendars, which is also part of the "GovPilot" discussion. Councilwoman Salmon had a suggestion about using the Borough's existing Outlook calendar system which is attached to the Borough's email system. As per Mr. Harris, he looked into the Outlook calendar on the Borough's existing email system and it wouldn't work because of the number of users off site. As I said in our meeting, we use Outlook calendars there and they are really hit or miss. So, further discussion on that topic will continue.

Mayor Todisco thanked Councilman Kearney for his report.

**LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Councilman Lazarow**

**FEBRUARY EVENTS**

**February 15 at 3pm – Virtual Adult Craft.** Pick up your soap making 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 17 and 24 at 10:00 am – YoBoo** - YoBOO is a unique take on fitness for little ones (ages 2-8). It combines the aerobic fun of Bootcamp with the powerful breathing techniques of Yoga, a fun energy rollercoaster for kids. Registration required. Limit 10. Registration required.

**February 23 at 7:00 pm – LUCC Speaker Series with Myrtle Counts** – Join us for the Libraries of Union County Speaker Series featuring Myrtle Counts, the First Vice President of the NAACP. Please register for this virtual presentation at [TINYURL.com/YF972UWM](https://tinyurl.com/YF972UWM).

The Library will be closed February 21 for President's Day.

**SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilman Kearney**

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday, February 15th.

**GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Council President Blumenstock**

Senior recreational activities are ongoing; however, the senior club had to cancel its February 3rd meeting for various reasons. I'm very much hoping that our February 17th meeting will go on as scheduled. I would like to announce that we are currently very much in need of bus drivers. Unfortunately, we may be without a driver until April for our senior club meetings, which leaves those seniors who rely on it unable to attend. I know our senior director Kathleen Wierzbinski is working hard on finding some temporary help, but as you may have heard, this is a widespread problem in NJ and finding drivers has been a difficult task. If anyone you know has their CDL license and would like to help out, please feel free to contact me or call Kathleen at Borough Hall. Also, I've been working with Kathleen to create some additional senior activities in the coming months, such as movie showings and trivia games. We're almost done working out logistics and I hope to have some actual dates and times for you at the next meeting.

**SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY LIAISON: Councilman Kearney**

The Small Business Advisory Board met on Monday January 31st, where planning continued for the Board kickoff event. The date is now firmed up for Wednesday, March 9th and Crossroads will be the venue. We were also joined by Council President Blumenstock to discuss a possible joint initiative with the Garwood Green Team regarding a grant application to assist with the transition as the New Jersey Plastic Ban law takes effect in May of this year.

I should have more details on the kickoff event soon, and hopefully invitations will be in progress prior to our second meeting this month.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

Zoning Enforcement Officer Report for January, 2022

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Addendum\\_January\\_2022.pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Addendum_January_2022.pdf)

Property Maintenance Officer Report for January, 2022.

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Property\\_maintenance\\_Report\\_01-2022.pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Property_maintenance_Report_01-2022.pdf)

Chief of Police Year End Reports for 2021.

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

John Pritchard, 410 Spruce Street, sang a song regarding veterans.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue, requested clarification regarding the Borough's social media pages.

Mr. Paterson requested clarification regarding resolution # 22-043.

Mr. Paterson requested clarification regarding PILOT payments.

Mr. Paterson requested clarification regarding affordable housing.

Mr. Paterson requested clarification regarding the Borough tree and sidewalk program.

Mr. Paterson stated concern regarding the preservation of the historical pictures in the recreation complex as related to facilities rentals.

Ms. Pritchard, 410 Spruce Street, requested clarification regarding the administration of the Borough social media pages.

Ms. Pritchard requested assistance with NJ Transit accessibility.

A motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Council President Blumenstock, to close public comment. All in favor.

Mayor Todisco provided clarification regarding resolution #22-043.

Mayor Todisco provided clarification regarding PILOT payments.

Mr. Harris provided clarification regarding affordable housing.

Mayor Todisco requested Mr. Harris oversee caution to the historical pictures when renting the recreation complex.

Mayor Todisco provided clarification regarding the administration of the Borough social media pages.

Mayor Todisco stated information regarding NJ Transit accessibility may be available through the County of Union.

**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. 22-041**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Borough of Garwood has determined that there exists a need to provide Professional Architectural Services associated with the evaluation of the Public Works Building, as more fully described in the Scope of Services of the Request for Proposal; and

**WHEREAS**, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Borough of Garwood posted a request for proposals in accordance with law on October 26, 2021 and received proposals on November 23, 2021 under a fair and open process in accordance with P.L. 2004, c.19, as amended by P.L. 2005, c.51; and

**WHEREAS**, DMR Architects Inc. has submitted a proposal pursuant to the fair and open process; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposals were evaluated in accordance with the criteria set forth in the Request for Proposals by the Borough Administrator and the Borough Architectural Services Review Committee, and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Administrator and the Borough Architectural Services Review Committee are recommending DMR Architects to perform the evaluation of the Public Works Building; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing has found DMR Architects' proposal to be in conformance with the request for proposals and has further determined to utilize the services of DMR Architects.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality; and

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

1. That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with DMR Architects., 777 Terrace Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite 607, Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604, for the provision of professional architectural services for the preparation of an evaluation of the Public Works Building,., and
2. That said Contractor shall receive fees in accordance with the proposal dated November 23, 2021, not to exceed \$41,000.00 as follows:
  - \$37,400: Lump Sum Fee Phase I (NTE)
  - \$ 3,600: Alternate Fee Phase I; and
3. That this contract is awarded without competitive bidding as professional services pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law; and
4. That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and
5. That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-042**

