

Borough of Garwood
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MARCH 7, 2024

Time:

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 _____

Councilwoman Boto _____

Councilman Foley _____

Councilman Lazarow _____

Councilwoman Nolde _____

Councilwoman Salmon _____

Council President Kearney _____

Roll call staff and professionals:

Sandy Bruns, Assistant Administrator/CFO

Adam Abramson, Borough Attorney

Doug Stoffer, Chief of Police

Adam Colicchio, Tax Attorney

Report of Assistant Administrator

Report of Borough Attorney

Report of Borough Administrator

Report of Mayor Blumenstock

Comments from the Council:

Councilwoman Boto

Councilman Foley

Councilman Lazarow

Councilwoman Nolde

Councilwoman Salmon

Council President Kearney

MINUTES:

Minutes of the Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on February 22, 2024.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on February 26, 2024.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to accept the Regular Meeting and Special Meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, opposed?

COMMUNICATIONS:

1) NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

a) 02/23/2024, RE: Affordable Housing Update; Local Finance Notices

<https://www.nijlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/224141>

b) 02/27/2024, RE: Governor Delivers State Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

<https://njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/224341>

2) TOWNSHIP OF WESTFIELD

a) 03/04/2024, RE: Ordinance

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

GARWOOD PLANNING BOARD

a) 03/05/2024, RE: Meeting Minutes

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/1_10_2024_PB_MINUTES\(1\).pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/1_10_2024_PB_MINUTES(1).pdf)

ORDINANCES:

ADOPTION:

Municipal Clerk to read Bond Ordinance No. 24-08 by title only:

BOND ORDINANCE NO. 24-08

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF NEW RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR THE USE OF THE POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$400,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/BO_24-08.pdf

List correspondence concerning Bond Ordinance No. 24-08.

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Bond Ordinance No. 24-08.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to close Public Hearing on Bond Ordinance No. 24-08.

Discussion:

A motion was made by _____ second by _____ to adopt Bond Ordinance No. 24-08.

Roll Call:

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

INTRODUCTION:

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 24-09 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 24-09

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE PART II, GENERAL LEGISLATION, CHAPTER 99 (HEALTH AND SANITATION), NEW ARTICLE IX, SECTION 42 (NON-REUSABLE FOOD AND BEVERAGE ACCESSORIES) IN THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD.

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord_24-09-Non_Reusable_Food_Accessories.pdf

A motion was made by _____ second by _____ to introduce Ordinance No. 24-09.

Roll Call:

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

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL: Councilman Foley, Chair

FIRE AND OEM: Councilman Lazarow, Chair

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Councilwoman Salmon, Chair

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilwoman Boto, Chair

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Council President Kearney, Chair

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Councilwoman Nolde, Chair

LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Councilman Lazarow

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Council President Kearney

GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Mayor Blumenstock

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY LIAISON: Council President Kearney

BOARD OF HEALTH LIAISON: Councilman Foley

PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Salmon

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Zoning Enforcement Officer's Report for February, 2024.

https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Code_Enforcement_Feb_Rpt.pdf

Property Maintenance Officer's Report for February, 2024

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

A motion was made by _____ second by _____ to accept Officer's reports.
All in favor, opposed?

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.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to close public comment.
All in favor, opposed?

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 #24-059

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONVERTING EXISTING BUT UNDERUTILIZED RAIL TRACK WITHIN THE CENTRAL RAILROAD (CRR)/NEW JERSEY TRANSIT (NJT) RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) INTO PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TRAILS AND CONNECTING ALL PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE TRAILS IN UNION COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood wishes to show continued support for the use and expansion of alternate modes of transportation in order to reduce vehicular traffic on our roads, provide safe means of off-road travel, increase usable greenways and open space, and provide connectivity of communities of place via off road trails throughout Union County; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2021, the Mayor and Council adopted Resolution No. 21-119 supporting the 'Rails to Trails Union County' advocacy group as a means to transform unutilized railroad lines into usable pedestrian and bicycle trails; and

WHEREAS, the 'Rails to Trails' group has transformed into 'Union County Connects', a group with the larger vision of creating and connecting all pedestrian and bicycle trails in Union County, and

WHEREAS, Union County Connects (UCC) has the support of the Union County Board of County Commissioners, and

WHEREAS, in February 2023, Union County was awarded a \$700,000 federal Safe Streets and Roads for all grant portions of what will be used in association with Union County Connects, and

WHEREAS, in June 2023, Union County was awarded \$1.5million in NJDOT funding for the conversion of the Rahway Valley Line from an abandoned railway line to a bicycle/pedestrian trail, and

WHEREAS, in September 2023, Union County received a \$1,000,000 award for the design and construction of a new pedestrian/bicycle way through the Borough of Roselle, connecting with the East Coast Greenway in Cranford which then connects with the Goethals Bridge, and the CRR/NJT line, and

WHEREAS, all Union County municipalities along the former CRR New Jersey ROW from Elizabeth, through Roselle/Roselle Park, Cranford, Garwood, Westfield, Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Plainfield are experiencing exponential growth of mixed use residential/commercial development with the potential for increased vehicular traffic on North and South Avenues, (aka SR 28 and UC 610) which parallel the CRR line as main east-west routes of travel, and

WHEREAS, it is apparent that the joint conversion of the 3.8-mile defunct section of CRR ROW (Elizabeth -Cranford), and a shared usage of the 8 mile section of operating NJT ROW (Cranford- Plainfield) could be converted via Rail-to-Trails and Trails within Rails (Massachusetts Central Rail Trail) into a 12 mile off-road bicycle/pedestrian trail that would provide a new travel way potentially reducing traffic on our roadways, changing modal travel to unite our municipalities for pleasure, social and business travel and potential economic benefits, with the provision of a new Union County destination connecting all municipalities via bicycle and pedestrian travel.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby expresses support for "Union County Connects" in its pursuit of connecting all underutilized railroad ROWs, bicycle and walking trails, and parks in the County of Union.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Union County Board of County Commissioners and New Jersey Transit.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-060

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union State of New Jersey hereby approve the proposal from: MOTT MACDONALD, 111 Wood Avenue South, Iselin, NJ 08830 For the preparation and filing of the NJDEP Soil Remedial Action Permit #RAP150001 Remedial Action Protectiveness/Biennial Certification Report for submission by April 20, 2024 for a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-061

WHEREAS, Doug Stoffer was promoted from Captain to Chief of Police on March 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, due to the promotion, there is a vacancy in the title of Captain of the Borough of Garwood Police Department; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:60-5 and Chapter 34, Section 4 of the Borough Code, the Mayor shall nominate the Captain with the advice and consent of Borough Council; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Jen Blumenstock has nominated Samuel Rocco for the position of Captain.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood that Samuel Rocco is hereby appointed to the title of Captain of the Garwood Police Department, effective March 7, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-062

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby appoint Sean Kessock and Sean Donnelly as Fire Fighters for the Garwood Fire Department effective March 7, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-063

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2009, Victor Vinegra was appointed as the Zoning Code Officer by the Borough of Garwood; and

WHEREAS, in some cases, Mr. Vinegra has a conflict and may not serve as Zoning Code Officer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vinegra has recommended to the Mayor and Borough Council to appoint a conflict Zoning Code Officer and specifically has recommended Richard Belluscio who currently serves as Zoning Officer to the Borough of Roselle Park and Michael Disko who currently serves as Zoning Officer to the Borough of Mountainside; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor nominates Richard Belluscio and Michael Disko for appointments as Conflict Zoning Code Officers; and

WHEREAS, in cases whereby Richard Belluscio or Michael Disko serves as Conflict Zoning Code Officer, they shall be compensated at the hourly rates currently established for the Borough of Garwood Zoning Code Officer and charge such fees to the escrow accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood hereby appoints Richard Belluscio and Michael Disko as Conflict Zoning Code Officers and be compensated at the hourly rates currently established for the Borough of Garwood Zoning Officer and charge such fees to the escrow accounts.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-064

WHEREAS on February 22, 2024 the Mayor and Council approved Resolution No. 24-049 appointing John Arthur as Borough Administrator effective April 1, 2024 at an annual salary of \$125,000; and

WHEREAS Borough Administrator Arthur be and is hereby entitled to five (5) additional vacation days annually in his first (10) ten years of hire.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution No. 24-049 is hereby amended that Borough Administrator John Arthur be and is hereby entitled to five (5) additional vacation days annually in his first (10) ten years of hire.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Borough Administrator shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-065

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2024, Steve Greet submitted correspondence dated February 28, 2024 to Mayor Blumenstock advising that he is resigning from his position as Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority Representative for the Borough of Garwood.

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

- 1) The Borough of Garwood hereby accepts and relies upon the February 28, 2024 correspondence informing of resignation from Steve Greet.
- 2) Effective March 7, 2024, Steve Greet shall have resigned from his position as Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority Representative for the Borough of Garwood with the Borough of Garwood.
- 3) This resolution puts the Mayor on notice to immediately process this resignation
- 4) This resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-066

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that Craig McCarrick be and is hereby appointed Commissioner of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority from the Borough of Garwood for a five (5) year term commencing March 7, 2024 to February 1, 2029.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-067

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the Mayor of the Borough of Garwood to sign the agreement with ParkMobile LLC, a Delaware limited liability company located at 1100 Spring St. NW, Ste. 200, Atlanta, Ga. 30309, for providing parking services to the Borough of Garwood effective March 7, 2024.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to adopt Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

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

RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by _____, second by _____, to adopt Resolution # 24-_____.

Roll Call:

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

NEW BUSINESS

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 _____, second by _____ to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

Councilwoman Boto _____
Councilman Foley _____
Councilman Lazarow _____

Councilwoman Nolde _____
Councilwoman Salmon _____
Council President Kearney _____

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Municipal Clerk to read the following:

RESOLUTION NO. 24-068

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

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 subject 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.

No action will be taken.

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to adopt Resolution 24-068.

All in favor, opposed?

A motion was made by _____, second by _____ to resume the regular session.

All in favor, opposed?

ADJOURNMENT:

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on **Thursday, March 21, 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 _____ second by _____ to adjourn. Time: _____