

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
August 22, 2019**

Start time: 7:03 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	EXCUSED
Councilwoman Blumenstock	P	Council President Lazarow	P

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

Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim mentioned the pest ordinance is on for introduction this evening. He commented on mosquito control methods.

Councilman Benoit commented that the ordinance has discretion. He commented that the matter is handled by the Board of Health, not the property maintenance officer.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma commented that she has prepared the 2019 Kids Recreation Trust Fund Grant Application for Ball Stop Netting at the Garwood Sports and Recreation complex as directed by Council. Ms. Ariemma further commented that she also prepared the 2019 Greening Union County Grant Application for consideration for tree planting project in 2020. She mentioned that council may want to consider funding sidewalk repair program in 2020 and that would include removing of many borough trees. The grant will assist in planting trees that are removed via the project. Ms. Ariemma asked if council wants to submit this application. It is due tomorrow. Council agreed to apply for the 2019 Greening Union County Grant as prepared by Ms. Ariemma.

Mayor Todisco's Report:

Mayor's Breakfast - I want to thank everyone who came by my last Breakfast with the Mayor earlier this month on August 10th. While it seems to be, in part at least, a chance for neighbors to socialize, a few residents did take the opportunity to approach me with their concerns and ideas. I'm happy it has evolved from just a chance to sit down with the Mayor to become almost more of a community event instead. I also want to again thank former Mayors George Casabona, Dennis McCarthy, and Patricia Quattrocchi for taking the time out to attend the breakfast.

Curb at Beech and West - A resident reported the curb at the southeast corner of Beech Avenue and West Street was missing at the last Council meeting. The installation of a new curb was completed earlier this week and I want to thank New Jersey American Water for quickly responding to my request to get this fixed.

Comcast Newsmakers - Last week, I sat down with the host of Comcast Newsmakers to film a couple of segments about what is happening in Garwood. The first video highlights our all-volunteer Fire Department and the new ladder truck we are going to take delivery of this November. I posted it on my Mayor Facebook page and will be posting the second video in the next few days, where I discussed our community outreach from the Green Team plastic bag collection to the Police Department Youth Academy to the Mayor's Breakfasts and more. In the past, residents have asked me about getting more positive press out there for Garwood and I hope I am helping to do just that.

Boxcar - Last week, Councilman Graham, Chief Wright, and I met with the owner of Boxcar who lives in Cranford and sees firsthand how parking is in high demand in our area. Essentially, Boxcar namely provides parking for commuters who pay for spaces via an app, to the owner of the spaces, who are usually commercial property owners. Boxcar is currently used in Cranford and Westfield as well as other towns like ours. It has also helped find parking for downtown business employees who might otherwise park on residential streets. We also wanted to see if it could be useful during snow emergency parking and the owner thought it could. The average cost of a daily spot is \$7 and 75% of that goes to the property owner. This would be more appealing for owners of larger sized commercial lots than for a private driveway and another benefit is the property owner could turn access to the parking on and off as needs change rather than be committed for 7 days a week or an entire month or year. We have asked Boxcar to come to the next meeting of the snow emergency parking committee in September to discuss how it could be helpful. This was just a preliminary step, but it could end up being helpful, so we want to see how this develops.

Business Connection - I have recently learned that Loaded Burger has changed ownership as I spoke with one of the new owners, Luis Perez, yesterday. Luis also owns 1958 Cuban Cuisine in Westfield and he looks forward to remodeling Loaded over the next month or so and re-opening. Since Loaded was named

best burger in New Jersey on a couple of occasions, I thank the previous owner for putting it on the map and wish Luis and his partners much success as they renovate and reopen this popular restaurant in town. Bingo Night - As we discussed at the last Council meeting, the Bingo Night held back in April was a big success and a lot of fun, so we wanted to have another one this year. Councilwoman Blumenstock and I have worked together to set it up and appreciate the support of the whole governing body by donating prizes for the bingo winners. We are calling it "September Sloppy Joe Bingo Night" and it will be held on Wednesday, September 18th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Garwood Firehouse. Tickets are \$10 per person and includes 2 boards, sloppy joe sandwiches, chips, soda, and water. Extra boards will be sold for \$5 each. Pre-registration is recommended and you may do so by contacting me by email or phone. All proceeds raised will go to the Garwood Senior Citizens Club.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Benoit: Commented his son Ryan turned 7 years old recently and instead of gifts he collected funds for Liberty Hose Company. He stated how proud he is of Ryan.

Councilwoman Blumenstock: I just wanted to bring Council's attention back to Westfield's ice skating rink that borders the Mews and the Pointe in Garwood. Not so long ago the Council wrote a letter to the Westfield Council asking them to reconsider their support for another year of the rink in the same location. Since then the contract for the ice rink was renewed, actually for two more years, which was honestly a development that only came about at that Council meeting when the vote took place. The actual details of the agreement however, are I believe still being ironed out, with some possible consideration being given to extending the rink hours and providing a food vendor. I'd like to ask the Council to support me in the writing of another letter to Westfield's Mayor and Council reiterating our desire that they really examine how these new "add-ons," if you will, will only make this already tough situation worse for those living in the area, both in Garwood and Westfield. Extending already late evening hours even longer simply increases the sound, light and traffic nuisances. And adding a food vendor, I worry about the impact it has on the Garwood business already in the area that sells similar items, a business that was already impacted by the parking situation last season. While I don't think many of us here on Council are particularly happy with the decision to renew the rink's contract for the next two years, these additional possibilities will I feel only make it worse for our residents and businesses, both of whom it is our job to advocate for. So I ask you, Mayor, if you could see if there is support among our members here to put forth another letter making our position on this matter clear to our Westfield colleagues.

Council members expressed support of Councilwoman Blumenstock's request to send another letter to Westfield concerning the ice rink, particularly the add additions and year lease. Ms. Ariemma was directed to prepare a letter to Westfield.

Councilman Graham: commented on services for Maria Nierstedt's mother.

Councilman Ince: *No Report*

Councilman McCormack: *Excused*

Council President Lazarow: commented that our residents are enjoying Hartman Park.

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.
NONE.

A motion was made by Council President Lazarow, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock to close public comment. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:25 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Council President Lazarow to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood