

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
March 28, 2019**

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, advertised on January 3, 2019, 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 Todisco	P		
Councilman Benoit	P	Councilman Ince	P
Councilwoman Blumenstock	P	Councilman McCormack	P
Councilman Graham	P	Council President Lazarow	P

Also present Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Christina M. Ariemma, Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim, Esq., and Borough Engineer Michael Disko.

Mayor Todisco presented a Community Spirit Award to Catherine Madara.

At 7:16 p.m., Ms. Ariemma read the following Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-180A

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE MATTER OF ACP PARTNERSHIP v. GARWOOD BOROUGH, DOCKET NO: 003516-2019, COMMONLY KNOWN AS 550 SOUTH AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, TAX APPEALS OTHER AND THE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING THE SALE OF FLOW RIGHTS WITH TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD 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 Council President Lazarow, and seconded by Councilwoman Blumenstock to adopt Resolution No. 19-180A.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilman Graham	AYE	Council President Lazarow	AYE

At 7:56 p.m., the workshop session resumed.

Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim reported on the Legislation regarding the 2% CAP (S848), Sewerage Authority. The legislation passed and the Governor signed a bill on March 18th that amended that law. Brief discussion took place. Mayor Todisco asked this be referred to Laws and License Committee.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma no report.

Mayor Todisco's Report:

1. Update from Russo Development - I am in receipt of a letter dated today from EcolSciences, the LSRP for the Russo Development project on South Avenue, which will be posted on the Borough website as the other status reports have been. In January, the demolition of the buildings was completed and in late January, removal of portions of the concrete building slabs was initiated. Also, in February, the excavation and stockpiling of petroleum contaminated soil was started and is being monitored by EcolSciences to ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations. Over the next few weeks, petroleum contaminated soil will be removed from the site and monitoring will continue. The air monitoring results indicated that the dust suppression measures effectively controlled dust associated with the site activities. I am currently working with Russo Development to schedule an informal town hall style meeting so they may present an update on their progress to the public directly, to explain the future timeline, and to answer resident questions.

2. Joint Committee Report - On March 19th, Garwood's 116th Birthday in fact, the joint committee of the Board of Education, Planning Board, and Council took place. All of us are committed to making this a regular practice--meeting on a quarterly basis--and look forward to working together. For starters, we all agreed to take back to our respective groups the matter of the Board of Education charging the Recreation Commission, which is a municipal entity, for use of the Lincoln School gym during basketball season and the Recreation Commission potentially charging the Board of Education for use of the turf field. We acknowledged that this is really just a matter of moving

money from one pocket of the taxpayer to the other and hope that both entities can agree to not charge, even though we are talking about nominal dollar amounts. Some discussion took place about redevelopment as well as smaller applications that are expected to come before the Planning Board. Dr. Quigley informed us that currently, Lincoln School has two swing classrooms and she put to rest rumors regarding school capacity. The dialogue will continue on redevelopment and PILOT agreements as we get closer to the completion of the Russo and Paperboard projects. Lastly, I am very excited to announce my next Breakfast with the Mayor event will be held at Lincoln School and I will be joined by Superintendent Dr. Quigley and Board of Education President, Christine Guerriero, on a Saturday in May. This will be a great opportunity for parents and children as well as any community member to take a tour of our fantastic school.

3. Mayor's Wellness Walk - The first Mayor's Wellness Campaign Walk of 2019 was held last Saturday at Unami Park and even though it was a chilly day, I was pleased to have over 20 people, including children, join me on this 3K walk. Wellness is an initiative many workplaces and schools are putting at the forefront and I am happy to say Garwood is doing the same for our community at-large. I look forward to these walks taking place on a regular basis as the weather warms up. Also, I would like to thank former Mayor Charles Lombardo and all the members of the Mayor's Wellness Committee for their efforts in scheduling this event and for all the work they are doing to benefit our residents.

4. Planning Board - Last night at the Planning Board meeting, an hour long discussion took place regarding the ordinance governing sidewalk cafes and the Planning Board recommended the Council adopt it along with an ordinance governing outdoor seating areas. The Planning Board also expressed that the Council should include both ordinances in the same section of the code--Chapter 106, Land Use. The memo and draft ordinances were sent to us earlier today by the Planning Board Secretary, so I now will refer the matter to the Laws and License Committee to review and make a recommendation to the full Council. The application scheduled to be heard last night was seeking a waiver from site plan as the proposal (to convert the second and third floor of a mixed use building from office use to residential use). This would not change the exterior of the building nor would the proposal result in an unpermitted use or violate any of the bulk requirements. However, it was determined that a parking variance may be required for the application, which makes the legal notice deficient. The applicant was rescheduled and will re-notice for the May 22 Planning Board meeting. The next meeting of the Planning Board will be on April 24th when it plans to hear the Dittricks case along with the Willow Avenue case of two, two-family structures.

5. Memorial Day Weekend Parade - Plan to participate? Ms. Ariemma needs to RSVP for us.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Benoit no report.

Councilwoman Blumenstock: Just a reminder that Local Government Week is almost here! From April 7-13th, there are a number of activities planned for all members of the community to participate in and celebrate the great services in our town. One of the big events of course includes Touch-A-Truck which will take place on April 7th from 2-4pm in the lot across from Lincoln School. We've got some great food, balloon animals and temporary tattoos for the kids and of course vehicles and trucks from all of our great departments for the kids to climb on and check out. We also have a Bingo Night set up for April 9th at the Firehouse from 5-7. The \$10 cost will cover the food which will include sloppy joes and any leftover donations will be given to Liberty Hose Company. Please contact me to sign-up for Bingo, my phone number and email are on the Borough's website. Also come out for Student Government night on Monday, April 8th, the PTA Talent Show on April 12th and check out all of the great activities our library is putting on that week. The entire week's program can be found on the Borough's website or Facebook page.

Also, you'll see on tonight's consent agenda, Resolution 19-184 to officially award the purchase of the sweeper. It will be the regenerative air Tymco model that we spoke about at a previous meeting that we were able to demo over at the DPW. At \$252, 911, it comes in well under the estimate and I am excited to be moving forward with this. I am excited to get our town back onto a regular street sweeping schedule and I know that many of our residents are too. And I think everyone will be very happy with the quality of the sweeping as well, so I hope we can all come together and vote to pass this resolution tonight. That's all for me, Mayor.

Councilman Graham mentioned Resolutions 19-186, concerning shading at Hartman Park, Resolution 19-187, for purchase of the water fountain, and Resolution 19-194 for the installation of the water fountain at Hartman Park.

Councilman Ince reported the Division of Highway Traffic and Safety is asking police departments across the state to take part in the 2019 Distracted Driving State Wide Crackdown. The slogan is "You Drive and Text, You Pay." Applications for the Youth Academy are available and for children entering 6th – 9th grades. The program will run from August 5th – August 11th.

Councilman McCormack: As we all may be aware, the legalization of marijuana bill failed to get the required votes to move forward. I for one am happy about this as I have a number of reasons as to why I'm against it. While I have no desire to debates at a local level whether the legalization should occur, I would like to propose we draft a resolution restricting any future dispensaries in town. Two reasons, one being it is not an image I foresee Garwood ever wishing to portray, as a destination to purchase marijuana. Second is for the children of Garwood, three of which happen to be my grandsons. They walk home from Lincoln School every day and it's simply paramount, and it's my belief we would be jeopardizing that by allowing any such dispensaries in town. I hope we can come to agreement to draft a resolution/ordinance restricting such facilities.

Council President Lazarow: This past Tuesday, along with Councilwoman Blumenstock, I attended at the Cranford Community Center, the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition meeting to Restore and Expand the One-Seat Ride. NJ Transit's Raritan Valley line currently carries 23,500 passenger daily, making it the third most used rail line. Currently, the line ends at Newark Penn Station where you have to transfer to a new train to get into New York Penn Station costing commuters valuable time and inconvenience. From 2014 to 2018, several off-peak trains went directly to New York Penn Station, but that was cancelled while NJ Transit installed positive train control along the line. Aside from this blatant unfairness that negatively impacts Garwood and all Raritan valley Line commuters productivity, we are also increasing the amount of time that commuters are away from their families, thus reducing quality of life. I encourage the public and all council members to sign the petition online or get involve in this initiative by vising the website: raritanvalleyrail.com/take-action/ I plan on being a vocal advocate on this issue and encourage the council to support Resolution 19-183 to restore this one seat ride that our town and commuters deserve.

Another issue that was addressed was an update on the Gateway project to build a new and expanded tunnel under the Hudson River. The Gateway program is America's most urgent infrastructure need. The current tunnel is 108 years old and Jerry Zaro, Chairman of the Gateway Development Corporation laid it out succinctly how desperately needed this project is. Just to provide you all with some perspective, in 1910 when the original Hudson River Tunnel was built, 12,900 passenger trips took place per weekday while in 2018 200,000 passenger trips took place per week day. In 2012, when Hurricane Sandy hit, thousands of gallons of seawater entered the tunnel system and it is not a question of if, but when the concrete walls that protect the tunnel erode away and compromise the viability of this 108 year old structure. The lack of a new tunnel is a slow motion disaster in the making due to the economic and environmental ramifications. If this tunnel did have to shut down, without a new tunnel, the amount of cars on the road would be unconscionable. Carbon emissions, traffic, and quality of life would negatively impact any community in New Jersey that depends on NJ transit to get to work into New York City. Property values would plummet as people may have to move to find jobs that have more reasonable commutes. This is an issue that I believe we must rally to demand that the federal government provide the funding we desperately need to make. I plan to petition our representatives, senators, and the White House to work together to come up with a solution to this important issue.

Board of Chosen Freeholders Liaison Report: **No Report**

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 five minutes.

Al DelConte, 545 Locust Avenue stated he supports the purchase of the street sweeper. He commented on the DPW work as they were using equipment under the shared service agreement with Fanwood. He commented on the removal of historical pictures being removed from the complex.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on the RVSA matter. He commented on the removal of the historical pictures that were removed by the Recreation Commission without permission or informing anyone. He commented on the ladder truck. He thanked Mayor Todisco for acknowledging Kitty Madara and the resolution for Anne Leonard.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham to close public comments session.

Mayor Todisco commented on the removal of the historical photos and that she said she spoke to the chairman and the photos will be put up again. She commented further on the matter.

Mayor Todisco commented on the ladder truck matter. Councilman McCormack provided information.

Mayor Todisco thanked Mr. Paterson for bringing Kitty Madara to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:23 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, and seconded by Councilman Ince to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood