

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
February 13, 2018**

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, advertised on January 4, 2018, notification was sent to the Star Ledger and prominently posted on the municipal public bulletin board and filed in the office of the municipal clerk informing the Public of the time and place according to the Provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

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

Councilman Sarno arrived at 7:28 p.m.

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

Mayor Lombardo sworn in Officer Mironski.

Michael Bange of New Jersey American Water Company presented the water main project.

At 7:35 p.m. Ms. Ariemma read Resolution No. 18-058A

[RESOLUTION NO. 18-058A](#)

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING POTENTIAL LITIGATION AND CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE GARWOOD SPORTS AND RECREATION COMPLEX, CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING RVSA, REDEVELOPMENT OF NORTH AVENUE, SOUTH AVENUE PHASE II AND MATTERS OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE RELATING TO THE ABOVE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A., 10:4-12, Closed session, Meetings open to public; exclusion of public; subject of matter.

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood to conduct an executive session closed to the public in order to discuss the above listed matters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Borough of Garwood hereby move to go into executive session in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq., for the purpose of discussing the subjects stated above; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the matters discussed in and minutes of the closed session shall be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists

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

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

Workshop Session resumed at 8:50 p.m.

Borough Engineer Michael Disko - **NO REPORT**

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud - **NO REPORT**

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lombardo:

I attended the Union County Mayor's meeting on January 30, 2018, held at the Clark Town Hall. The agenda was as follows:

(1) Guest Speaker Mike Cerra from the New Jersey League of Municipalities: his discussion was about New Jersey State Senate Bill B-3 which transfers management of the Police and Fire Retirement System to a board of Trustees of the Police and Fire Retirement System. After a lengthy discussion and vote to pen a letter, "Union County Mayors for a Balanced Board Composition on Pension Transfer Legislation, the Mayors of Union County strongly believe that the board should be a balanced between Labor and Management, while providing for an independent voice for a tie-breaking decisions.

(2) Guest Speaker Senator Scutari talked about Legislation of Marijuana. His Legislation is still a work in progress with many question to be answered. Some issues discussed were such as potential impact and affect on municipal budgets, safety and employment concerns. After multiple handouts were distributed and

discussed. At the end of the full discussion, the Mayor's in attendance agreed to draft a letter as follows: " The Union County Mayor's call for legalized Marijuana Revenue to be Constitutionally Dedicated to New Jersey Pension System.

(3) OPRA Request Increases. This bill has died for now with no legislative support. If it resurfaces, the Mayor's major concern is about resources and financial cost associated with it.

(4) Union County Animal Shelter -The County recognizes the significance of the animal control issues facing each of our municipalities. The County understands the benefit of a county-wide shared facility. Over the last 23 months, the County staff has spent a great deal of time locating an appropriate site for the county-wide shelter. They examined over a dozen potential locations and settled on a parcel of land located at the Union County Conservation Center in Springfield. The County has submitted the required application and other documents to the NJDOT, so they may be granted permission to use the site for an animal shelter. The County remains committed to working with the State to gain the final approvals that are necessary.

After all that is being reported, I am willing to share all the handouts I gathered from the Union County Mayor's Meeting.

I personally thank former Councilman Walter Tucker for taking my place at the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, Mayors Task Force Meeting, due to a conflict of rescheduling the Planning Board meeting. A draft resolution indicated the following: all peak hours on the Raritan Valley Trains currently terminate at Newark Penn Station and riders destined for midtown Manhattan and Penn Station New York must transfer trains and platforms. Significant Transit-Oriented Development in towns on the Raritan Valley Line have increased ridership. Regional Plan Association Study estimates that one side service would lead to a 35 minute reduction in commuting by eliminating the need to transfer in Newark Penn Station. Also noted in the study, it is estimated that for every minute saved on a morning commute to Manhattan, nearby home values increase by \$3,000. We all should call upon the Commissioner of Transportation and New Jersey Transit to undertake the task of examining the proposal from the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition and the Mayor's Task Force for a One Side Ride. They also ask that NJ Transit, with the NJ Legislators of the 21st, 22nd and 23rd Districts, support this finding, as it necessary to implement the One Side Ride service on the Raritan Valley Line.

At this time, I would like to suggest that we should accept the invitation we received from RVSA to visit their facility. Hopefully we can select a date and time that acceptable to all. I would be happy to be the point person in this event.

My next Mayor's Saturday will be held this Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Gold Medal Fitness at 475 North Ave. This event will start at 11:00 A.M. I have invited Councilman Marc Lazarow to join me. Please stop by to discuss your concerns or just chat with us. We look forward to seeing you there.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Blumenstock:

I'd like to speak about ordinance 18-02 and resolution 18-074 which coincides with the ordinance, regarding the salary of the public works foreman. It does seem to me that when there's some friction up here, it usually is related to the Public Works Department. Whether it's about salary, hiring or equipment it feels like the most contentious discussions really come about when there's something on the table about the DPW. I'm not really sure why that is; it doesn't seem to be that way in regards to any other department, and the DPW is certainly a crucial service for Garwood and residents obviously feel fiercely protective of this department. I hope that we can soon move past this, and start to come together and treat this department the same way we do all others in our borough.

That being said, I am going to ask the Council if they would agree to table the ordinance and resolution regarding the salary increase. It is always my goal that we councilmembers come together whenever possible on the different issues placed in front of us. It's of course not always possible, but when I can try to get us there, I most certainly will. And while I wasn't in agreement with the tone of the discussion last meeting, I recognize that some of you felt that this ordinance should go to finance. I am ok with doing that. The finance committee will be meeting, actually twice before the next council meeting to discuss the budget, and to help get the committee on the same page, I'd like to go over the increase with them as well as discuss where in the budget I believe the money for this increase can and should be found. I recognize that in order to maintain a stable budget, I see the reality that for every dollar spent requires a dollar saved and I'm committed to that. I pledge to this council that the just under \$7000 need for the salary increase can and will be found in savings from specific areas already in our budget that I will lay out to the committee. As I said last week, this comes down to equity for me. Our employees should be paid a fair and equitable wage. Garwood is not and should not be a town that doesn't value their workforce in each and every department. But if further discussion with finance and tabling the issue until the next meeting would provide my fellow councilmembers with some more information to help them with this decision, then that's the way we should go.

Councilwoman Cuccaro:

To start off we met with a subcommittee with 8 people from all over NJ. Cranford, Garwood, Hopewell and Franklin. We had a conference call with Holly Schepesi, who is one of the authors of these bills that I would like to bring forward to introduce and pass to address the problem of over development, and the over reach of FSH. These are some of the real problems we are facing as a state, and nothing seems to be able to be done about it as people continue to move out.

1/ There are environmental issues with the large projects going on everywhere. Suez, Water Company, that serves the northern parts of NJ, did a study regarding NJ running out of water by roughly 2020. The Sierra club, by their own admission, came out and stated all of this high density will increase NJ greenhouse gasses 45% to total pollution. Also there is loss of habitat and green space.

2/ there are 6 senate and 8 assembly bills that want to restructure the high density and COAH combination issues. One major concern is to make this a statewide obligation not just town wide, most importantly is to eliminate the builder's remedy, focus on public/private partnerships, address seniors issues.

3/ There is an issue where market rate units are getting the PILOT with the COAH units and this should not be.

4/ Political involvement has mostly been by republicans but there are also prominent democrats that are on board and recognize high density will impact our quality of life in NJ and understands it needs to be fixed..

5/ Eminent domain is being used to take profitable and viable businesses that do not want to sell.

6/ 90% of what is going on is "for-profit" which was not the objective of the COAH mandates.

7/ Abbot districts are giving PILOTs to the developers which are actually building 100% market rate units, and these projects have no COAH since the town is considered predominantly low income already

8/ By Coah regulations, it has directed all further high density have a certain % of low income, but since these areas, which, are already mostly low income, FSHA calculated what the numbers should be and then the obligations are spread over the rest of the towns. One example was Jersey City, their obligations were calculated to be approx. 7000 units but are now to be built elsewhere such as Cranford, Bergen and other towns. However, the outlier towns are receiving no additional funding.

An issue is that a private organization FSHA is the one suing the towns as a plaintiff and interveners.

Anyone who is resisting is considered a racist even though it is the resistance against high density that comes with the COAH.

By court process FSHA mandated communities to adopt unmet needs and the towns just punted it down the road but it is still there.

Councilman Lazarow discussed Batting Cage and \$1200 for Turf Maintenance

Councilman McCormack commented on Ordinance 18-02.

Councilman Sarno commented on Ordinance 18-02. Brief discussion followed.

Councilwoman Todisco:

1. Volunteer Reward Card - Getting the volunteer reward card program going is well underway and it is off to a great start. The letters to all the businesses in town went out about a week ago and we already have 6 businesses that have signed up. If a local business is interested in participating by giving a 10% discount on products or services to Garwood residents who are active volunteers, please let me know by March 1st.
2. Status of Women Dinner - For those that are unaware, Union County has a long-established Commission on the Status of Women with volunteer members from across the County. I have been on this a little over one year and have already gotten promoted to Chair, which I am happy to serve as. We will be holding the 26th Annual Women of Excellence awards dinner on Friday, March 16th at 6:30pm right here in Garwood at The Westwood. Ten women with a variety of stunning accomplishments will be recognized for their service and achievement, including the former Garwood music teacher and Roselle Park resident, Mrs. Marguerite Modero, for her work with special needs advocacy. If you are interested in attending the dinner, tickets are \$50 per person and payment may be made by check to the UCCSW and mailed to Mrs. Carol Lombardo, 275 Fourth Avenue, Garwood.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Bill Nierstedt. 320 Hickory Avenue explained and commented on positive train control. He commented on comments made by Councilwoman Cuccaro.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on RVSA cost increase for 2018. He commented on batting cage and the potential noise.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilman Sarno, Second by Council President Blumenstock to adjourn
Time: 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood