

Borough of Garwood
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 26, 2022

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Moment of Silence.....

Salute to the Flag.....

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Union County Hawk advertised on January 20, 2022. 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 Todisco	P		
Councilman Graham	P	Councilwoman Loffredo	P
Councilman Kearney	P	Councilwoman Salmon	P
Councilman Lazarow	P	Council President Blumenstock	P

Also Present:

Kyle Harris, Borough Administrator
Adam Abramson, Borough Attorney
Catherine D. Cameron, Borough Clerk
Mike Disko, Borough Engineer
Sandy Bruns, Borough CFO/Treasurer
Robert Renaud, Tax Appeal Attorney
James Wright, Chief of Police

Report of Borough Engineer

Bids for the above referenced project were received on April 7, 2022. Ten (10) contractors procured bid documents. Nine (9) contractors submitted bids as shown on the attached Bid Summary.

Base Bid work consists of replacement of curbs, driveway apron restoration, partial sidewalk replacement, installation of curb ramp delineations, milling and echelon paving resurfacing of three street sections, including: Hazel Avenue (Center to Westfield) Hemlock Avenue (East to Westfield); Spruce Avenue (East to Center) (Existing curbs remain); Third Avenue (Maple to Westfield).

Alternate #1 consists of television inspection of sanitary sewers on Hazel Avenue, Hemlock Avenue and Spruce Avenue within project limits. Alternate #2 work consists of drainage improvements on Hazel Avenue and Hemlock Avenue.

The apparent low bidder is any combination of bids is Midwest Construction, Inc. of Warren, NJ. Midwest's bid price is lower than engineering estimates and bond funding. NJDOT has provided a grant of \$395,000 for the project. Per discussion with Borough Officials, funding is available to award Base Bid, Alternate #1 & #2 work in the amount of \$496,231.68. I see no reason not to award Base Bid and Alternates #1 & #2 to Midwest Construction Inc. in the amount of \$496,231.68, subject to review by the Borough Attorney.

The attached spreadsheet lists the bidders and their itemized bid prices. The project award is subject to approval by NJDOT. NJDOT requires completion of form SA-22 (2 copies) and certified copies of the award resolution. Thank you.

Report of Borough Attorney NO REPORT

Report of Borough Administrator

1. Reminder for all residents that the 2nd quarter tax bills are due May 1st
2. Tree Sapling Distribution: The Green Team and Shade Tree Advisory will be distributing free tree saplings as part of New Jersey's Tree Recovery Program. This event will take place at Borough Hall from 10AM to 12PM on Saturday April 30th. We have a limited supply of saplings, first come first serve
3. The Garwood Police Department has been issuing warnings for parking violations. If you need to register your vehicle forms are available at Borough Hall or on the Borough Website under clerk's forms. Please email the clerk at Parking@garwood.org with applications or for additional information. We can be reached by as well at 908-789-0710
4. Voter information: Please be advised that District 1 will be moving from the firehouse to the Borough Hall and District 2 will be moving from the Recreation Complex to Borough Hall. These changes will be effective Primary Election Day Tuesday June 7th, 2022. The last day to register for to vote in the Primary Election is May 17th.
5. The first Garwood Clean Communities Day of 2022 is coming up on Saturday May 14th. Please contact cleancommunities@garwood.org or call 908-789-0710 to sign your group up. Your group might be eligible for a \$250 mini grant. We have space for two more groups.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-066

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING LITIGATION CONCERNING DOCKET NUMBER 004818-2022 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 matter.

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 subject 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.

Action will not be taken after the Executive session.

At 7:05 P.M. a motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Council President Blumenstock to adopt Resolution 22-066.

All in favor.

At 7:37 a motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Councilman Lazarow to resume the regular session.

All in favor.

Report of Mayor Sara Todisco

I am proud to announce Garwood's involvement in the formation of a 5-town Route 28/South Avenue Mayors' Consortium. I am joined by the Mayors of Cranford, Westfield, Scotch Plains, and Fanwood. Our purpose is to work collaboratively as we are all experiencing new and proposed development in our area, especially along the Route 28 North Avenue and South Avenue corridors. While we are individually and collectively enjoying the benefits of such redevelopment, our aim is to mitigate the associated mobility and traffic circulation challenges. Our mission is to prepare studies and develop actionable plans to address current and projected future congestion and safety issues – including mobility improvements to reduce vehicular

traffic, improve the vehicular experience, and encourage safe pedestrian, bike, and public transit activities. We are also engaging with Union County officials to help us gain a full understanding of available resources in the form of grants and technical assistance to provide recommendations for improvements, and ultimately identify funding for their implementation. I'm looking forward to working with Mayors Prunty, Brindle, Losardo, and Mahr as well as County officials. Most importantly, I look forward to bringing information and solutions back to Garwood. As always, I will keep you updated.

I'd like to remind everyone that the 18th Annual Education Foundation of Garwood Appreciation Dinner will be this Thursday, April 28th from 6 to 9pm at The Westwood. If you have not gotten your ticket yet, you can still purchase now or at the door. I want to again congratulate the award recipients that will be honored Thursday night. This year's Educator of the Year is Ms. Planer and this year's People Making a Difference Award recipients are Lenny and Cheryl DiStefano. Lenny is a retired Garwood Police Captain and current Zoning Code Enforcement Officer. Lenny and Cheryl have also been longtime bus drivers for the Borough.

Comments from the Council:

Councilman Graham requested support for Ordinance #22-04.

Councilman Graham summarized his attendance to the Cranford Memorial Day Committee meeting, and the Small Business Advisory Committee meeting

Councilman Kearney NO REPORT

Councilman Lazarow thanked Council President Blumenstock and the Green Team for the documentary presentation held at the Library. He informed all in attendance that the library is issuing reusable bags.

Councilwoman Loffredo

I would like to ask that a public town hall (similar to cannabis town hall) get on the schedule ASAP, included with the school, to discuss the current NJ State Bill A-4454/S-2781 and learning standards from NJEA being sent to schools for Fall 2022. Recently, this has been a controversial topic across the United States particularly because of the sex education portion of it and some communities are passing resolutions in local governing bodies. I have provided an example of the resolution and the drop box of NJEA learning standards in my initial email to the council and mayor and I am happy to share it with the public. With the current exchange of money being passed to the school, I think it's fair to get the community weigh in on this topic. Thank you.

[ParentsBillofRights.pdf \(monmouth.nj.us\)](#)

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dge2a30qi05brxw/AAA1aLdHgQNhEN2b0SGuUmnMa?dl=0&fbclid=IwAR1LGHtX9tVre5PKhkJsXaWTpJxJJW8vFELiHC1uZ2Yzso4GrvZ66oMC09U>

Mayor Todisco clarified the State's learning standards source. She recommended the matter remain separate from the Borough, stating it is a Board of Education matter.

Councilman Lazarow agreed with Mayor Todisco, and provided additional clarification regarding learning standards at the State level.

Councilwoman Salmon NO REPORT

Council President Blumenstock

To celebrate Earth Day, the Green Team held a screening this past Saturday of a documentary called “bag it,” which takes a look at how plastic affect our lives and our environment. Given the upcoming plastic bag ban, we thought this topic especially relevant. We had a really good showing and I want to thank everyone for coming out. Thank you to Maryann Duffy for hosting us at the Garwood Library and thank you to Heather Miara from Union County’s Bureau of Recycling and Planning for being on-hand to answer some questions about the new law. Also, thanks to Dr. Quigley and Mrs. Bree at Lincoln School for advertising the event to their middle schoolers, we had a good number of students show up, which is terrific. The Green Team is always looking to work with and include the younger generation.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on March 31, 2022.

Minutes of the Executive Session held on March 31, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Council President Blumenstock, to accept minutes as presented.

All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1) NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

- a) 04/08/2022, RE: Budget Testimony, APRA Scam, DOT Grants
<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/168522>
- b) 04/07/2022, RE::Lunch & Learn Cybersecurity Briefing
<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/168376>
- c) 04/14/2022,RE: Cannabis Sales Approved, Budget Testimony, ARPA Reports Due
<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/168890>

2) TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

- a) 04/07/2022, RE: Resolutions
https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Twp_of_Springfield_Res_2022-113.pdf

3) UNION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- a) 04/02/2022, RE: Resolutions
https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/UC_COMMISSIONERS.pdf

4) TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD

- a) 04/14/2022, RE: Ordinance
https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Clerk_to_UC_and_Surrounding_-_Introduced.pdf

5) TOWNSHIP OF UNION

- a) 04/18/2022. RE: Resolution
https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/TWP_OF_UNION_RESOLUTION.pdf

6) BRUCE PATERSON, CITIZEN

- a) 04/06/2022, RE: Letter to the GW Mayor and Council

ALL RECEIVED AND FILED.

ORDINANCES:

ADOPTION:

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance 22-03 by title only:

**CALENDAR YEAR 2022
ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-03-02-Adopt-Cap_Bank.pdf

List correspondence concerning Ordinance 22-03 NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance 22-03.

A motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adopt Ordinance 22-03

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	NAY
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	NAY
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

4- AYES, 2- NAYS Ordinance 22-03 was adopted.

INTRODUCTION:

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance 22-04 by title only:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 21-1 (PARKING PROHIBITED) IN ARTICLE I (TRAFFIC AND PARKING) IN CHAPTER 21 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD.

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-04-01_Intro_-_Traffic_and_Parking.pdf

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham, to introduce Ordinance 22-04.

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

6- AYES Ordinance 22-03 was introduced.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL: Councilman Lazarow, Chair

One of the essential components of working together on a committee is the idea of finding compromise. Even though politically speaking, there is a majority of Democrats on the committee, I have never treated this position as a place to represent political ideology to dominate the opposition party. In that spirit when I worked with Councilwoman Loffredo and Councilman Kearney, we made various compromises that were designed to create a budget that while not every wish of all three of us would be honored, it was based on good faith

negotiating that would balance the needs of the Borough with the careful guarding of the taxpayer dollars this year and in years to come. I do believe that a majority of our time spent was a sincere effort by the committee to work collaboratively during over 30 hours of meetings. In our last meeting we made some minor revisions to the budget which amounted to cuts of about 7,000 dollars to the overall budget. I will be supporting the introduction and adoption of the budget which will see an average increase of 71 dollars per average assessed home as I do believe this budget balances significant contractual and statutory increases from healthcare, RVSA, to bond notes and other increases totaling \$550,000. We were extremely fortunate to be able to anticipate \$420,000 from the Vermella PILOT through the financial deal that Councilwoman Blumenstock, Mayor Todisco and myself helped to negotiate back in 2017. In addition, I firmly support the addition of a 17th police officer as absolutely essential in making sure we provide safety and security to the increasing population of our town. I hope that the entire mayor and council will also be in support of this budget as well.

FIRE AND OEM: Councilman Kearney, Chair NO REPORT

FACILITIES, GROUNDS AND SHADE TREES: Councilwoman Loffredo, Chair

Good Evening, Mayor, Council and Public

Few quick updates this week.

1. Electrician installed lights at Rec Center on Friday.
2. PSEG installed second flood light at rec center parking lot
3. Remediation is still on going at DPW building
4. Salem Oak Tree was planted in the rec complex on Friday
5. Tree Saplings Available this Saturday at the Municipal Complex from 10am-12pm

STREETS, ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY: Council President Blumenstock, Chair NO REPORT

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Graham, Chair NO REPORT

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: RECREATION, HISTORICAL AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEES:
Councilwoman Salmon, Chair**

Recreation had an amazing 6-week bowling program at the Garwood Lanes. The recreation committee is looking into separating this program by grade for the next cycle of bowling to allow for more participation. Thank you to all that signed up and the parents that stayed to supervise, it was a great success. Garwood instructional soccer held its first practice at the recreation complex this past Saturday, I did stop by and it was nice to see the kids playing on the turf field. A special thank you to resident Ralph Trentacosta for coaching this program the children seemed to have a great time running around and learning the fundamentals of soccer.

