

Borough of Garwood Meeting of the Mayor and Council

MINUTES

June 13, 2019

Start time: 8:19 p.m.

Moment of Silence dedicated to fallen soldiers

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 and Workshop Minutes of the Mayor and Council held on May 23, 2019.

A motion was made by Councilman Benoit, seconded by Councilwoman Blumenstock, to accept minutes as presented.

All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) **NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES –**
 - a. Mayor's Advisory –
 - i. 05/21/19, RE: Daily Update
 - ii. 05/24/19, RE: Weekly Round-Up for May 20 – 24
 - iii. 05/30/19, RE: Daily Update
- 2) **UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS –** 05/29/19, RE: Union County College Resolution
- 1) **UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS –** 05/29/19, RE: Ordinance 807-2019
- 2) **CITY OF ELIZABETH –** 05/23/19, RE: Resolution to increase property tax deduction for senior citizens and veterans
- 3) **GARWOOD PLANNING BOARD –** 05/23/19, RE: Minutes of the meeting held in April 23, 2019

ALL RECEIVED AND FILED

ORDINANCES:

Public Hearing on Ordinance 19-11 as advertised in the Westfield Leader

ADOPTION:

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance 19-11 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 19-11

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$320,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

List correspondence concerning Bond Ordinance 19-11. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Bond Ordinance 19-11.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue asked what the bond covers. His questions were answered.

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, seconded by Councilman Benoit to close Public Hearing on Bond Ordinance 19-11.

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, seconded by Councilman Ince to adopt Bond Ordinance 19-11.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilman Graham	AYE	Council President Lazarow	AYE

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Ordinance 19-11 was adopted

INTRODUCTION:

Municipal Clerk to read Bond Ordinance 19-12 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 19-12

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW LADDER FIRE TRUCK IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,300,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.

A motion was made by Councilman McCormack, seconded by Councilman Graham to introduce Bond Ordinance 19-12.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilman Graham	AYE	Council President Lazarow	AYE

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Bond Ordinance 19-12 was introduced

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance 19-13 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 19-13

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF THIRTEEN THOUSAND (\$13,000) DOLLARS FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, seconded by Councilwoman Blumenstock to introduce Ordinance 19-13.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilman Graham	AYE	Council President Lazarow	AYE

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Ordinance 19-13 was adopted

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:

POLICE: Councilman Ince, Chr.

Traffic/Parking Issues: Striping on Center Street and Rumble Stripes at Spruce Ave and West St, Pine Ave and East St as well as in front of WYMCA on East Street. Will continue to evaluate effectiveness and add where and when needed. Traffic Bureau is conducting a feasibility study to add four-way stop intersections along Center Street. Personnel Assignments/ Operations: The department conducted a departmental active shooter drill in April. The Liquid Church of Garwood allowed us the use of their property on Center Street to conduct practical live fire drills using simmunition rounds. Every member of the department participated in at least one of the two 8 hour sessions. Operation Helping Hand was a week-long enforcement campaign throughout Union County which was conducted the week of May 13. During that time officer from around the county joined forces to conduct street level arrests of users of opioids. Instead of the usual protocol of Arrest, Charge and Incarcerate, this campaign was geared toward treatment. With the assistance of substance abuse counselors, arrestees after being served with a criminal complaint, were given the opportunity to enter into treatment. The week long initiative resulted in the apprehension of over 150 individuals of which close to 120 of them voluntarily entered into treatment. I am proud to report that the Garwood Police Department sent 7 officers, including myself to the initiative. Garwood Rocks was held June 2, 2019 and with the exception of the severe weather at the end of the event it was unremarkable in terms of police activity. Community Policing Coffee With-A-Cop held on April 20, 2019 at & Grain. Looking to plan the next event on October 2, 2019 (National Day) place TBD Garwood Police Youth Academy scheduled for the week of August 5-11, 2019 Trading Card Program to be rolled at the end of August to coincide with the start of the school year.

STREETS AND ROADS/ECOLOGY: Councilwoman Blumenstock Chr.

In addition to regular garbage and grass pickup, the DPW performed pothole repairs at 2nd/Oak, South/East and along the entire length of Center Street from South Avenue to the end (in preparation for Garwood Rocks). 2 tons of hot mix asphalt was used for the repairs. They also prepared Center Street, Borough hall grounds/parking lot and the other municipal parking lot for the Garwood Rocks street fair and provided assistance for setup and cleanup of the event. They weeded and installed new mulch around the Borough shade trees in front of the business district on Center Street from South to Willow Avenue. Fanwood Department of Public Works performed street sweeping operations along Center Street and within the two municipal lots before the Garwood Rocks event. Garwood's new street sweeper was utilized to sweep the streets after the event. After Garwood Rocks the DPW removed the event's banners and installed the Shop Garwood and the Police and Fire banners. In addition, they provided public works assistance for the new decorative light pole installation along the southbound side of Center Street (between North and South Avenues). They also prepared and re-painted the eastern side of the underpass walkway along Center Street (both walls and ceiling) and have begun to repair the western side for painting. As a side note, the DPW is still training on the new sweeper and hope to begin regular sweeping operations in July. When they do, we will post a Nixle alert and an announcement on the Borough's website and Facebook page. They will be following the same schedule as the previous fall. Mayor, if I could, I would like to take a minute just to thank the DPW. They worked so hard to get Garwood ready for Garwood Rocks. As I just mentioned, countless hours planting, mowing and sweeping, and then they did such a tremendous job after the fair of getting the streets back to normal. With the huge storm that came in, they really had their work cut out for them. But they were immediately on the scene when a tree went down and within a few hours you couldn't even tell that there had even been a street fair, not to mention one with storm debris. So a big thanks to our Superintendent, Foreman and all of the employees for going above and beyond. That's all for my report, Mayor.

FIRE: Councilman McCormack, Chr. Read Fire Chief Tweedle report

FINANCE: Council President Lazarow, Chr. No Report

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Councilman Graham No Report

LAWS AND LICENSES: Councilman Benoit

Laws and Licenses reviewed the borough's ordinance in regards to political lawn signs because a resident had asked whether or not it would be possible to restrict the amount of political lawn signs on residential lawns. L & L researched the issue, and based on a 2015 US Supreme Court case, it appears that imposing content-based restrictions on signs in a municipality requires that it be narrowly tailored and it must serve a compelling governmental interest. While there is a concern as to the aesthetics of having multiple political lawn signs that would not be a compelling governmental interest, which is what the Supreme Court has said. Laws and Licenses felt that any such restriction would not pass the strict scrutiny test should it wind up in court. We felt that it was an issue best left alone since it could open the borough up to a lawsuit. We believe that the ordinance as currently written is appropriate.

RECREATION: Councilman Benoit

The recreation commission met on June 10, 2019. They are moving full speed ahead with the Garwood Summer Recreation program. The staff has been hired and the first day will be June 24th. I believe you can sign up the day of, they will be accepting as many kids in Garwood that want to attend. The 8th grade project graduation party will be held on June 19th from 7pm to 10pm at the recreation complex. That's all the updates for now, but check out the Recreation Commission's Facebook page for more updates and events.

GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock

At our last meeting in June 6th, I spoke with the senior club about Garwood Rocks and how the street fair went for them. One member spoke to the quality of policing going on and how she appreciated the huge presence of the PD in creating a safe atmosphere. So a big thank you to our Police Department. We also spoke about the fire truck purchase and the ordinance that was up for introduction tonight. Also of interest to our seniors was the application for Lidl at the former Pathmark site. As that continues to move through the Planning Board, I will keep the members up-to-date. We enjoyed lunch and bingo of course. Our next meeting is on June 20th. And the Annual Senior Picnic is on June 27th at 11:00 at the Rec Complex. I unfortunately will be away with my family, but I'd like to encourage all Councilmembers to attend – you can RSVP to Paulette Drogon. It really is a fun time and we apparently have a new food vendor this year so it should be a great afternoon! That's all for my report, Mayor.

LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Council President Lazarow

ACTIVITES:

In June the Library will continue its ongoing programs including.

Book Clubs – Monday afternoon and Thursday evening

Adult Craft – Tuesday, **June 17 @ 6:00pm**

Story Time - Wednesdays at 10:30am,

Lego Club - Today and **June 13 at 3:00pm**

Tonight, **June 13 at 7:00pm**, **RB Express**, a **DOO WOP BAND** will perform at the Library.

On Friday, **June 14** the Summer Reading Program will begin. This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories" celebrating the 50th anniversary of man's first steps on the moon as well as stories and folk tales from around the world. The Library will kick off its Summer Reading Program on the **14th** with a school assembly featuring, magician, Doug Billingsley in an interactive, summer reading themed, magic show. Children can start logging in their time on **June 17th**.

On **June 18th**, Senior Advisors of Cranford will present a Medicare workshop covering topics such as; What changed in 2019; Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage; How does the prescription program work. Registration required. Limit 30

On **June 20th**, Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand from 10 am until noon 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 **June 26th**, Muscle Man Mike and his Puppet Pirate Pete will teach children how important it is to take care of their bodies with proper hygiene. Mike adds a little magic to make it fun. Registration required. Limit 30.

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 on Saturdays in July and August. Saturday hours will resume **September 7th**.

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock

On June 11th, the Board of Ed held a closed executive board session for the members where they discussed the Superintendent's yearly evaluation. There is a public meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 25th. That's all for my report, Mayor.

CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS LIAISON: Councilman Benoit

No updates. Their next meeting is Wednesday June 19th.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: Councilman Graham No Report

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Len DiStefano, Zoning Code Enforcement Officer: report for the month of May 2019

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Benoit, 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.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on the underpass flooding. He commented on the lawn sign size matter. He commented on the salary resolution and fire truck matter.

Mr. Pritchard of 410 Spruce Avenue expressed support for the purchase of a ladder truck for the GFD.

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, seconded by Council President Lazarow to close public comment. All in favor.

Mayor Todisco responded to Mr. Paterson, as did Ms. Ariemma.

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. 19-217

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:87 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any County or Municipality when such items shall have been made available by law and the amount thereof was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, said Director may also approve the insertion of any item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Garwood hereby requests the Director of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2019 in the sum of \$9,271.12 which item is now available as a revenue from the STATE OF NEW JERSEY, SOLID WASTE ADMINISTRATION FY2019 CLEAN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM, in the amount of \$9,271.12.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sum of \$9,271.12 is hereby appropriated under the caption of "FY2019 CLEAN COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM".

RESOLUTION NO. 19-218

BE IT RESOLVED that the ordinance entitled:

"BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW LADDER FIRE TRUCK IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$1,300,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS."

RESOLUTION NO. 19-219

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood have hereto adopted:

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.

WHEREAS, said Ordinance reflects changes of salaries and/or hourly rates to be paid to said employees of the Borough of Garwood for the year 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Garwood be and they are hereby authorized and directed to execute checks on Borough funds for the purpose of paying the annual salaries and/or hourly rates to the employees of the Borough of Garwood as set forth below and in the amount set forth opposite each job classification. Said salaries to be paid bi-weekly less such deductions as in such cases made. The schedule of salaries hereafter set forth shall be effective as of January 1, 2019 or pro-rated as the case may be.

Name	Title	2019
James H. Wright	Chief of Police	\$ 137,650.00
Christina M. Ariemma	Borough Administrator/Clerk	\$ 109,317.00
Sandra D. Bruns	CFO/Treasurer/Assistant Administrator/Tax Collector	\$ 108,980.00
Annmarie Switzer	Tax Assessor	\$ 14,038.00
Kathleen J. Wierzbinski	Clerk/Stenographer	\$ 42,495.00
Katelyn Christopher	Accounts Payable Clerk	\$ 39,000.00
Amy Rivera	Accounting/Payroll Clerk	\$ 39,000.00
Michael Disko	Municipal Engineer	\$ 20,000.00
Victor Vinegra	Zoning Officer - Review	\$ 10,000.00
Victor Vinegra	Planning/Zoning Board Planner	\$ 3,000.00
Len DiStefano	Zoning Officer - Enforcement	\$ 6,750.00
Adele Lewis	Planning/Zoning Board Secretary	\$ 12,500.00
John Drone	Network Administrator/ Police Department	\$ 2,550.00
Paulette Drogon	Senior Citizen Director	\$ 5,000.00
Richard Holler	Senior Citizen Handyman	\$ 15.00 PH
Gary Bundy	Municipal Court Judge	\$ 19,080.00
Marisa Noelle Jiminex	Acting Municipal Court Administrator	\$ 45,000.00
Len Spina	Superintendent Fire Apparatus	\$ 1,000.00
John Drone	Civilian Police Dispatcher	\$ 47,799.00
Diane R. Petraccoro	Civilian Police Dispatcher	\$ 36,931.00
Lisa Desimone	Civilian Police Dispatcher (up to 5/1/19) Class 3	\$ 32,341.00
Lisa Desimone	Civilian Police Dispatcher (after 5/1/19) Class 2	\$ 34,007.00
Raymond Prato	Civilian Police Dispatcher (up to 9/13/19) Probationary	\$ 29,355.00
Raymond Prato	Civilian Police Dispatcher (after 9/13/19) Class 4	\$ 30,677.00
Cheryl DiStefano	Senior Citizen Bus Driver	\$ 19.00 PH
Nina Kramkowski	Senior Citizen Bus Driver	\$ 19.00 PH
Len DiStefano	Senior Citizen Bus Driver	\$ 19.00 PH
John Fugett	Senior Citizen Bus Driver	\$ 16.00 PH
Various	School Crossing Guards – LEVEL A	\$ 13.25 PH
Various	School Crossing Guards – LEVEL B	\$ 17.00 PH
Len Spina	Fire Safety Inspector	\$ 20.00 PH
Edward Syers	Fire Safety Inspector	\$ 20.00 PH
Christina M. Ariemma	BOH Licensing Official	\$ 1,800.00
Christina M. Ariemma	Shade Tree Officer	\$ 3,000.00
Christina M. Ariemma	2020 Census Administrator	\$ 1,000.00
Kathleen J. Wierzbinski	Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$ 5,300.00
Kathleen J. Wierzbinski	BOH Secretary	\$ 1,200.00
Kathleen J. Wierzbinski	OEM Secretary	\$ 150.00
Katelyn Christopher	Registrar of Vital Statistics, Deputy	\$ 250.00
Ken Capobianco	OEM Director	\$ 2,150.00
Barbara Tweedle	Municipal Alliance Coordinator	\$ 5,659.00
John Patterson	Parking Enforcement Officer	\$ 17.00 PH
Bryanna Brea	Violations Clerk	\$ 13.50 PH
Lina Klier	Accounting/Payroll Clerk part-time	\$ 18.00 PH
Judith Mack	Property Maintenance Officer	\$ 20.00 PH

RESOLUTION NO. 19-220

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood has heretofore adopted Ordinance 16-17 and 18-09.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-17 and 18-09

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES AND WAGES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

WHEREAS, said ordinance(s) reflects changes of salaries and/or hourly rates to be paid to said employees of the Borough of Garwood for the year 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Garwood that the proper officer or officers of the Borough be and they are hereby authorized and directed to execute checks on Borough Funds for the purpose of paying the annual salaries and/or hourly rates to the employees of the Borough of Garwood as set forth opposite each job classification. Said salaries to be paid bi-weekly less such deductions as in such cases made. The schedule of salaries hereafter set forth shall be effective as of January 1, 2019.

NAME	TITLE	SALARY PER HOUR
Navarro, Linwood	Laborer	\$33.39 ph
Navarro, Linwood	Foreman	\$6.00 ph

A motion was made by Councilman Benoit, seconded by Councilman Graham to adopt Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilman Graham	AYE	Council President Lazarow	AYE

RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

PROCLAMATION: Pride Month-June 2019

APPOINTMENT: Celebrations Committee – Jennifer D’Elia

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 Councilwoman Blumenstock, seconded by Council President Lazarow to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilman Graham	AYE	Council President Lazarow	AYE

ADJOURNMENT:

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on, **THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 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 BOND ORDINANCE NO. 19-12 AND ORDINANCE 19-13, ON THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2019, AT 7:15 P.M. OR SOON THERE AFTER

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, seconded by Councilman Benoit, to adjourn.

Time: 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood