

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
August 14, 2018**

Start Time: 7:00 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).

<b>Mayor Lombardo</b>	<b>P</b>		
<b>Councilwoman Bianco</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilwoman Cuccaro</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilwoman Todisco</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Lazarow</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Council President Blumenstock</b>	<b>P</b>

Also, present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma, Borough Attorney Robert Renaud and Borough Engineer Michael Disko

Borough Engineer, Michael Disko discussed the receipt of the 2017 DOT Road Project. He mentioned that the bids are over the budget therefore the bond would need to be amended. He explained the process and the alternates. Discussion followed and Ms. Ariemma explained funding. Discussion regarding curbing at the end of Spruce Avenue and the possible assessment took place. However curbing is already present on the residential side so assessment is not warranted. Conversation took place regarding the collapsed catch basins on Spruce Avenue including adding Belgium block curbing in that area. All agreed to award to Denbar with Alternate with 1, and 2, and not 3 and 4. Ms. Ariemma was directed to amend the bond accordingly. Ms. Ariemma was directed to include Granite block curbing on Spruce Avenue.

Mr. Disko discussed the bids received for the Hartman Park basketball court project. He explained the alternates. Discussion followed. Ms. Ariemma was directed to award to DiMilia, base bid with Alternate 1, not Alternate 2.

Mr. Disko mentioned the installation quote for water fountain at Hartman Park. He said he got a quote for \$2,500.00 which is an estimate.

Mr. Disko mentioned quotes for the repair of the catch basins on Spruce Avenue. Ms. Ariemma was directed to include the catch basin repair in the Bond Ordinance. Mr. Disko to provide a description and estimate.

Mr. Disko mentioned the industrial sewer reports were complete.

He mentioned the 2019 DOT Road Project application. The 400 block of Myrtle Avenue and the curbing issues were discussed. Mr. Disko stated he would return at the first meeting in September to discuss this. He mentioned the sale of the property. No further comment was made on that sale.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud commented on the two ordinances he prepared concerning Chapter 106 and Chapter 67, registration fees. He suggested that Chapter 106 ordinance go before the Planning Board prior. He mentioned he is working on the restructured parking ordinance in the area of the sports complex. Mr. Renaud commented on the affordable housing case to take place on September 14, 2018. He updated the council on the progress of the case. He discussed the settlement agreement and the changes.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – ***NO REPORT***

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS

**Mayor Lombardo** - I must commend the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority: in the month of July they hosted 25 Fellows from the Mandela Washington Fellowship Institute in Business and Entrepreneurship at the Rahway facility to highlight the importance of organic waste management. As an industry leader, RVSA was selected by Rutgers to provide this integral education experience as part of a multi-week networking program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and designed to inspire the Fellows through unique industry innovation and business advancements.

Just a reminder that this Saturday I will be conducting Mayor's Saturday ( August 18) at Borough Hall starting at 11:00 A.M. I have invited Council President Blumenstock to join me. Please stop by and express your concerns or just to chat.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

**Councilwoman Bianco – NO REPORT**

**Council President Blumenstock** - I wanted to report about a project that the Green Team is undertaking. A member came up with the idea of having doggy bag stands at a couple of areas in Garwood, particularly around the Rec Complex. These stands are fairly inexpensive and easy to install. A letter was sent to the various pet supply stores in Garwood. As of tonight, we have had one store show interest in purchasing and donating stands. Possible locations include on either side of the Rec Complex and at Georgiana Memorial Park, of course each by a trash receptacle to ensure proper disposal. That's all for me except I do just have a question for laws and licenses, about the bulk ordinance I mentioned at the last meeting. I was just wondering if the committee had a chance to look at that ordinance and provide their feedback tonight. Laws and License Chair Councilwoman Cuccaro said they have not had a chance to review as they are trying to finish up previous pending matters.

**Councilwoman Cuccaro** – Asked Council President Blumenstock about the doggy bag matter. Councilwoman Cuccaro said she doesn't agree with the idea. She said it is the dog owner's responsibility. Discussion followed.

**Councilman Lazarow** – 1. Resolution 18-165: Wording at times in resolution is speculative and would be more effective to be less loquacious. It dives into the weeds of the county hiring practice without having the institutional knowledge to support the wording of the resolution. It needs to focus on just the facts we know and question the processes of which Oatman was selected. 2. Upon request by Councilman Todisco, I went with her and investigated the area where the soccer net would be placed at the recreation complex. I asked Jack Sullivan, president of the Recreation Commission and Recreation commission member Kathy Villaggio for additional quotes to see if we could find a vendor for the net that would be cheaper than the 40k we were originally quoted. I contacted one person recommended to me by Kathy and am waiting to hear if they can provide a quote. If I can get a quote in time I will see if I can add the quote to our recreation trust grant although the deadline is August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Councilman McCormack** – I would like to ask that Mayor and Council join more than 30 NJ municipalities in adopting a resolution/ordinance to preemptively restrict the dispensing and sale of marijuana within the Borough of Garwood. The prospected weed bill before the NJ Legislature has allowed NJ towns to restrict its sale from within its borders. I ask that we send a message to Trenton and to our children that marijuana is not okay. Don't sacrifice our children for the greed in tax revenue it will generate. Keep Garwood a Marijuana free town.

Mayor, I would like for yourself and the council to consider putting all Hartman Park projects on hold and move any considerations to next year's budget. I feel by moving this decision to next year's budget we can allow for a full projected plant for the expenses of the park. I feel like such a large taxpayer expense should have the full attention of this council and not left to a three person panel. Our responsibility as a council is to use all of our talents to do what is best for the taxpayers. I believe we can make a difference as a full unit with the taxpayers in mind. With that I ask again for you to push this project into next year's budget. Thank you.

**Councilwoman Todisco** – Water Company Work - As I mentioned back when Mike Bange of NJ American Water came to a Council meeting months ago to discuss the proposed water main lining work to be done in Garwood, I think it would be beneficial to ask him to come back to a Council meeting to give us and the public an update on the large project taking place on the South side of town. Perhaps we can ask Ms. Ariemma to see if Mr. Bange is available for our next Council meeting on August 28th or the next one on September 11th.

Planning Board Report - Last week, the Planning Board held a meeting on August 8th, which was rescheduled from July. The first matter of business was granting relief to an applicant looking to place a generator closer than 3 feet from a side yard property line. All Planning Board members voted in favor of the application. Then, there was a thorough presentation made by Mr. Renaud and Jill Hartman, who is the planner representing Garwood in the fair share housing matter. All Planning Board members supported the Master Plan amendment, which is part of the process to ensure Garwood meets its affordable housing obligation as set forth by the State. Per the direction of this Council to have the Planning Board review the redevelopment plan for the Paperboard site on North Avenue first and refer it back to the Council, the Planning Board reviewed the plan largely page by page as guided through it by planner Mike Mistretta of Harbor Consultants, asked questions and made comments. The Planning Board unanimously agreed to recommend the plan we have before us for introduction with one substantive comment made about adding prohibited uses to proposed Lot B, which is slated for a self-storage facility, but also allows retail, restaurants, or office space. The Board suggested the prohibited uses should be the same as they were in the Russo I plan, which were pharmacy, nail salons, beauty parlors/salons, tattoo/body piercing, mobile

home sales, hardware stores, barber shops, hat cleaning, video stores, and motorcycle/automobile and/or truck repairs. Lastly, the August 22nd Planning Board meeting was canceled, so the next meeting will be on September 26th.

**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.

Monika Shvetz, 211 Fourth Avenue read the following statement:

**Why am I here? I am here tonight to encourage the community to participate in a gathering that we hope many of our friends and neighbors will come to. This is a community Chanukah celebration** and menorah lighting. This is tentatively scheduled for December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 pm and will be led by Rabbi Avrohom Blesofsky of the Chabad of Union County. My grandparents lost everything and everyone that was dear to them during Hitler's horrible time in power. They struggled, sacrificed and survived, and years after the war ended, came here to America. Never did they lose their spark or their belief in miracles. Two generations later, I honor this spark by including friends and family in an annual holiday tradition at our home, the Bilyeu home. A tradition of a Chanukah party. Together, my husband, Robert, and our sons Jonah and Coby invite friends and family of all faiths and affiliations to celebrate miracles – large and small. All kinds We play dreidel, we eat delicious food – many of them cooked in oil, like sufganiyot – or jelly filled donuts. And of course, the showstopper - latkes, or potato pancakes. We light a menorah, and often pass around a smaller scale children's book of the story of Chanukah so one can read a simple explanation of the holiday with one hand, while holding a glass of wine in the other hand. The holiday itself goes by many spellings and names, called by some the Festival of Lights, and others the Feast of Dedication. A menorah, or candelabra, is lit for eight nights.

**The Menorah stands for light, wisdom, and inspiration** dah Maccabee rededicated the The true essence of the holiday and why modern-day menorahs have 8 branches is to reflect on the miracle of light. The miracle being that there was only enough of this pure olive oil to last one night, yet it lasted for eight. Therefore, this holiday is called the Festival of lights. In older times, lanterns would be lit so as those outside the house could see the lights. The purpose of the celebration is to publicize it and share the story with everyone outside of your home.

In a way of carrying on this tradition, communities are invited to gather around a menorah and be a part of a menorah lighting. There is a short service – really to say a few words in Hebrew and English in commemoration of years of suffering. (as is part of Jewish culture, oye!). Really, it is to acknowledge the miracle of the small amount of oil lasting much longer than anyone ever thought it would. .and that miracles can happen anywhere. Towns around us including Scotch Plains, Fanwood, and Westfield gather on this holiday usually on the first or second day to light the menorah as a community. All are welcome to attend, and really the more the merrier. Often, there is music, sometimes candy for the kids, and almost always latkes – or potato pancakes and donuts. It is a joyous holiday, and we hope that our community will come together to help celebrate. December 2, 2018. There is no cost to our town. Food and drinks served will be provided for by the Rabbi and his wife Malky, courtesy of Chabad of Union County. Ideally, this would be something we can have on our community celebration calendar each year. **I am here to ask and invite our community to join my family and friends to celebrate the festival of lights together and keep the spark alive.**

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue suggested residents color the Hartman Park Basketball court. He commented on Hazmat drilling on South and West Street. He commented on the Parking Enforcement marking tires. He commented on the Belgium block matters. He also asked about bonding.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Councilwoman Cuccaro, Second by Council President Blumenstock to adjourn  
Time: 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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