Celebrations hosted their annual Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt and it was a huge success! Over 200 children participated in the event and it was a blast. I was stationed at Hartman Park and it is nice to see all the kids come in with their Easter baskets searching for eggs. Celebrations is currently working on their annual Memorial Day event and 2 ice cream socials for the summer, which are new events, so please stay tuned. Historical committee met last night and has many things coming down the line. They will also be partnering with celebrations at the upcoming Memorial Day Event. And of course, Garwood rocks at Garwood Rocks. Please keep an eye out for details.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Councilman Kearney

Communications met yesterday at Borough Hall to continue discussion and review of the suggested changes to both the social media policy and the employee handbook recommended by Borough Administrator Harris. The committee suggested a few changes to Mr. Harris which were accepted and raised a few questions which have been referred to the Borough Attorney.

We expect to have all committee questions and comments resolved before our next meeting, with the hope to have the policy out to the full Council to review and discuss, and then hopefully adopt by Resolution in the 2nd May meeting.

In other news, the myRec application survived the Finance Committee's budget process this year, but GovPilot did not make the cut for funding. I will bring that forth again next year for another look by Finance.

LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Councilman Lazarow

MAY EVENTS

May 9 through May 31 Bookmark Contest The Library wants you to design a summer reading bookmark, combing this year's theme (oceans) and reading. One student from each grade will have their bookmark printed and distributed by the library for everyone to enjoy! Please check our website and watch the Friday Folder for contest rules. This contest is open to Garwood residents only.

May 10, at 3 pm - Virtual Kid's Craft Pick up supplies for the craft and then watch the craft tutorial on the Library's Facebook page at 3 pm. The video will be available for viewing thereafter. Registration is required for craft kits and is limited to 15 participants. Sign up on the Library website's events calendar or by phone.

May 13 and 27 at noon. Classic Movie Friday – Join the library for the first in a series of Classic Movie Fridays featuring memorable movies from the 50s and 60s. Light refreshments will be served. Registration required

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilman Kearney

The Board of Education is meeting as we speak, and they should be introducing their budget tonight as well. I will work on getting those details, so we have a summary to present at our next meeting.

GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Council President Blumenstock

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend last week's club meeting but I know lunch and bingo was enjoyed by all. Our next meeting is May 5th. On April 8th, we had a screening of a classic movie at the library, Singing in the Rain. Our group enjoyed the movie, and I encourage everyone to come to our next screening on the 29th at 12pm at the Library. I believe the next showing is Bye, Bye Birdie, which is always a favorite. We also had our new card and games event on April 14th at the Knights of Columbus. It was a lot of fun, I learned a new card game Phase 10, so looking forward to next month to see what else we'll play. Join us on May 12th at 1pm for that.

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY LIAISON: Councilman Kearney

The Small Business Advisory Board held its first ever event last Wednesday, April 13th. Most of our Board members attended, and we were graciously hosted by Crossroads. I was joined by Mayor Todisco, Council President Blumenstock and Councilman Graham. We all had a great time speaking with so many of our business owners (and also getting to see the Board members face-to-face since all prior meetings had been via Zoom).

A few new business owners also attended, so this turned out to be an excellent networking event. That night, we discussed the possibility of doing a more regular networking type event in the future. The Board will be scheduling a meeting in the month of May to discuss this idea and our other initiatives for the rest of the year.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

CFO/Treasurer 1st Qtr. Report for 2022.
Chief of Police Monthly Reports for March, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Councilman Kearney, to accept Officer's reports. All in favor.

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.

Bill Nierstedt, 320 Hickory Ave. suggested a meeting between similar municipal economic developers/professional planners and the Mayor's Consortium to discuss the development of Route 28. Mr. Nierstedt commented on the NJ State Bill A-4454/S-2781 matter.

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Councilman Kearney, to close public comment. All in favor.

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. 22-067

WHEREAS, on or by January 31, 2022, participating volunteer fire company and first aid squad submitted certified lists to the Local Plan Administrator of those emergency service workers who have met the requirements of the plan as outlined in Code of the Borough of Garwood; and

WHEREAS, Resolutions No. 22-058 and 22-059, adopted on March 24, 2022 accepted the list of eligible members for the Garwood Fire Department and Garwood First Aid Squad and the Administrator directed the list be posted for a period of 30 days; and

WHEREAS, the Local Plan Administrator received no appeals from members of the Garwood Fire Department or Garwood First Aid Squad as presented.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood hereby authorizes the treasurer to draw a check for the 2021 LOSAP Benefits contribution as follows:

23 members of the Garwood Fire Department at \$1,705 each total: \$39,215.00

5 members of the Garwood First Aid Squad at \$1,705 each total: \$8,525.00

2 members of the Garwood First Aid Squad at \$852.50 each total: \$1,705.00

Total 2021 Contribution: \$49,445.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-068

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2022 the Borough Administrator received correspondence from Chief of Police James Wright dated April 13, 2022, advising that Maria Theresa Almeida is resigning from her position as Police Dispatcher with the Borough of Garwood; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Almeida has advised that her resignation shall be effective on April 27, 2022; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood as follows:

- 1) The Borough of Garwood hereby accepts and relies upon the April 13, 2022 notice of resignation from Maria Theresa Almeida.
- 2) Effective April 27, 2022, Maria Theresa Almeida shall have resigned from her position as Police Dispatcher with the Borough of Garwood.
- 3) This resolution puts the Chief of Police and Borough Administrator on notice to immediately process this resignation.
- 4) This resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-069

WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God in his infinite wisdom to take unto himself, on April 5, 2022, Albert William Toth, Jr. and
WHEREAS, Mr. Toth was born in Elizabeth, NJ and was a longtime resident of Garwood; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Toth joined the Garwood Fire Department in 1971, where he was a past Fire Chief and served the Garwood Fire Department for 46 years, retiring in 2017; and
WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood wishes to express their deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of Albert William Toth, Jr.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood that this resolution expressing the sympathy of Albert William Toth, Jr.'s passing be adopted and spread upon the permanent records of the Borough of Garwood.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be given to the family of Albert William Toth, Jr.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-070

WHEREAS, the Borough of Garwood and the Township of Springfield are each one of eleven members of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority ("RVSA"); and
WHEREAS, pursuant to a January 11, 1995 agreement between the Member Municipalities, as revised as of November 1 (the "2021 RVSA Agreement"), each of the Member Municipalities possess certain authorized flow rights in the trunk sewer operated by the RVSA; and
WHEREAS, Garwood has determined that it has certain excess unused authorized flow rights with the RVSA, and wishes to sell a 300,000 gallon-per-day portion of these flow rights to Springfield in 2022; and
WHEREAS, Springfield has determined that it is in need of additional authorized flow rights with the RVSA, and wishes to enter into an Agreement with Garwood to purchase a portion of Garwood's excess flow rights at the rates set forth in the attached Agreement; and
WHEREAS, the 2021 RVSA Agreement contains certain conditions and procedural requirements for member municipalities regulating the manner by which such members may sell unused authorized flow rights; and
WHEREAS, the proposed sale and purchase of flow rights contemplated by the Agreement are contingent upon and subject to the provisions of Section 9.1 of the 2021 RVSA Agreement and any formal approval otherwise required by the RVSA.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood as follows:

1. The aforementioned recitals are incorporated herein as though fully set forth at length.
2. The Borough Council hereby approves the sale to the Township of Springfield of 300,000 gallons-per-day of flow rights in the amount \$243,000.
3. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute an Agreement with the Township of Springfield, subject to the provisions of Section 9.1 of the 2021 RVSA Agreement and any formal approval otherwise required by the RVSA.
4. A copy of this Resolution shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Borough Clerk.
5. The Borough Clerk is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this Resolution to the Township Clerk of the Township of Springfield and to the Chairman and the Board Secretary of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority Board of Commissioners.
6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-071

WHEREAS by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey the Municipal Clerk was authorized to advertise for a bid entitled "**RESURFACING OF VARIOUS STREETS (MA2021) IN THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, UNION COUNTY, N.J.**"; and
WHEREAS the project consists of replacement of replacement of curbs, driveway apron restoration, partial sidewalk replacement, installation of curb ramp delineations, milling and echelon paving resurfacing of three street sections, including Hazel Avenue (Center to Westfield, Hemlock Avenue (East to Westfield), Spruce Avenue (East to Center) (Existing curbs remain) and Third Avenue (Maple to Westfield); and

WHEREAS on April 7, 202, at the advertised time of 11:00 a.m., Midwest Construction Inc., 19 Dead River Road, Warren, NJ 07059, submitted a base bid amount of \$465,046.68 plus Alternate #1 in the amount of \$9,100.00 for TV Inspection of Sewers and Alternate #2 in the amount of \$22,085.00 for drainage improvements, totaling \$496,231.68 which is determined the lowest responsible bidder; and

WHEREAS, the project is being charged to Bond Ordinance No. 21-11.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood that the contract be hereby awarded to Midwest Construction Inc., for \$496,231.68, which includes the base bid, plus Alternate #1 and #2, pending New Jersey State Department of Transportation approval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the award of this quote be subject to the Borough Treasurer executing the appropriate Certification of Funds.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon approval from DOT, the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be and are hereby authorized to execute an agreement in the form approved by the Borough Attorney.

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adopt Consent Agenda as amended.

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION NO. 22-063

The 2022 Municipal Budget Resolution is attached hereto and made part hereof.

A motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adopt Resolution No. 22-063.

Discussion:

Mayor Todisco addressed the dispatcher resignation matter, and requested clarification from Chief Wright prior to voting on the budget.

Chief Wright clarified the reason for the turnover is due to the low pay scale and requested additional funding to increase the pay scale.

Mayor Todisco proposed amending the budget's capital improvement fund to assist with increasing the pay scale.

Council members unanimously supported the Mayor's budget proposal.

Ms. Bruns stated the budget can be amended as proposed.

Mayor Todisco requested clarification from Mr. Harris regarding the Public Information Officer position.

Mr. Harris stated the following:

As you may be aware the 2022 Budget eliminates the funding for the public information officer. I want the Mayor and Council to be aware of the responsibilities of the Public Information Officer as well as the services that will be eliminated by the elimination of the position.

- Social Media Management of the Borough Facebook page as well as Recreation Facebook page. Post creations, press releases etc.
- Management and Maintenance of the Borough website including updates, page reorganizations, landing sites, special announcements and news feed
- Weekly newsletter with events

As the Public Information Officer worked between 5 and 10 hours a week, we will not be able to provide the same level of service to the residents that is currently occurring. We will provide occasional text postings for emergency closings and meeting reminders on social media. We will not post special events or recaps nor will we make any posts at the request of members of the governing body. There will be a very basic public information operation. Additionally, website updates will take place as they fit into the schedule of borough hall operations.

Councilman Kearney stated the following: I'm looking forward to the formal introduction passing tonight, as this budget addresses many critical areas, such as increased support for our volunteer Fire Department, support for pedestrian safety equipment and overall public safety with the hiring of a 17th police officer, and also makes a solid investment of \$150,000.00 in anticipated PILOT revenue with our school district, which will provide a measure of tax relief for our fellow residents.

A motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Councilman Graham, to introduce the budget as amended.

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

RESOLUTION NO. 22-072

RESOLUTION FOR CONDUCTING ANNUAL BUDGET EXAMINATION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 thru 7.5 the Borough of Garwood has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Borough meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2022 budget year, so now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officers certification. The governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met. (Complies with the "CAP" law.)
3. That the budget is in such form arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced, publicly advertised, and adopted in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.

6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham to adopt Resolution No. 22-072.

Discussion:

Ms. Bruns clarified the annual budget examination process.

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	NAY
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	NAY
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	NAY

3-AYES, 3-NAYS

Mayor Todisco provided the casting vote in favor of adopting Resolution No. 22-072.

NEW BUSINESS

Privatizing the Borough's garbage services was discussed.

Mayor Todisco requested consensus from Council members regarding privatizing the Borough's garbage services.

Council members unanimously agreed not to privatize the Borough's garbage services.

PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:

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 Councilman Graham, second by Councilman Kearney, to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	AYE
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

ADJOURNMENT:


The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on **Wednesday, May 11, 2022**, at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Information for meetings is posted on the Borough website: https://garwood.org/gb_notices

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adjourn.

Time: 9:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:


Catherine D. Cameron, R.M.C.
Borough Clerk