

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
April 11, 2019**

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

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, and Acting Borough Attorney Scott Salmon, Esq.,

Acting Borough Attorney Scott Salmon - **No Report**

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma - **No Report**

Mayor Todisco's Report:

1. Local Government Week - Local Government Week is in full swing here in Garwood as part of this new initiative led by the League of Municipalities. We kicked off the week with a first-ever Touch-a-Truck event on Sunday. We had beautiful weather and it was really well attended, especially for a new event, with over 100 adults and children stopping by. I want to say a big thank you to our Police Department, DPW, Fire Department, and First Aid Squad for participating with their vehicles. We also had a couple food trucks and ice cream truck, which were a big hit. I also want to thank the girl scouts and youth volunteers for manning the temporary tattoo table as well as a big thank you to Samsel and Associates for donating balloon animals and cotton candy stations. It was priceless to see the looks of joy on so many kids' faces as they looked at the trucks, beeped the horns (and did they beep!), got in firefighter gear, and more. Councilwoman Jen Blumenstock brought this idea forward at our Re-Organization meeting in January and I want to thank her for her leadership on this, which was a perfect kickoff to the week. Then, on Monday, we held the annual Students in Government Night here in Council Chambers, where the Lincoln School Student Council participated in a mock Council meeting and did a fantastic job. They even came prepared with excellent ideas about what more we could do to better our community and in particular, I loved the idea of more youth involvement, say with the Green Team. I believe we can make that happen. Also, the students shared many positive thoughts on our town, like how safe it is, how they feel like they know everyone, and how there is a lot for them to walk to in town to do. Local Government Week events continued into Tuesday where we had a bingo night at the firehouse with over 50 people in attendance from senior club regulars to new faces. It was a lot of fun and I think we definitely do it again next year. To close the week, there is the Talent Show at Lincoln School tomorrow night and Opening Day Parade and Ceremony of the Garwood Baseball League season on Saturday. Lastly, I am honored to announce the winners of the first of its kind essay contest, which was open to all Lincoln School 6th to 8th graders. I thank the Historical Committee for joining me on this new endeavor, and an extra thank you, especially as we received a total of 56 submissions--truly impressive. We decided to add a 2nd place and 3rd place winner because the number of essays submitted was so high. Now without further ado, the 3rd place winner was Liliana Ficarra, 2nd place winner was Isabel Cortese, and 1st place goes to Samantha VanderGroef. Congratulations, winners! I hope to invite them to our next Council meeting to read their essays in Workshop and to receive their awards.

2. Mayor's Wellness Walk - The Mayor's Wellness Committee has been hard at work with monthly meetings and planning activities to help promote healthy lifestyles in our community. A major ongoing activity is wellness walks. The next one will be Saturday, April 20th with a 10am start at Unami Park and Police Chief Wright will be our guest walker that day. I hope you can join us!

3. Health Bee - This past Tuesday, the Westfield Area YMCA and United Healthcare hosted the 10th annual Health Bee. The Health Bee is a jeopardy-style competition in which students answer questions on food and nutrition, health and science, and physical fitness. The Health Bee is a component of the Westfield Area Y's 7th Grade Initiative, which offers a complimentary membership and specialized programming to all 7th graders who live in Garwood, Cranford, Mountainside or Westfield. A total of 7 teams participated and I am very proud to announce the Garwood team named the "Smart Strawberries" won 2nd place after a tie score going into the last question. They won \$500 for Lincoln School. Way to go "Smart Strawberries"--making Garwood proud. I also want to thank former Mayor Charles Lombardo, who is also the Mayor's Wellness Committee liaison, for attending in my place to speak before the competition as I was busy at our bingo night.

4. Next Breakfast with the Mayor - Please mark your calendars for May 18th from 10am to 12 noon for the next Breakfast with the Mayor event as part of the quarterly schedule. I can't believe it's time for the second one already! I'm happy to share that our school Superintendent Dr. Quigley and Board of Education President Christine Guerriero will join me at this one, which we will hold at Lincoln School, so that young families will be able to take a tour of the school, if they are interested. Anyone is welcome to attend this breakfast.

5. Mailbox - As I mentioned at a previous meeting, the blue mailbox that by the corner of Fourth and Union for a long time was removed several months ago because it was not secured to the ground. I spoke with the Postmaster in Cranford and she said they would definitely put the mailbox back if the town put in a cement slab for it to be secured to. This is a very inexpensive undertaking at about \$300-\$500 and I know from speaking with a few residents in that area that the mailbox has definitely been missed. If the Council agrees, we can direct Ms. Ariemma to proceed.

6. 2019 DOT Award - We received notice last week from the Department of Transportation that we were awarded a \$280,000 grant for our 2019 DOT project, which includes Liberty Court, Union Street, and Pine Avenue from Center to West. This is excellent news as it means the State funds will be covering about 85% of the project cost.

7. Meeting with PSE&G - Yesterday, I met with the government representative and a few other PSE&G professionals to go over the proposed 69,000 volt lines project. I was joined by Councilwoman Blumenstock as she is the Streets & Roads Commissioner, DPW Superintendent Dickson, Police Chief Wright, and Administrator Ariemma. It appears the impetus for this project is to upgrade service and prepare for a connection to a new substation to be constructed at 750 Walnut in Cranford. PSE&G is currently negotiating with Hartz Mountain for about 6 acres of that property. We pushed PSE&G to make this project have as little impact, meaning go down as few streets, as possible as it reaches Lexington Avenue in Cranford by Unami Park to then go through Cranford until it ends at the substation. They agreed to take it back to their engineering team to redesign the path and get back to us in about 2-3 weeks. We also requested, and they agreed, to hold an informal style meeting about the proposed project so the public can see what it is all about and ask any questions they may have. The meeting will be organized with stations rather than a whole group presentation to make it easier for residents to see specific aspects of the project, from construction to outreach to vegetation management, and to ask their questions one-on-one with PSE&G experts. This style was used at their meeting last night in Westfield. Once PSE&G has their engineers review our requests, they will get the map to the Council and set up a workshop meeting open to the public.

8. FD Town Hall Meetings - We scheduled two sessions of informal, town hall style meetings to discuss the potential purchase of a ladder truck for the Garwood Fire Department at Lincoln School for Monday, April 29th and Tuesday, May 7th, both at 7pm. Fire Chief Allan Tweedle, Assistant Chief John Scalzadonna, Fire Commissioner Rich McCormack, and I will make a presentation, then take questions from the public. I want to thank Fire Commissioner McCormack for all the time he has spent with the Fire Department, meeting with his committee, bringing the matter of the ladder truck forward, and asking for what the next step would be at our last Council meeting. I'm really happy that we can all work together as a governing body to investigate the purchase, while having the Fire Department present the facts to the public, so that we can hear what our residents have to say about it.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Benoit: commented on Laws & License Committee reviewing of Chapter 106. He commented that the bill S848 regarding the 2% cap on sewer authority increases should be considered. Ms. Ariemma was directed to prepare a resolution supporting 2% cap on sewer authorities and Attorney Salmon was directed to prepare the Chapter 106 ordinances.

Councilwoman Blumenstock - I just want to echo the Mayor's words about Local Government week. It was wonderful to see the community out together at the different events and I had a great time organizing the Touch-A-Truck and Bingo nights. Thank you to the departments in the town, to the Mayor and my fellow councilmembers and to everyone who donated to this great week.

Councilman Graham: No Report

Councilman Ince - The road striping project is scheduled to begin next week weather permitting. Streets to be done initially include the shoulders of Center Street as well as rumble striping at the intersections of Spruce Ave and West Street, and Pine Ave and East St. Additionally warning markings will be painted on the 500 block of East Street cautioning motorists to slow down near the YMCA.

Councilman McCormack: commented on the Easter Egg Hunt expressing how well the event was planned and attended. He commented on the other NJ Local Government Week Programs.

Council President Lazarow: commented on NJ Local Government Week.

Board of Chosen Freeholders Liaison Report:

Councilman Benoit commented on the Freeholder meeting he attended.

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.

Krystal Zawoysky, 208 Myrtle Avenue thanked Councilman Ince for addressing her concerns. She commented on other matters.

Mr. Reed, 20 Stacy Road, Flemington, NJ commented on Judge Leonard and his wife Ann Leonard. He suggested the town have a memorial for the Leonard's.

Al DelConte, 545 Locust Avenue commented on the historical pictures at the Recreation Complex. He commented on work done by the water company where curbing was not painted.

Motion was made by Councilman Graham, seconded by Council President Lazarow to close public comments session. All in favor.

Mayor Todisco responded to Mr. Reed regarding Judge and Mrs. Leonard. She referred the matter to the Historical Committee.

Mayor Todisco directed the Streets & Roads Committee to address the painted curbing. She commented on the pictures at the Complex matter.

Councilman Benoit commented on the historical pictures matter.

Councilman Benoit commented on parking matters and the schedule of games being held at the complex.

Councilman McCormack commented on the photos at the recreation complex.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:33 p.m., a motion was made by Council President Lazarow, and seconded by Councilman Ince to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood