

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
March 27, 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

Also, present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud
Councilman McCormack and Councilman Sarno arrived at 7:12 p.m.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud - ***NO REPORT***

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma reported that Students in Government Night will be held the 15th of May. Ms. Ariemma commented on the Property Maintenance Officer position. Brief discussion followed. Mayor Lombardo mentioned he is meeting with Fanwood Mayor to discuss the Shared Services Agreement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - ***NONE***

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lombardo:

For those who are not aware, at the last Planning Board, the Board unanimously approved a Use Variance to change the site of the Burger King to a Wendy's. Wendy's will seek all the required permits and the project will be completed approximately mid-August of 2018. In other business at that meeting, the Planning Board reviewed Ordinance #17-30 and Resolution #18-075, regarding the South Avenue Area #2 Redevelopment Plan for comments. The board supported this adoption with no additional comment on the matters.

I am in receipt of a letter from the acting commissioner of the NJ DOT informing us that Garwood has been selected to receive funding from NJ DOT Fiscal year 2018 Municipal Program for various borough streets in the amount of \$216,000.

I have also received a letter on behalf of the Union County Board of Freeholders, and through the Open Space, Recreation and Historical Preservation Trust Fund, our municipality has been awarded a playground grant under the "Level the Playing Field" grant program in the amount of \$25,470.

Administrator/Clerk Statement: The Mayor is going to meet with the Mayor of Fanwood, Mayor to Mayor, to discuss the established Shared Services Agreement between the two communities. We will be meeting this Thursday. As I have said in the past I am a firm believer in this Shared Service Agreement and would like to continue it into the future.

Parking Committee: The Mayor has reached out to Mr. Minks of Russo Inc. to discuss fencing, parking availability and also to obtain a current timeline for the remediation, demolition and construction.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Blumenstock - ***NO REPORT***

Councilwoman Cuccaro reported our committee has been very busy trying to get some of these updated and new ordinances before the council. Some have been before us for 2 years.

1/ The updated **Fence** ordinance has been finalized with the attorney and we would like this to be moved forward today and hope for a unanimous approval. It then has to go before the Planning board then back to us, we hope to repeal this onerous revision that was done 3 years ago, to the dismay of many corner property owners.

2/ The **raffle** ordinance will eliminate the raffle approval from coming before council. We unanimously agreed this would reduce the amount of paperwork the administration does, therefore saving money for the taxpayers, less Government more efficient. Surrounding towns also agree as they have changed it years ago. We have the power to eliminate it.

3/**Property Maintenance Appeals:** The previous Construction Board of appeals was abolished a few years ago. As such, at this time there have been no such cases that required an appeals process in over 20 years. I know Mr Renaud placed this board of appeals back into the property maintenance code. After

much discussion and a unanimous decision our committee decided that there is no need for another layer of Government. Our option if approved can delegate the mayor and council to hear any such appeals.

4/-Abandoned property Fees: We are proposing an amendment to modify the code of ordinance no. 15-22 established in 2015, for the upkeep, care, and security of the exterior of vacant or abandoned properties. Although this ordinance is already in place, all surrounding towns charge a fee for these homes to be registered. It is a good way to keep an eye on them, make the banks liable for their upkeep, and these fees will assure this will happen.

It will be 500 dollars to register for the first year, the fee on the anniversary will be 1500 dollars, and the fee for a second annual renewal will be 3000 dollars. The fee for any subsequent renewal past the 2nd year will be 5000 dollars. This will encourage the banks or owners of abandoned or vacant properties to move in a reasonable manner to alleviate this concern for their neighbors and the town.

Councilman Lazarow - **NO REPORT**

Councilman McCormack - **NO REPORT**

Councilman Sarno commented on e-mail from Roselle Park for a Superintendent of Public Works. Discussion followed. Mr. Renaud commented that contract negotiations should be in closed session. After Mr. Renaud's comment discussion continued.

Councilwoman Todisco Volunteer Reward Card - I am very excited to announce that the proof of the volunteer rewards card has been approved by the participating businesses and will be printed by next week. We ended up getting 12 businesses to participate, which is really terrific for a new program like this. We are still on schedule to distribute the cards to volunteers next month and cards will be valid through December 2019. I'd like to recognize and thank each of the 12 businesses for their participation:

Benvenuti Pizza & Italian Deli/Restaurant

Cranford Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling

Crunch Fitness

Daisy's Taste of Cuba

Dittrick's Wines and Liquors

Dr. Robert B. Wise, D.C.

Karma Salon Studio

Kessler's Corner

Mobile Concepts

Rudy's Italian Restaurant

Sana Acupuncture

The Station Bar and Grill

Hartman Park - Received letter from BOE saying they are not legally allowed to contribute to project cost send the BOE a thank you for the consideration letter?

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 commented on the fence ordinance. He asked about the first reading and ordinances not being out. He commented on gun control. Councilman McCormack commented on the fence ordinance. Discussion followed.

Greg Ruggerio, 420 Pine Avenue commented on gun control.

John Bartolick, 231 Hemlock Avenue commented on the method and council using committees vs. discussion in public.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on matters discussed by council.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council President Blumenstock, Second by Councilwoman Todisco to adjourn

Time: 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood