

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
May 22, 2018**

Start Time: 7:05 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).

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|---------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Mayor Lombardo | P | | |
| Councilwoman Blumenstock | P | Councilman McCormack | P |
| Councilwoman Cuccaro | P | Councilman Sarno | P |
| Councilman Lazarow | P | Council President Todisco | P |

Also, present: Clerk/Stenographer Kathleen J. Wierzbinski and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud

At 7:07 p.m. Ms. Wierzbinski read Resolution 18-116A

[RESOLUTION NO. 18-116A](#)

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE REDEVELOPMENT OF NORTH AVENUE PROJECT 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

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adopt Resolution 18-116A.

Roll Call:

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Councilwoman Cuccaro | AYE | Councilman Sarno | AYE |
| Councilman Lazarow | AYE | Councilwoman Todisco | AYE |
| Councilman McCormack | AYE | Council President Blumenstock | AYE |

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Resolution 18-116A was adopted

At 7:30 p.m. Workshop Session resumed

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud mentioned two of the ordinances on tonight's agenda, Ordinance 18-15 and 18-16 concerning pet sales and Jr. Firefighter Program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lombardo:

The Fourth Annual Garwood Rocks will be held on Sunday, June 3, 2018, between the hours of 10 A.M. until 5PM, in the center of town. Carol Kearney, our Business Liaison and a representative to This is it Productions held the final organizational meeting this passed Thursday. They are anticipating a minimum of 250 antique cars and currently there are 75 vendors that have registered to participate, and the list is growing daily. A new added feature, for the first time, will be a radio slot racing car track. As always, there will be a full day of food, fun and entertainment.

A reminder, that this coming Monday, May 28, the Mayor and Council will be marching in the Cranford Memorial Day parade. We will need two/three children to carry our Garwood banner. Please be at the staging area no later than 8:30 A.M. Also, all residents are invited to attend Garwood's Memorial Day service, hosted by the Celebrations Committee and held at noon at the Columbian Hall on South Avenue.

Russo Redevelopment, South Avenue Urban Renewal LLC, will be conducting a "Town Hall" public information meeting on Wednesday, May 30, 2018, from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. in Lincoln School, 400 Second Ave. Russo Redevelopment will be mailing out a flyer to all households in Garwood that is expected to be in mailboxes between May 25-29. The public information session, conducted by of Russo Development, will provide accurate information and answers to questions concerning abatement of asbestos, pre-demolition and demolition activities, as well as to discuss the process of demolition and soil remediation and their efforts to safeguard the Garwood community and its residents. Although I will introduce these professionals at the start of the meeting, this is in no way a meeting conducted by the Mayor and/or Council Members.

Mr. Minks explained to me that Mr. Russo will continue to work with the Borough and has agreed to delay the actual physical demolition of the structures until after June 20, when Lincoln school is scheduled to be closed for the summer. As Mr. Russo has endeavored throughout this process, they remain willing to cooperate with the Borough and to accommodate the needs of the community.

As per my request to Mr. Minks, Russo Redevelopment will provide reasonably detailed monthly LSRP status updates that will be suitable for publication on the Borough website. Mr. Minks agrees, and I quote -- "that this will be a good means of keeping the public informed as to the progress of the project and hopefully prevent the spread of the type of misinformation and rumors that we have recently seen".

We are all in receipt of an email from Mr. Chris La Spina of 165 Spruce Avenue the topic being street "Parking near Recreation Complex". I have personally responded to Mr. La Spina to tell him I will talk to our Police Chief and if need be, I will move it forward to our Parking committee. I have had a preliminary meeting with Chief Wright and we will continue to talk about the parking situation later this week.

After I recently posted information about Westfield's proposed Ice Rink on my Mayor's webpage, I received a few e-mails from Garwood residents opposing the project. I had responded to those residents and have communicated this to Ms. Brindle, the Westfield Mayor. According to the Westfield Leader, Westfield's council will vote on the matter tonight. If it passes approval tonight in Westfield, be assured that I will monitor the progress of the project to protect Garwood's residences and businesses. I urge any and all residents who have a complaint about this project, once it has begun, to contact me. I will be in constant contact with Mayor Brindle as the project progresses, should it be approved at their meeting.

As a final note, I received word today that construction repairs to the Michael Crincoli Recreation building are finally complete. The building has been inspected by the Borough Engineer, and the building department has yet to do a final inspection.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Blumenstock - Thank you, Mayor. Just a few things. You'll see on the consent agenda that there is a resolution to hire a new handyman for the seniors. Our longtime handyman, Al DelConte has decided to resign. We thank him for all of the great work he has done for our seniors and wish him well. Our new hire is Richard Holler who also does handyman work for Cranford and we welcome him to Garwood.

Also on the agenda is a resolution hiring Messercola for work here on the parking lot at Borough Hall. It was a dangerous situation to have that hole there and it needed to be resolved as soon as possible and, as you may have seen coming in here tonight, it is in the process of being taken care of. There were a few estimates procured from the Borough Administrator and this one was the lowest.

You'll also see on the consent agenda a resolution authorizing us to join the Morris County Co-op. This co-op is where our DPW Superintendent would purchase the mason dump truck that is a part of the bond ordinance we'll be voting on later. Unfortunately, the co-ops we are already a part of do not have the right type of truck available, and in researching estimates for the bid process, it could cost us an extra \$15,000 or so to purchase this truck that way. So the prudent method is to join this co-op at this time.

Just a couple more things Mayor about parking. I've been contacted by a few residents over on the 100 block of Spruce, the dead end right in back of the Rec Complex. Apparently, the parking situation has gotten out of hand there due to Rec visitors during soccer games and practices. It's a tight street and maneuvering is difficult, making a dangerous situation especially for any kids walking around there. Plus it seems people are parking and partially blocking driveways, also making it a dangerous maneuvering situation. The Chief is aware of the situation and is going to be extra watchful over there, but I'd like to investigate what the Council can do to fix this, whether it be a no parking for Rec visitors ordinance or something else. I'd also like to include the Myrtle Ave dead end on the other side of the Rec Complex. That had until recently a no parking for Rec visitors sign on that street, however, after looking into it, we discovered that there is no ordinance to support that enforcement, so it has been removed at this time. However, since the same problems could begin to plague that street, I think both should be examined, whether by the Parking Committee or Laws and Licenses.

I'd also like to ask the Parking Committee to perhaps speak with the Board of Education to investigate something else that was brought to my attention. Due to the residential permits of course teachers are no longer able to park on the street around 2nd or 3rd. However, even with the help of the First Aid Squad lot, parking is tight and there is a lot of double parking in the school lot. So perhaps the committee could try and tackle this one together with the school?

Councilwoman Cuccaro – Mentioned a resident complained to her about people dumping garbage and parking issues in areas around the Recreation Complex. She asked about complaints concerning the temporary ice skating rink. Mayor Lombardo and Councilman Sarno responded. Councilman Lazarow asked the Mayor when he was aware of the temporary rink. Mayor Lombardo responded about a week ago.

Councilman Lazarow – Resolution 18-125: I want to recommend that the council pass Resolution 18-125 in the consent agenda. It is a resolution awarding work to Hirsch Company. They had to repair a door in the municipal building, specifically the one where the generator is. It was closing improperly and the fire department had cited it as a fire hazard that had to be fixed.

Ordinance 18-15: I want to thank Mr. Renaud for getting 18-15 ordinance to ban the sale of certain pets, specifically dogs and cats that come from puppy mills and other entities that mistreat or throw care of these animals aside for a profit. Larry Cohen from the Humane Society brought this Ordinance to my attention and I am so glad that he did because I do feel passionately about protecting animals, and this ordinance sends an important statement about the values of this town. I urge all on the council to support the introduction of the ordinance.

Girl Scouts: As Tina emailed yesterday, the girl scouts provided more detail to the murals they would create on the shed in Hartman Park. This would not be started at the very earliest, until the new equipment was finished being installed.

Councilman McCormack – Expressed his feeling on Bond Ordinance 18-14. He spoke about the dump truck purchase and the air compressor purchase for the Fire Department. There was discussion among the council members concerning items in the ordinance.

Councilman Sarno – Last month most councilmembers voted on a budget that had no increase on the tax levy. Now, only a few weeks later we're looking at a bond ordinance in the net amount of \$334K when this past budget only earmarked \$15K in the capital improvement fund and set aside about roughly \$70K for interest payment alone. We as a council knew of the items being proposed in this bond ordinance months ago, yet no one that voted on the budget addressed any concern for this increased debt. So today, on the eve of voting on the introduction of this bond ordinance I urge specifically Councilwoman Cuccaro to vote this down. We have seen time and time again, that Councilmembers Blumenstock, Lazarow, and Todisco always vote together, so it is up to you Councilwoman Cuccaro to save Garwood from further debt, and put some of these projects off for next year when council can better prepare for the impact in the future.

Councilwoman Todisco – Briefly talked about South Avenue demolition. Councilwoman Todisco explained Capital purchases. There was conversation back and forth between Councilman McCormack, Councilwoman Todisco and Councilwoman Cuccaro concerning these purchases.

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.

Larry Cohen of Fanwood spoke in favor of adopting Ordinance 18-15.

Jim Mathieu. 335 Hazel Avenue encouraged council to vote against introducing Bond Ordinance 18-14.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue mentioned Bond Ordinance 18-14. He asked questions concerning the ordinance. Councilwoman Todisco responded. Mr. Paterson spoke about the temporary ice rink at Gumbert Field.

Janice Fischer of Manasquan spoke in favor of adopting Ordinance 18-15.

Ellen Coyote of Hamilton spoke in favor of adopting Ordinance 18-15.

Delia Collings spoke in favor of adopting Ordinance 18-15.

Jon O'Hea 519 Third Avenue talked about the temporary ice rink. There was discussion among the council. It was agreed that council put a letter together to send to the Town of Westfield concerning the rink.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilwoman Cuccaro, Second by Councilwoman Todisco to adjourn

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood