

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
June 27, 2019**

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

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).

Mayor Todisco	P	Councilman Ince	P
Councilman Benoit	P	Councilman McCormack	P
Councilwoman Blumenstock	EXCUSED	Council President Lazarow	P

Also present Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Christina M. Ariemma and Borough Attorney Scott Salmon, Esq.

Council President Lazarow presented Mayor Todisco with a Resolution acknowledging her accomplishments.

Acting Borough Attorney Scott Salmon commented on Resolution 19-232 deleted from the consent agenda.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – **No Report**

Mayor Todisco provided a chart indicating roads for consideration for the 2020 DOT Road Projects. Mayor Todisco explained the upcoming gas company project on north side of town. She explained that the gas company will work with the municipality on paving roads. She commented on the 2020 DOT application. Council President Lazarow expressed support for the roads as proposed by Engineer Disko. Council expressed full support for the recommendations. Ms. Ariemma was directed to direct Mr. Disko to apply for Hazel Avenue, Center Street to Lexington and areas of Oak and Cedar Streets.

Mayor Todisco's Report:

Senior Citizens' Picnic - Now that the school year has ended and I have more time during the day, I was happy to join our Garwood senior citizens for their annual summer picnic at the Recreation Complex. It was a little hot today, but the food was absolutely delicious, the music was good, and the company was the best part. I want to thank Councilman Russ Graham for joining me today and especially for being my partner on the run for water and ice after it was soon discovered that it was not already brought by the caterer.

PSE&G - I continue to receive email updates from our government representative from PSE&G about the option of moving new 69kV power lines along the railroad and have been posting them on my Mayor Facebook page as I receive them. The last update I received was yesterday, which said Conrail has granted PSE&G access and they are now engaged in the process of conducting a detailed engineering and constructability analysis. I will continue to keep everyone updated as I learn more from PSE&G.

NJ Transit - On June 18, Council President Marc Lazarow, Councilman Russ Graham, and I joined with others in the Raritan Valley Line Mayor's Alliance to rally with commuters at the platform in Newark Penn Station to continue to advocate our State legislators to give equity to our rail line. We are fighting to have the off-peak one-seat rides we once had restored, more one-seat ride service to be added, and for an easier platform transfer at Newark. I would encourage everyone, commuter or not, to sign the petition on www.rvlmayors.org. This issue affects commuting, but also everyone's property values. It's about fairness as our line has more riders than other lines who have peak one-seat ride service, while we have none. I will continue to fight this good fight for equity.

North Avenue Redevelopment Update - The owner of the site commonly known as Paperboard was hoping to have the large structure very close to North Avenue taken down this past Tuesday night, which unfortunately did not happen. They are hoping to take it down in the coming weeks. Our Police Department will use Nixle alerts to the updated information out to the public, so please be on the lookout for those and sign up for Nixle, if you have not yet done so.

Graduation - Last week, I was honored to attend both the Lincoln School 8th Grade Graduation and the Arthur L. Johnson High School Graduation. On both occasions, I hadn't been on either of those stages since it was my graduation from both of those two schools, so it was very special to me. I'm so proud of our graduates and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

Planning Board - Last night's meeting of the Planning Board was canceled, but the next meeting will be on July 24th. Lidl requested to have their application moved to the August meeting. This is the food store looking to move into about half of the vacant Pathmark site.

Moment of Silence - We haven't met since before Memorial Day and in consideration of the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion during WWII on June 6th, I'd like to ask everyone to remember our fallen soldiers during tonight's moment of silence.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Benoit reported on parking matters.

Mayor Todisco expressed support for the recommendation from Laws & Licenses as did Council President Lazarow. Ms. Ariemma was directed to prepare and amending ordinance.

Councilwoman Blumenstock: Excused

Councilman Graham: No Report

Councilman Ince: No Report

Councilman McCormack: Commented on the fire truck matter. He expressed his support for the purchase

Council President Lazarow: Commented on the 8th grade graduation last week.

*I was thrilled to attend two events last week. Last Wednesday, June 19th, I was honored to see our 8th graders graduate from Lincoln School. They have achieved some impressive accomplishments from fundraising to academic success, but what is even more special is the clear bonds that have been cemented from the small school experience they received from having lived and grown up here in Garwood. I wish the graduates the best of luck next year in high school and thank Dr. Quigley, Mrs. Emmons, teachers, and parents for providing the support these young adults needed to flourish.

* Last Tuesday at the Newark train station, I along with Mayor Todisco, and Councilman Graham attended a rally in front of the entrance to the Raritan Valley Track 5 NJ Transit train line. We also had many other Raritan Valley Line towns represented by elected officials. This was supported by the Raritan Valley Mayors Alliance to get people to sign up and advocate for restoring a one seat direct ride to New York Penn Station that has been halted since last year. With ridership higher than two other NJ Transit lines that already have direct to Penn Station service during peak hours, it is completely unacceptable that our commuters do not have equity in sharing in this valuable service. Aside from the negative impact on quality of life for our Garwood commuters that could save up to an hour in total round trip commute time, our property values in Garwood would be increased with more direct service into New York City. I implore all of our residents and this council and mayor to continue to put the pressure on the legislature to make progress on this issue. Recently, the pressure has amounted to some positive progress. The state Senate approved legislation last week calling for a detailed review of what it would take to establish a full-time direct service into Manhattan, including any potential costs. Under [the legislation](#), within six months of the bill's adoption, NJ Transit would have to issue a report that would provide a detailed analysis of the feasibility of providing direct, full-time RVL service into Manhattan. The report would have to assess the potential cost of providing full-time service and outline "any factors that may delay or increase the cost of providing the service." It also would have to provide an analysis of why the off-peak direct trains that were running up until last year have been suspended. This is an issue that I have been extremely vocal about over the past year and I will continue to campaign for a positive outcome.

Board of Chosen Freeholders Liaison Report: No Report

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 five minutes.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on various matters.

Gary Whyte, 289 Old Toth Road, Mountainside commented on FOP disease/awareness. He asked for a proclamation for FOP from Garwood. Ms. Ariemma was directed to prepare a proclamation for the next meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Benoit, seconded by Councilman McCormack to close public comments session. All in favor.

Mayor Todisco commented on Mr. Paterson's comments. Laws & License was directed to review the matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:38 p.m., a motion was made by Council President Lazarow, and seconded by Councilman Benoit to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood