

# Borough of Garwood Meeting of the Mayor and Council

## MINUTES

May 9, 2019

Start Time: 8:27 p.m.  
Moment of Silence.....  
Salute to the Flag.....

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).

### ROLL CALL:

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.

### MINUTES:

Regular, Workshop and Executive Minutes of the Mayor and Council held on April 30, 2019.

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilman Ince to accept minutes as presented. All in favor.

### COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) **NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES** –
  - a. Mayor's Advisory –
  - i. 04/26/19, RE: Weekly Round-Up for April 22-26
  - ii. 05/03/19, RE: Weekly Round-Up for April 29 - May 3
- 2) **UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS** – 04/30/19, RE: Ordinance 806-2019
- 3) **TOWNSHIP OF CLARK** – 04/30/19, RE: Resolution 19-61, Opposition to S-1073 & A-2694
- 4) **CITY OF LINDEN** – 04/30/19, RE: Resolution 2019-184, Urging legislature to increase property tax deduction for senior citizens and veterans
- 5) **GARWOOD PLANNING BOARD** - 04/26/19, RE: Minutes from the meeting held on March 13, 2019 and minutes of the meeting held on March 27, 2019

**ALL RECEIVED AND FILED**

### ORDINANCES:

Public Hearing on Ordinance 19-06 as advertised in the Westfield Leader.

### ADOPTION:

Municipal Clerk read Ordinance 19-06 by title only:

#### ORDINANCE NO. 19-06

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 39:4-197.6 IN FRONT OF 309 CENTER STREET, IN THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD.**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood:

**WHEREAS**, N.J.S.A. 39:4-197.6 permits a municipality to establish a restricted parking zone in front of a residence occupied by a handicapped person; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood has received a request from Michael C. Love of 309 Center Street, Garwood, New Jersey, that a restricted parking zone be established in front of his residence; and

**WHEREAS**, the resident qualifies for the establishment of such restricted parking zone by virtue of having been issued a windshield placard or wheelchair symbol license plate by the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council finds that parking is not otherwise prohibited and that the permitting of the establishment of a restricted parking zone would not interfere with the normal flow of traffic;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood:

**SECTION 1.** A restricted parking zone pursuant to N.J.S.A. 39:4-197.6 is hereby established in front of premises located at 309 Center Street, Garwood, New Jersey, the residence of Michael C. Love.

**SECTION 2.** The posting of an appropriate sign by or at the direction of the Chief of Police is hereby authorized and directed.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall be effective for so long as Michael C. Love shall continue to reside in the premises and shall continue to be eligible for the restricted parking zone established herein under N.J.S.A. 39:4-197.6.

**SECTION 4.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 5.** If any portion of this ordinance shall be determined to be invalid, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of said ordinance.

**SECTION 6.** This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with law.

List correspondence concerning Ordinance 19-06. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance 19-06. NONE

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock to close Public Hearing on Ordinance 19-06.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham to adopt Ordinance 19-06.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Ordinance 19-06 was adopted

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Municipal Clerk read Ordinance 19-09 by title only:

##### **ORDINANCE NO. 19-09**

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A REVISED RATE SCHEDULE FOR 2019 PURSUANT TO §134-16 (RATE SCHEDULE) IN ARTICLE V (INDUSTRIAL WASTE & FEES) IN CHAPTER 134 (SEWERS) OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, FOR THE INDUSTRIAL USER CHARGE PROVIDED FOR IN §134-15.**

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilman Graham to introduce Ordinance 19-09.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Ordinance 19-09 was introduced

Municipal Clerk read Ordinance 19-10 by title only:

##### **ORDINANCE NO. 19-10**

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES AND WAGES OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.**

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock to introduce Ordinance 19-10.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Ordinance 19-10 was introduced

**COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:**

**POLICE: Councilman Ince, Chr.** Commented on traffic safety.

**STREETS AND ROADS/ECOLOGY: Councilwoman Blumenstock Chr.**

In addition to regular garbage pickup, the DPW mowed, trimmed and maintained all municipal owned properties and parks. They also washed all Public Works vehicles and equipment and performed major brake repairs to the mason dump. DPW also performed pothole repairs at the following locations:

- i. Oak and North
- ii. Pine and Center
- iii. Walnut and 4<sup>th</sup>
- iv. Dead end of Hazel
- v. 248-252 and 803 Center Street
- vi. 634 Spruce

Two tons of hot mix asphalt was used to perform the repairs. That's all for my report, Mayor.

**FIRE: Councilman McCormack, Chr.**

Thanked the Fire Chief and the Assistant Fire Chief and the entire fire department.

**FINANCE: Council President Lazarow, Chr.**

Along with the Mayor, Councilwoman Blumenstock, our clerk, Mrs. Ariemma, our CFO, Sandy Bruns, our labor attorney, and I met this past Tuesday with Judge Cassidy and some of her staff at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth to discuss a possible shared municipal court with Westfield. Shelley Brindle, the mayor of Westfield and Jim Gildea, their Borough Administrator along with their labor attorney participated in the conversation. We were informed about all the possible options that ranged from sharing spaces to the distinction between a shared and joint court. At the end of the day, while there are potential hurdles to achieving the cost savings of a shared court, we plan to have our CFO and Westfield's Borough Administrator work out the numbers to see if an arrangement would be amenable to both towns. The goal of the finance committee is to continue to find cost saving that will help to limit the impacts of increases we have seen in other areas of the budget, and we will pursue a shared court if the numbers and organizational challenges can be worked out.

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Councilman Graham**

Flagpole Project: Quotes were solicited from four companies to replace the flagpole at the municipal building and supply and install a new one at the corner of Center Street and North Avenue. Only one company, NJ Flagpole responded with a quote of \$10,400. That amount of money is not in the budget so we are pursuing the following option:

- Recommend purchase of the new flagpole at the corner of Center Street and North Avenue - \$2,900.
- Solicit a quote to sand blast and repaint the pole at the Municipal Building.

Hartman Park: The DPW will be installing a couple yards of mulch under the swings.

**LAWS AND LICENSES: Councilman Benoit No Report**

**RECREATION: Councilman Benoit No Report**

**GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock**

No report, Mayor. We just enjoyed lunch and bingo at our last club meeting. Our next meeting is on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

**LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Council President Lazarow**

**ACTIVITIES:**

In May the Library will continue its ongoing programs including.

**Knitting Club** – Every Monday and Thursday at 10:30am

**Book Clubs** – Monday afternoon and Thursday evening

**Kid's Chess** – Every Monday at 3:00pm

**Explore It** – (STEM program) Tuesdays at 3:00pm

**Story Time** - Wednesdays at 10:30am

**Lego Club** - May 23 at 3:00pm

On **May 16 from 10:00am to noon** Union County **Division of Aging Staff** will be on hand to assist seniors (age 60+) or their caregivers with information on services, such as meal delivery, respite care, adult day care and support services for caregivers.

On **May 21, @7:30 pm**, Paul Groom will present **Beatles: The Beginning**. Program will tell the story of the Beatles rise from obscurity to international stardom from his unique perspective. His presentation will be punctuated with song clips including some from the Quarrymen (the group formed by John Lennon which evolved into the Beatles).

On **May 24 from 9am to 4pm**, a representative from the Union County Board of Elections will be on hand to **demonstrate the new voting machine** that will be used in the upcoming election.

The Garwood Library is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Fridays from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Library will be closed for Memorial Day, Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

**SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock**

The last Board of Education meeting was held April 30<sup>th</sup>, the same night as our council meeting. However, I do have some information on the 2019 budget which was passed that evening by a vote of 7-2. The approved budget represents a \$92 tax increase per household, based on a household assessment of \$100,000. Some of the major expenses in the budget include salaries and benefits, special education services and transportation of students. Faculty maintenance and commercial insurance are also on that list. Revenue from the state has been increased, however revenue from federal aid is budgeted to decrease. The local tax levy is \$ 7,949,970 and that is at a 1.9% increase, within the 2% cap. Some things that the Board will be looking at as they move into the future is cost growth in excess of the 2% tax levy cap and capital and maintenance projects. Also, just to note, the 2017-2018 cost per pupil was \$13, 791, the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest of the 75 K-8 districts with similar student population. That's all for my report, Mayor.

**CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS LIAISON: Councilman Benoit No Report**

**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: Councilman Graham**

Mayor Casabona's rock will be dedicated on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 1100. The event will take place rain or shine. The Historical Committee will have a booth at this year's Garwood Rocks festival. Twenty-five Garwood rocks will be hidden around town in plain sight. Whoever finds them are invited to present them at the booth where they will be told about the historical significance of each place noted on the rock and they will receive a prize of some type. The next meeting has not at present been scheduled. That concludes my report.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

Judy Mack, Property Maintenance Officer: report for the month April 2019

Len DiStefano, Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: monthly report for April 2019

Motion by Councilman McCormack, seconded by Councilman Ince 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.

Hugh Sinclair, 228 Second Avenue expressed support for the purchase of the fire truck. He commented on the flagpole matter.

Vincent Kearney, 306 Center Street expressed support for the fire truck and also read a statement from Carol Kearney concerning Garwood Rocks.

Motion made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilman Graham to close public comment. All in favor

Mayor Todisco thanked the residents for their comments.

**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. 19-206**

**WHEREAS**, the Superintendent of Public Works solicited quotes from vendors for the disposal of Type 23 Vegetative Yard Waste which is Brush, Grass and Mixed Yard Waste combined. Quotes were received as follows:

Vendor	Description	Price
Natures Choice Corp.	Per cubic yard	\$18.00
Rotundi & Sons	Per cubic yard	\$25.00
Plainfield Municipal Utilities Authority	Failed to submit a quote	---

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby awards the quote to the vendor as follows:

CONTRACTOR: NATURES CHOICE CORPORATION  
 398 LINCOLN BOULEVARD  
 MIDDLESEX, NJ

PRICE & DESCRIPTION: **Type 23 Vegetative Waste**  
 \$18.00 per cy mixed delivered to transfer station  
 TERM: April 1, 2019 to April 1, 2020

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-207**

**WHEREAS**, it has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to take unto Himself on April 21, 2019, our esteemed fellow citizen Angelo N. Alimonti, 92 of Garwood, a dedicated community volunteer and citizen, born in Garwood at home to Nazzareno and Margaret (DeMarco) Alimonti and raised on Myrtle Avenue in Garwood; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of the Borough of Garwood wish to express the loss suffered by the passing of Mr. Alimonti and also wish to express gratitude for his enthusiasm, selflessness and sense of dedication to the Borough of Garwood; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Alimonti graduated Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield with perfect attendance. He proudly served in the United States Army during World War II. Angelo married Eleanor Mazza and together, in time, they built, with much sweat & tears, their home, of which they were very proud; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Alimonti was very active with the Garwood Baseball League. He volunteered his time and efforts in maintaining the fields and in 1962 was awarded an Honorary Life Membership for his untiring and selfless dedication. Mr. Alimonti was a supporter of the Garwood Education Foundation, long time member of the Garwood Lion's Club and served an unexpired term as Councilman. He enjoyed sharing his memories of the history of Garwood and regularly attended meetings of the Council, Planning/Zoning Board and Board of Education.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, do hereby extend to his bereaved family our sincere sympathy and condolences for the great loss sustained; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be and they are hereby authorized to affix their signatures to this Resolution, which shall be presented to the family of Angelo N. Alimonti.

Motion by Councilwoman Blumenstock, seconded by Councilman Benoit, to adopt Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-208**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood currently participate in an Interlocal Shared Services agreement for the provision of Janitorial services with the Garwood Board of Education for the Borough of Garwood properties; and

**WHEREAS**, Municipal properties in this service include, Borough Hall at 403 South Avenue, Fire Department Building at 415 South Avenue, Department of Public Works at 10 South Avenue and the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex at 140 Myrtle Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, both parties have agreed to renew the agreement for a period of three years, commencing April 1, 2019, concluding April 1, 2022, in accordance with the following:

04/01/2019-04/01/2020 \$28,269  
 04/01/2020-04/01/2021 \$28,775  
 04/01/2021-04/01/2022 \$29,290, billed quarterly

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Garwood that the above is hereby approved.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be and are hereby authorized to sign the agreement between the Borough of Garwood and the Garwood Board of Education for the above provisions.

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, seconded by Councilwoman Blumenstock

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Resolution 19-208 was adopted

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-209**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby direct the Treasurer to reimburse The Pointe at Garwood for half the cost of decorative street lighting maintenance for six (6) lamps located in the borough right of way at \$225.00 per lamp, total \$1,350, reimbursement amount of ½ is \$675.00.

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, seconded by Councilwoman Blumenstock

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Resolution 19-209 was adopted

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PROCLAMATION:**

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK May 12<sup>th</sup> – May 18<sup>th</sup>

METAvivors of New Jersey

**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, seconded by Councilman Benoit, to adopt Payment of Claims

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on, **THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019**, in Council Chambers at 7:15 p.m. Workshop Session to start at 7:00 p.m.

**THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, ON ORDINANCE NO. 19-07, 19-08, 19-09 AND ORDINANCE 19-10, ON THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019, AT 7:15 P.M. OR SOON THERE AFTER**

Motion by Councilwoman Blumenstock, seconded by Council President Lazarow to adjourn

Time: 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



**CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk**  
Borough of Garwood