

# Borough of Garwood Meeting of the Mayor and Council

## MINUTES

August 22, 2019

Start Time: 7:25 p.m.

Moment of Silence.....

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	EXCUSED
Councilman Graham	P	Council President Lazarow	P

Also present Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Christina M. Ariemma and Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim, Esq.

### MINUTES:

Regular and Workshop Minutes of the Mayor and Council held on August 8, 2019.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Ince to accept minutes as presented. All in favor.

### COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES –
  - a. Mayor's Advisory –
    - i. 08/07/19, RE: Interest Arbitration Recap, Weekly Round-Up for July 29 - August 2
    - ii. 08/12/19, RE: Governor Signs Various Laws, Weekly Round-Up for August 5 -9, 2019
    - iii. 08/12/19, RE: URGENT ALERT: Governor Signs Law Correcting Municipal Liability Standards.
    - iv. 08/16/19, RE: Governor Acts on Various Bills - Weekly Round-Up for August 12 - 16, 2019
- 2) RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY – 08/07/19, RE: Meeting Notification - RVSA Special Meeting.
- 3) RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY – 08/16/19, RE: Minutes of the meetings held July 18, 2019 and August 8, 2019.

**ALL RECEIVED AND FILED**

### ORDINANCES:

#### INTRODUCTION:

Municipal Clerk read Ordinance 19-17 by title only:

#### ORDINANCE NO. 19-17

**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD,  
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO CERTAIN  
PROVISIONS OF THE BOROUGH CODE RELATED TO PARKING ON SOUTH AVENUE**

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilman Benoit to introduce Ordinance 19-17.

Roll Call:

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

5-AYE, 1-EXCUSED, Ordinance 19-17 was introduced.

Municipal Clerk read Ordinance 19-18 by title only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 19-18**

**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD,  
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO CERTAIN  
PROVISIONS OF THE REVISED ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD,  
NEW JERSEY 1974, RELATED TO ANIMAL INFESTATIONS.**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Benoit to introduce Ordinance 19-18.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

5-AYE, 1-EXCUSED, Ordinance 19-18 was introduced.

**COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:**

**POLICE: Councilman Ince, Chr.**

The 2ndclass of the Garwood Police Department Youth Academy was a huge success. Cadets had the opportunity to experience first-hand what it's like to be a police officer. Activities included a demonstration by the Union County Sheriff's Department CSI unit, Union County Bomb Squad and SWAT Team as well as a visit from the NJ State Police Aviation unit to name a few. Most importantly it gave members of the police department a chance to really get to know many of the kids in the borough. A special thank you is due to Sgt. John Wright, Officer George Suggs and Det. Chris Czachorowski for their hard work in developing the program and making it all possible.

The Garwood Police Department is once again partnering with The NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety to crack down on impaired driving during the period around the Labor Day Holiday. The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2019 campaign began on August 16th and will continue until September 2nd. Please be cautious and when in doubt get a ride.

Thursday September 5th is the first day of school for Garwood Students. Please drive carefully and watch out for students to and from school. The next Police Committee meeting will be held in early September.

**PUBLIC HEALTH: Councilman Ince**

A Health Dept. meeting was held earlier this evening concerning some specific issues which can be further discussed upon request.

**STREETS AND ROADS/ECOLOGY: Councilwoman Blumenstock Chr. No Report**

**FIRE: Councilman McCormack, Chr.**

Thank you Mayor, The Fire Committee hereby approves the membership applications for Joshua Ruesta of Garwood, Richard Herrera of Garwood, Robert Juchnik of Westfield, and Owen Vaughn of Cranford. They have passed their physical and background requirements. That's all for my report Mayor.

**FINANCE: Council President Lazarow, Chr. No Report**

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Councilman Graham**

Commented on Resolution 19-252, concerning the Kid's Recreation Grant.

**LAWS AND LICENSES: Councilman Benoit**

Laws and Licenses will be meeting on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> to go over our current ordinances that have fees and or fines to see if they are in line with what surrounding municipalities charge. We will inform Council if we see any that need to be amended. Additionally, we have not forgotten our discussions about an ordinance to address protesting in order to make sure it is done in a safe manner. We will be discussing that at our meeting as well and will report back in September.

**RECREATION: Councilman Benoit**

Their August meeting was cancelled, so there are no updates. Their next meeting will be held on Monday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Rec Complex. Also, don't forget to check out the Garwood Recreation Facebook page for up to the minute info on events and activities.

**GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock**

At our last senior club meeting, we spent time discussing a lot of recent and upcoming events in Garwood, including the last Mayor's Breakfast and the upcoming September Sloppy Joe Bingo night on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The club expressed their thanks for the funding the town provided for some of their bus trips. And we actually discussed the ordinance up on tonight's agenda for the board of health's enforcement for rodents, vermin and insects for a good portion of the meeting. The group was largely in agreement that they felt this was a necessary step for the Council to take. We have the upcoming Lion's Club Senior Picnic on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 12pm and it looks to be a good time with the traditional Manhattan clam chowder and musical entertainment. That's all for my report, Mayor.

**LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Council President Lazarow**

This summer, in response to the public's request, the Library extended Hoopla to children. Hoopla is a digital media service that allows access to nearly half a million titles, from six different formats: **Movies, TV, Music Albums, eAudiobooks, eBooks, and Comics/Graphic Novels** 24/7 on your computer, tablet, or phone. The service has been popular with adults for about two years.

This summer, the Library has also served as a collection station for the Garwood Green Teams effort to recycle 500lbs of plastic to win a T Rex bench. I believe the team is about half way to their goal. The public's response to this initiative has been very positive.

**Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 2pm** the Library will be showing the movie "How to Train Your Dragon: Hidden World", rated PG.

**Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm** the last Summer Lego will take place. Come build what you want. No registration required.

In September, the Library will resume its regular programming including: Knitting Club, Storytime, Adult Craft, Chess Club, Lego Club, Book Discussion Groups and more. We also hope to help Garwood beat Fanwood in the Food Stock, food collection competition.

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. The Library will be closed on Saturdays in August. Saturday hours will resume **September 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock**

At the last meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Ed made a number of hiring decisions, for both teachers and paraprofessionals for the new school year. They also discussed a number of buildings and grounds issues: all of the painting at school will be done prior to the first day, the exterior of the building was already washed and sealed and a heating and cooling problem in one the classrooms will be fixed within the next week (there was a leak in the unit and it needs to be pulled out and replaced costing approximately \$1500 for labor and a few hundred for the part)

Both the board goals and the district goals were approved. Among the board goals included the development and posting of the board and district meetings and timelines for board responsibilities and the exploration of the advantages and disadvantages of the committee system. Among the district goals included the alignment of the middle school curriculum with the receiving high school and to expand the social-emotional learning in K-8 students.

The Board also moved the purchase and installation of 8 vaping detectors and approved the five-year curriculum plan. That's all for my report, Mayor.

**CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS LIAISON: Councilman Benoit**

No report. Their next meeting will be in September, and I will then be able to report on the fall activities that they have planned.

**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: Councilman Graham**

Next meeting is on August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

NONE.

**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.

NONE

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Councilman Benoit to close public comment. All in favor.

**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. 19-250**

**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 \$14,436.04 which item is now available as a revenue from the STATE OF NEW JERSEY DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND, in the amount of \$14,436.04;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the sum of \$14,436.04 is hereby appropriated under the caption of “2019 DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND”.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-251**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby approve the CFO/Treasurer to issue a refund check for the tax overpayment on the following property:

<u>PROPERTY OWNER</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>BLOCK/LOT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
SALMON, J/K & SHERRY, J/M	80 FOURTH AVE	202/15	\$1,679.52

**REFUND TO:**

CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS

PO BOX 9202

COPPELL, TX 75019-9760

AMOUNT OF REFUND: \$1,679.52

EXPLANATION: 3Qtr 2019 taxes were paid by CORELOGIC Tax Services in excess of the amount due. Refund is made to the tax servicer on behalf of the homeowner.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-252**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the Borough Administrator/Clerk to prepare, sign and submit a grant application for:

**2019 KIDS RECREATION TRUST FUND GRANT**

**FOR: BALL STOP SYSTEM FOR GARWOOD SPORTS AND RECREATION COMPLEX**

**COST: \$32,000**

**GRANT REQUEST: \$16,000**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham to adopt Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-253**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the Borough Administrator/Clerk to prepare, sign and submit a grant application for:

**2019 GREENING UNION COUNTY TRUST FUND GRANT**

**FOR: 2020 TREE PLANTING PROJECT VARIOUS LOCATIONS TOWN WIDE**

**COST: \$10,000**

**GRANT REQUEST: \$5,000**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham to adopt Resolution Discussion:

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

5-AYE, 1-EXCUSED, Resolution 19-253 was adopted.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

NONE

**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, second by Councilman Benoit to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on, **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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 ORDINANCE NO. 19-17 AND 19-18, ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2019, AT 7:15 P.M. OR SOON THERE AFTER**

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, seconded by Council President Lazarow to adjourn.  
Time: 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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