**Resolution of Support from the Borough of Garwood Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application**

**WHEREAS**, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Garwood strives to save tax dollars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Garwood is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program;

**THEREFORE**, the Council of the Borough of Garwood has determined that the Borough of Garwood should apply for the aforementioned grant.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, authorize the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey Grant.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-043**

**WHEREAS**, on January 6, 2022, the Council of the Borough of Garwood awarded the Municipal Public Defender contract to Jill Anne LaZare Esq., of the Law Offices of Jill Anne LaZare LLC, 55 Union Place, Suite 330, Summit, NJ 07901 via Resolution No. 22-006; and

**WHEREAS**, an error was found in the proposal for services for the position of Municipal Public Defender; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Borough of Garwood seeks to rescind the resolution awarding the contract for Jill Anne LaZare in accordance with the proposal dated November 15, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5, the Council of the Borough of Garwood may contract for a professional service without public advertising for bids and bidding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Borough of Garwood is required to contract for a Professional Legal Service to provide a Municipal Public Defender to the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, Jill Ann LaZare of the Law Offices of Jill Anne LaZare LLC, has resubmitted a corrected proposal to the Borough Clerk on January 21, 2022 indicating she will provide the Municipal Public Defender services for the not to exceed price of \$4,000 for the calendar year of 2022 for full representation for defendants deemed indigent and entitled to representation including interviewing them and defending them in Municipal Court and in the event there are further requirements such as a filing of an appeal, the service will be provided at the rate of \$150.00 per hour or the prevailing rate of the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of a contract for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract for said services must be made available for public inspection; and

**WHEREAS**, this is an award of a non-fair and open contract and as required thereby: (1) Jill Anne LaZare of Jill Anne LaZare LLC has submitted a contributions statement certification which certifies that the Law Offices of Jill Anne LaZare LLC has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee of any candidate for elective municipal office in the Borough of Garwood; or any Borough of Garwood or County of Union political committee of political party committee; or any PAC between the time of first communication between that business entity and the municipality regarding a specific agreement for professional services; and (2) the Contract will prohibit the Law Offices of Jill Anne LaZare LLC from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

**WHEREAS**, the term of this contract is one year from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022; and

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

1. Resolution No. 22-006 is hereby rescinded.
2. That the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract with the Law Offices of Jill Anne LaZare as the form of Professional Services Contract ("Contract") not to exceed \$4,000.00 for Municipal Public Defender for the calendar year of 2022 for full representation for defendants deemed indigent and entitled to representation including interviewing them and defending them in Municipal Court and in the event there are further requirements such as a filing of an appeal, the service will be provided at the rate of \$150.00 per hour or the prevailing rate of the municipality; and
3. A copy of this Resolution and the Contract engaging Jill Anne LaZare of the Law Officers of Jill Anne LaZare LLC shall be kept on file and available for public inspection at the office of the Borough Clerk, 403 South Avenue, Garwood, New Jersey 07027.
4. This contract is made without competitive bidding as a "professional service" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 of the Local Public Contracts Law, because it involves the services of a recognized professional.
5. That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-044**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Stephanie Willix is hereby appointed as Special Police Officer, Class "B" Alternate School Crossing Guard effective February 11, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-045**

**Resolution Supporting Legislation Restoring Energy Tax Receipts Advancing**

**WHEREAS**, on January 27, 2022 the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee unanimously approved Senate Bill 330 (S-330), which increases distribution to municipalities from the Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Fund over five years to restore municipal aid reductions and requires the additional aid to be subtracted from the municipal property tax levy; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill is now 2<sup>nd</sup> referenced to the Senate and Budget Committee for its consideration. The Assembly companion, A-1012, awaits consideration by the Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee; and

**WHEREAS** Energy Tax Receipts is a tax for public utilities for the use of the public right of way in lieu of property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, originally, these taxes were assessed and collected by municipalities;

**WHEREAS**, the law changed to have the State collect the revenue for the convenience of the public utilities and transmit the funds to the municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2008, approximately \$14 billion has been diverted from municipalities to the State's general fund, resulting in elimination or reduction in municipal services, increased fees or property taxes, or a combination of same.

**WHEREAS**, A-1012/S-330 would restore revenue that has been diverted from municipalities to the State's general fund.

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

1. That it does hereby support the advancement of the legislation of A-1012/S-330.
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Representatives of the 21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-046**

**WHEREAS**, on February 6, 2022, Ms. Dorothy "Doris" Dohn celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Dohn has lived in Garwood for seventy one years, following her upbringing in Jersey City with her mother, father, sister and brother; and

**WHEREAS**, upon retirement from Western Electric in Kearney, NJ, Ms. Dohn has enjoyed pursuing many interests, which have included finance and stock trading; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Dohn's home has been known as "Little Eden" due to her passion for gardening and landscaping; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Dohn has several devoted nieces and nephews who enjoy spending time together and have fondly proclaimed, "Everyone should have an Aunt Doris".

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, do hereby extend sincere congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Dorothy "Doris" Dohn's on her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

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

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>Councilwoman Loffredo</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Kearney</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**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 Kearney, second by Councilwoman Loffredo, to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>Councilwoman Loffredo</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Kearney</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**ADJOURNMENT:**


The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2022**, at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Information for meetings is posted on the Borough website: [https://garwood.org/gb\\_notices](https://garwood.org/gb_notices)

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adjourn.

Time: 9:11 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

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