

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
June 12, 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).

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

Also, present: Clerk/Stenographer Kathleen J. Wierzbinski and Attorney Catherine DeAppolonio, Esq. and Borough Engineer Michael Disko

Borough Engineer, Michael Disko reported in response to the Clerks request he sent out a request to two contractors for quotes for the sink hole on Union Street. He discussed the basketball court resurfacing at Hartman Park and also sent out requests to four contractors for quotes on that project. He mentioned he has responded to sidewalk and drainage issues on Locust and North Avenues. Mr. Disko reported he is receipt in the industrail sewer records for billing and will prepare them. Mr. Disko mentioned he is working on the 2017 DOT Project.

Councilwoman Cuccaro asked when estimates are due back for the basketball court. Mr. Disko responded June 20th. Councilwoman Cuccaro also asked why the resurfacing of the basketball court was not incorporated in the bond ordinance. Councilman Lazarow, Councilwoman Todisco and Council President Blumenstock answered Councilwoman Cuccaro question.

Catherine DeAppolonio, Esq. NO REPORT

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Lombardo:

Weather permitting, New Jersey American Water will be starting a pipe replacement project on the 100 block of Center Street. The project will take place on two consecutive Sundays, June 17 and June 24. The work hours will be from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. South Avenue will be closed at Center Street all day. Please plan an alternate route.

The fourth annual Garwood Rocks street fair was a total success for Garwood. The weather fully cooperated, however, it was a chilly day to start off but we had no rain during the event. Once again our community exploded with excitement and fun for all who attended. We must thank our business liaison Carol Kearney for her major part in organizing this event. Carol will be at our next meeting to give us more details about Garwood Rocks.

I have reached out to Rudy Perez, our contact person at Waste Management to confirm the following: beginning immediately, plastic bags are no longer acceptable for recycling and only plastic containers stamped #1 or #2 are recyclable. Shredded paper in plastic bags is no longer allowed. It has been stated that plastic bags can jam and shut down an entire recycling plant. Further instructions: materials must not be contaminated with dirt, food remnants or grease. Paper products must be dry. These changes are issued by China where most of our recyclables are transported to. My further understanding is that this is just the beginning of many more changes that will come about in the future. When confirmed, all residents will be notified of the changes, and posted on the Garwood Borough website.

This Saturday, June 16, 2018, will be my monthly Mayors Saturday at 11:00 A.M. It will be held at the Juice House on North Ave. I have invited Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro to join me. Please come out and join us with your comments or suggestions.

On a special note: for the summer months of July and August, I will conduct Mayor's Saturdays at Borough Hall on the third Saturday of the month at 11:00 A.M.

At the May 23 Planning Board meeting the following actions were taken: A complete review of the South Avenue Urban LLC (Russo One).The memorialization resolution was passed unanimously. At the location of 3 Lincoln Avenue, a site plan for parking lot improvements was moved to the June meeting. At the location of 161 Spruce Avenue, residents seeking relief from side yard property line was approved with required recommendation from the Planning board. The fence ordinance discussion was moved to the June meeting because of absenteeism on the board.

Based on input from residents at the Pointe and others regarding the proposed ice skating rink at Gumpert Park, I have a meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 19th, with Mayor Brindle to go over the details of their plan.

Thank You

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Council President Blumenstock - First I just wanted to thank the Greater Area Westfield Chamber of Commerce for putting on a fantastic Garwood Rocks. It was really such a fun day for all of Garwood and for our neighboring communities who attended. And thank you to our Police, Fire and EMS Departments as well as our Public Works Department for all of the hard work and coordination that they put into making this day go off without a hitch.

I attended the Freeholders meeting on June 7th where Rebecca Williams was sworn in as the new Freeholder, replacing Linda Carter who is now Assemblywoman for the 22nd district. Assemblywoman Carter administered the Oath of Office to Freeholder Williams. There was a presentation made to the Union County Student Training and Enrichment programs Anti-Bullying Campaign Start Now. The winning school, Alexander Hamilton Preparatory Academy received a \$1000 grant. A new mental health program by Sheriff Peter Corvelli was discussed. This program will offer, free of charge, training on traumatic events in the workplace, peer-to-peer counseling, and mental health wellbeing for Union County officers and supervisors. As they are often first on the scene at many tragic events, the hope is that this program will give them tools to help manage that stress and trauma. Also mentioned at the meeting were the County's free bike safety and helmet program and car seat safety checks, which will take place on June 16th in Elizabeth.

Councilwoman Cuccaro – I wanted to make council aware that we will not be submitting our choice to replace Sarno this evening. There is a reorg meeting for the county this evening and once that is over we have set up a meeting to go over whom our selections will be. We will then submit to council.

Councilman Lazarow – NO REPORT

Councilman McCormack – Thanked Councilman Sarno for his time on council and wished him the best in the future.

Councilwoman Todisco – 1. Paperboard - Thank Mayor for setting up the May 30th town hall with Russo Development. Although I was chaperoning a school trip to DC that I signed up for months prior, I heard from many that it was well attended and was a productive discussion about the South Avenue project. Now I believe it is very important we get a town hall style meeting with the new owner and developer of the Paperboard site on North Avenue, K&K Developers - division called Garden Communities, as soon as possible. I believe a town-wide mailer should be sent inviting all Garwood residents to attend it as well.

2. Flood Control - I attended the Freeholder meeting with Council President Blumenstock and the issue of flood control and federal legislation came up. Since this is an important issue that affects Garwood, too, I want to make sure residents are aware that on May 22nd a Senate Committee unanimously voted to advance a bipartisan bill called "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018" and it will be heading to the Senate floor for a vote. Then, it will need to be passed by the House, too. The bill expedites the Rahway River risk management study and urges the Secretary of the Army to proceed directly through the Army Corps of Engineers to project pre-construction, engineering, and design. A Union County Mayors Committee has worked with the Freeholder board and federal legislators to address the flooding problem. The risk of hurricanes in the northeastern part of the United States is increasing according to studies, including a study I came across out of Durham University in the UK from 2016, and we can see this from our own experiences, including Irene in 2011 and Sandy in 2012. Property owners, especially on the eastern part of Myrtle Avenue and Willow Avenue, are concerned about this and it's an important issue to our town as we remember all too well when flooding occurred during Irene and power went out in many homes. Major, long-lasting power outages on the south side were a result of Superstorm Sandy. As these get pushed further in our memory, we cannot forget them, but instead, we need to stay on top of our leaders at higher levels of government to help us get something done about it. It might be a long road ahead, but we cannot give up. I suggest we as a Council pass a resolution supporting this bill to our federal government officials. I found out that Cranford passed a similar resolution at its May 8th meeting, so our Clerk can use that as a guideline. Would others support getting that on our next agenda?

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 asked the status of the fence ordinance. Mayor Lombardo responded. He asked about the three names being submitted to fill Councilman Sarno's council seat and suggested they be made public so the residents can weigh in. Brief discussion took place.

Tom Pedas, 101 Chestnut Court discussed his concerns and opposition regarding the temporary skating rink.

Susan Levy of Westfield stated her concerns and opposition with the skating rink and urged Mayor Lombardo to communicate with Westfield's Mayor.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue expressed he was sorry to see Joe Sarno leave council. He mentioned he was happy to see two council people attend the Freeholder's meeting. Mr. Paterson thanked Carol Kearny for her part in Garwood Rocks. He asked about recycling, Hartman Park quotes and the Bond Ordinance.

Liz Mathieu, 335 Hazel Avenue asked about recycling.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Councilwoman Todisco, Second by Council President Blumenstock to adjourn
Time: 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood