

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
April 10, 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

Mayor presented Jon Ropelski with a Mayor's Award.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud prepared amending ordinance for raffle licensing. Ms. Ariemma was directed to put the amending ordinance on for the next agenda for introduction.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lombardo: As your Mayor, I will be joining 14 other Mayors across Union County on April 11th in support of Mayors Against Illegal Guns and have signed, on March 30, 2018, their Statement of Principles, because as your Mayor, I am duty-bound to do everything in my power to protect our residents, especially our children, from harm, and there is no greater threat to public safety than the threat of illegal guns. I wholeheartedly support common sense gun laws and policies that can keep illegal guns out of the wrong hands.

As discussed at our previous council meeting, I have met with the Mayor of Fanwood and we both agree in principle, that we should move forward for another three years with our current shared service agreement. We both would like our Council committees to enhance the shared service agreement by adding street sweeping as suggested. Mayor Mahr and I will meet again before the final agreement is signed.

Union County is pleased to announce that new CPR training classes will be conducted by Emergency Medical Technicians from Union County Emergency Medical Services. All classes are open to the general public and the program is free with participants only paying for the course materials fee of \$23.75 which includes all materials and certification card. All classes will be held in the Union County Emergency Services Building at 535 Laurel Ave. Roselle Park. Any questions please call 908 654-9881 and ask for Sergeant Chmura. The classes are:

Sunday April 15 12:30-5 P.M.

Tuesday April 17 6-10:30 P.M.

Saturday April 28 9-1:30 P.M.

Elizabethtown Gas Pipeline Replacement Project: The project scope is to replace and upgrade natural gas service by replacing ageing gas mains with pipe made from material that is more durable and less expensive to maintain, also by relocating gas meters from inside homes and businesses to outside, and to replacing service lines from the main in the street to premises. Portions of the streets that will be directly affected will be Anchor Place, Winslow Place, Spruce Avenue, Third Avenue and North Ave. The Hotline number is 866-767-5558

I would like to recognize the month of April 2018 as National Autism month. The first National Autism Month was dedicated by the Autism Society in April 1970. This month is dedicated to educate the public about Autism as a complex mental condition, with developmental disabilities, characterized by difficulties in the way a person communicates and interacts with other people. As part of the upgrade of Garwood's Hartman Park, we have included sensory friendly equipment for those special needs children with autism and other cognitive disorders.

An update on Russo 1 - I have been in discussion with Chris Minks of Russo Redevelopment about the following: The drive in bank and the private home near the corner of South and West, will be coming down in approximately one month. I am trying to secure a gate out of the parking area near the Fire House for safety reasons and the accessibility of the seniors. Finally, I am negotiating to have a Town Hall meeting for our residents before the actual construction of the project begins.

As a side note: I will be on vacation from April 13th to the 23rd. Department heads will be notified, and throughout that time, I will be available for emergency communication with the Borough as needed.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Blumenstock commented on matters that were in the Mayor's report including gun safety at school. Brief discussion followed.

Councilwoman Cuccaro - We have previously spoken about updating the property maintenance code and how the laws and license committee agrees with having the Mayor and council be the arbiter for appeals if anyone brings one forward.

An E-mail was sent after the last council meeting about the possibility of looking at another municipal code for guidance. Laws and license discussed this and we unanimously decided to ask Bob to move forward with preparing this ordinance as we have previously discussed with the IPMC (International property Maintenance code), which is the code that is being used throughout the country. This way the full council can review it.

Ms. Ariemma was directed to put the ordinance as prepared by Mr. Renaud.

Councilman Lazarow - I had Tina today send out an ordinance that restricts pet stores from buying or selling cats or dogs with the exception of animal care facilities or animal rescue organizations to offer space for stores to showcase adoptable dogs and cats. As seen in the report crafted by The Humane Society, puppy mills and other reckless business practices have been used to produce, buy and sell ill-treated cats and dogs with serious ailments. The ordinance was crafted by lawyers at the Humane Society. Also, please be aware this ordinance - passed by 120 municipalities in our state and over 250 times across the country. Six Union County towns are among the 120 in New Jersey to have passed this: Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Roselle Park, Springfield, Cranford and Rahway. Westfield will be voting on this tonight and Kenilworth is still considering it. Last December, California made this STATE LAW, and Pennsylvania and Maryland are considering it right now.

Also, I am asking that the Laws and License Committee meet to review Chapter 126 which governs the Recreation Committee and its role in overseeing the Recreation Complex. I will be asking for clarification from both the Committee and Tina as for recommendations for changes to help in the process of making Chapter 126 alleviate some ambiguities in the language.

I am going to request for Tina to write a letter to the Board of Education informing them that starting Monday, April 16th, Hartman Park will be closed so that our DPW can start removing the old equipment from Hartman Park. The installation of the new equipment will be commencing soon thereafter and right now I don't want to give an exact timeline for completion until I get the word from the installer later this week.

Councilman McCormack commented on the illegal gun matter and making more regulations concerning illegal guns.

Council paused for Rahway Valley Sewerage Authorities representatives to comment on their budget process. Members passed out a memo regarding user charge calculations.

Councilman Sarno commented on Councilman McCormack's report. He commented on Shared Services with Roselle Park for DPW Services. Mayor Lombardo commented on the Shared Service Agreement with Fanwood. Councilwoman Cuccaro and Councilman McCormack agreed with Councilman Sarno on seeking other shared services. Councilwoman Todisco commented and asked questions. Council President Blumenstock also commented. Discussion followed.

Councilwoman Todisco - Revaluation - We received 4 proposals on revaluation from \$95,000 to \$134,250 in cost. I followed up to see what our tax assessor thought and she recommended the lowest, which was Realty Appraisal Co., which she is very happy with as she is working with them presently in Westfield and shared that they came highly recommended from Roselle Park who used them in 2015. This company has done over 400 revaluations and have responded to all questions promptly. Therefore, I think we should direct our Clerk to prepare to award the contract to Realty Appraisal Co.

Volunteer Reward Card - The Volunteer Rewards cards were printed and are being distributed to all the volunteer groups and committees in town. Most have been given out, but a few will be passing out the cards at their upcoming meetings this week. Garwood has literally hundreds of volunteers from those in emergency services, like the Fire Dept. and First Aid Squad, to Borough-appointed boards, committees, and commissions, to school-related groups like the PTA and EFG,

as well as other private organizations like the Knights of Columbus and Lions Club. They really are at the heart of our small town with a big heart and while no one volunteers for the recognition, I have to say many really appreciated getting the card. In speaking with a few elected officials from other towns, I can see the idea for this program taking off in other communities, too. We are all very busy today, but many people still make the time to make Garwood an even better place to live. It does not go unnoticed.

Crossing Guard Breakfast - I meant to say this at our last Council meeting, but when I attended the Board of Education last month, Dr. Quigley mentioned how she would thought the crossing guard appreciation breakfast was a great idea and thought it was a very nice event when it was done three years ago, so she would be more than happy to attend. I hope this comes to fruition at the end of this school year. Crossing guards provide an invaluable municipal service, and knowing that many are Garwood residents who have returned to this job year after year certainly makes a difference.

All agreed to award to Realty Appraisal Company.

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.

Jim Mathieu, 335 Hazel Avenue commented on the Shared Service Agreement with Fanwood and talking to other municipalities. He commented further on matters. He commented on proposed resolutions concerning COAH. He commented on the fence ordinance. He commented on Mayor's Saturday being on his campaign web-site.

Bill Nierstedt, 320 Hickory Avenue commented on gun control. He presented a resolution for gun control. He commented on the tax maps and that the County already has updated maps. He also commented on the revaluation process.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on council debates and other matters.

Councilman McCormack commented on a statement made by Mr. Patterson.

Lou Petruzzelli, 323 Hemlock Avenue commented on Fire Department matters and their budget.

Kim Salmon, 341 Myrtle Avenue commented on the Fire Department.

Councilman McCormack commented on the Hartman Park Project.

Councilman Lazarow responded and answered Councilman's questions.

Councilman McCormack commented further.

Councilman Lazarow, Council President Blumenstock and Councilwoman Todisco commented

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilman Sarno, Second by Councilwoman Todisco to adjourn

Time: 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood