

**Borough of Garwood**  
**MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**AGENDA**  
**MARCH 21, 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

Mike Disko, Borough Engineer

Report of Borough Engineer

Report of Borough Attorney

Report of Assistant 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 March 7, 2024.

Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on March 7, 2024.

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_ to accept the Regular Meeting and Executive Session Meeting minutes as presented. All in favor, opposed?

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

a) 03/15/2024, RE: Affordable Housing Update, OPRA Reform Bill Delayed, TTF Moves in Assembly  
<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/225847>

2) **TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD**

a) 03/08/2024, RE: Ordinance

[https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Township\\_of\\_Cranford\\_-\\_Amended\\_Ordinance\\_No.\\_2024--05.pdf](https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Township_of_Cranford_-_Amended_Ordinance_No._2024--05.pdf)

3) **BRUCE PATERSON, CITIZEN**

a) 03/13/2024, RE: Letter to Mayor, Council and Borough Professionals: (Questions to start any committee discussion on ordinances)

b) 2/19/2024 RE: Letter to Mayor and Council: (Questions on Safety Concerns of the Garwood Fire Department)

c) 2/25/2024 RE: Letter to Mayor and Council: (Fair equity distribution of PILOT Monies)

d) 03/15/2024, RE: Letter to Mayor and Council: (GFD Matrix)

**ORDINANCES:**

**ADOPTION:**

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://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord.\\_24-09-Non\\_Reusable\\_Food\\_Accessories\(1\).pdf](https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord._24-09-Non_Reusable_Food_Accessories(1).pdf)

List correspondence concerning Ordinance No. 24-09.

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance No. 24-09.

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_ to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 24-09.  
Discussion:

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_ second by \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt Ordinance No. 24-09.

**INTRODUCTION:**

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 24-10 by title only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 24-10**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 134, ENTITLED "SEWERS", ARTICLE V, "INDUSTRIAL WASTE AND FEES", SUBSECTION 134-16, "RATE SCHEDULE".**

[https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord.\\_24-10-Sewer\\_Rate\\_Amenment.pdf](https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Ord._24-10-Sewer_Rate_Amenment.pdf)

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_ second by \_\_\_\_\_ to introduce Ordinance No. 24-10.

Roll Call:

**Councilwoman Boto** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councilman Foley** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councilman Lazarow** \_\_\_\_\_

**Councilwoman Nolde** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Councilwoman Salmon** \_\_\_\_\_  
**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:**

Chief of Police Monthly Reports for February, 2024.

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 NO. 24-069**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby appoint Katya Lysak as Clean Communities Coordinator for the Borough effective March 7, 2024 to December 31, 2024 at an annual salary of \$ 750.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-070**

**WHEREAS**, there are two (2) promotional vacancies in the title of Sergeant 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 Sergeants with the advice and consent of Borough Council; and  
**WHEREAS**, Mayor Jen Blumenstock has nominated Police Officer George Suggs and Police Officer Jonathan Pridy for the positions of Sergeant.  
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood that George Suggs and Jonathan Pridy are hereby appointed to the title of Sergeant of the Garwood Police Department, effective March 21, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-071**

**NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, RECOGNIZING NJ LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK, APRIL 7 - APRIL 13, 2024 AND ENCOURAGING ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT THE CELEBRATION AND CORRESPONDING ACTIVITIES.**

**WHEREAS**, local government is the government closest to most citizens, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, local government provides services and programs that enhance the quality of life for residents, making their municipality their home; and

**WHEREAS**, local government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, local government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along the understanding of public services and their benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, NJ Local Government Week offers an important opportunity for elected officials and local government staff to spread the word to all citizens of New Jersey that they can shape and influence this branch of government; and

**WHEREAS**, the NJ State League of Municipalities and its member municipalities have joined together to teach citizens about municipal government through a variety of activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY GOVERNING BODY AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** That the Mayor and Council encourage all citizens, local government officials, and employees to participate in events that recognize and celebrate NJ Local Government Week.

**Section 2.** That Garwood encourages educational partnerships between local government and schools, as well as civic groups and other organizations.

**Section 3.** That Garwood supports and encourages all New Jersey local governments to actively promote and sponsor NJ Local Government Week.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-072**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX ASSESSOR AND THE TAX APPEAL ATTORNEY TO FILE COUNTERCLAIMS AND/OR DIRECT CLAIMS AND PETITIONS OF APPEAL FOR 4C CLASS PROPERTIES**

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that certain taxpayers of 4C class properties in the Borough of Garwood will file tax appeals disputing their assessed valuation for the year 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Assessor is of the opinion that certain 4C class properties, in some cases, are under assessed and that the assessed value of said properties should be increased; and

**WHEREAS**, the law permits a Municipality to counterclaim against a property owner to seek an increase in assessed value and also to file direct appeals (Petitions and Complaints) with the County Board of Taxation and the Tax Court of New Jersey, respectively, to seek an increase in assessed value; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood that the Tax Assessor, Jennifer Sherman, and Tax Appeal Attorneys, Renaud Colicchio LLC, be and are hereby authorized and directed to file such counterclaims, appeals, and/or petitions and/or take such other actions as are appropriate to increase the assessed value of said 4C class properties to the value which the Tax Assessor deems to more properly reflects the value of said property for the year 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-073**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council that John Arthur, Borough Administrator, be and is hereby appointed as Deputy Municipal Clerk for the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, at an annual salary of \$ -0- , effective April 1, 2024.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-074**

**CESSATION OF HYBRID BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**WHEREAS**, on June 24, 2021 the Borough Council voted to return to in person meetings effective July 22, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, on or about September 9, 2021, the Borough commenced hybrid Council meetings whereby the public comment virtually or by phone via Zoom; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee has made a recommendation to end hybrid Borough Council and Borough Planning Board meetings.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood hereby terminates hybrid Borough

Council and Borough Planning Board meetings and the utilization of Zoom for attendance by the public or council shall cease effective March 22, 2024.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Borough Clerk is instructed to update the Borough website and the public meeting guide regarding the cessation of hybrid Borough Council and Borough Planning Board meetings.

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

Roll Call:

|                           |       |                                  |       |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Councilwoman Boto</b>  | _____ | <b>Councilwoman Nolde</b>        | _____ |
| <b>Councilman Foley</b>   | _____ | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>       | _____ |
| <b>Councilman Lazarow</b> | _____ | <b>Council President Kearney</b> | _____ |

**RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

Roll Call:

|                           |       |                                  |       |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Councilwoman Boto</b>  | _____ | <b>Councilwoman Nolde</b>        | _____ |
| <b>Councilman Foley</b>   | _____ | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>       | _____ |
| <b>Councilman Lazarow</b> | _____ | <b>Council President Kearney</b> | _____ |

**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:

|                           |       |                                  |       |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| <b>Councilwoman Boto</b>  | _____ | <b>Councilwoman Nolde</b>        | _____ |
| <b>Councilman Foley</b>   | _____ | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>       | _____ |
| <b>Councilman Lazarow</b> | _____ | <b>Council President Kearney</b> | _____ |

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on **Thursday, April 11, 2024** 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 \_\_\_\_\_ second by \_\_\_\_\_ to adjourn. Time: \_\_\_\_\_