

Borough of Garwood
MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
August 25, 2022

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Moment of Silence.

Salute to the Flag

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Union County Hawk advertised on December 2, 2021. Notification was sent to the Star Ledger, and is posted on the Municipal website, 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 Graham	P	Councilwoman Loffredo	P
Councilman Kearney	P	Councilwoman Salmon	EXCUSED
Councilman Lazarow	P	Council President Blumenstock	P

Also Present:

Kyle Harris, Borough Administrator

Victoria Holmes, Esq., Borough Attorney

Mike Disko, Borough Engineer

Catherine D. Cameron, Borough Clerk

Report of Borough Engineer

- CONTRACT 2022-1 RESURFACING OF SECTIONS OF HAZEL AVENUE, HEMLOCK AVENUE, SPRUCE AVENUE AND THIRD AVENUE – CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – STREETS MILLED AND FINAL PAVED IN JULY, STRIPING COMPLETED, SIGN REPLACEMENT COMPLETED. AWAITING FINAL GRASS AND TREE REPLACEMENT WORK, WEATHER DEPENDENT. PROJECT UNDER BUDGET.
- CONTRACT 2022-2 CURB REPLACEMENT ON SOUTH AVENUE (BASE BID + ALTERNATE #1) ACCESSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS AT HARTMAN PARK (ALTERNATE #2). CONSTRUCTION UPDATE – PROJECT SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETE. ADDITIONAL CURBS SOUGHT AT 119, 139 SOUTH AVENUE. PROJECT UNDER BUDGET. CONTRACTOR WILL PERFORM REMAINING CURBS ON A SATURDAY.
- CONTRACT 2022-3 RESURFACING OF SECTIONS OF SECOND AVENUE AND THIRD AVENUE (CONGRESSIONAL GRANT). PROJECT WORK INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: SECOND AVENUE (CEDAR TO OAK) MILLING AND RESURFACING OF PAVEMENT, MINOR NJDEP DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, TRAFFIC STRIPING AND MARKINGS, REPLACEMENT OF TRAFFIC SIGNS. THIRD AVENUE (OAK TO GALLOWS HILL RD.) INSTALLATION OF GRANITE BLOCK CURBS, MILLING AND RESURFACING OF PAVEMENT, NJDEP DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, TRAFFIC SIGNS AND MARKINGS ORIGINAL GRANT APPLICATION COST ESTIMATE = \$447,920.00 (CURBS ON BOTH STREETS). \$250,000 GRANT OBTAINED. PROJECT PLANS ARE TENTATIVELY COMPLETE. PROCEED TO BID?
- CENTER STREET CURB IMPROVEMENT BETWEEN SPRUCE AVE AND MYRTLE AVE, EAST SIDE OF STREET. CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE, AWAITING GAS CO. PAVING.
- ELIZABETH GAS HAS SCHEDULED MILLING AND RESURFACING FOR MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, NEXT WEEK FOR THE WILLOW-CENTER STREET PROJECT.

- IN DESIGN – NJDOT MA22 RESURFACING OF VARIOUS STREETS. PROJECT WORK INCLUDES RESURFACING OF: FIFTH AVENUE (CEDAR ST. TO DEAD END – ADD CURBS) FIELD WORK COMPLETE LOCUST AVENUE (CENTER ST. TO EAST ST. – ADD CURBS) FIELD WORK COMPLETE MAPLE STREET (NORTH AVE. TO FOURTH AVE.); SECOND AVENUE (WALNUT ST. TO CEDAR ST.). ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST = \$555,550. (GRANT APPLICATION) NJDOT GRANT AMOUNT \$330,000

Mayor Todisco asked Council members to address the Borough Engineer with any questions regarding his report.

Council President Blumenstock requested the status of the congressional grant.

Councilman Lazarow requested clarification regarding utility paving.

The Borough engineer provided clarification as requested.

Report of Borough Attorney NO REPORT

Report of Borough Administrator

Resolutions 132, 133, and 134 are all housekeeping items. The borough has a purchasing threshold of \$17,500. All purchases over this threshold need to go bid or be purchased from an approved cooperative purchasing system. Resolution 22-132 is to increase the purchasing threshold for Fire & Safety Services on National Purchasing Cooperative Sourcewell for repairs for engines 3 & 5. Over the last year, we have had to make the following purchases :Engine 5 Front and Rear Axle Repairs for \$5,000;Engine 5 Maintenance for \$3,500; Engine 5 Water Pump Repair \$7,000; Engine 5 Chassis, Pump and Generator Repair \$2250; Engine 3 Electrical Issues \$4000; Engine 3 Turbo Controller and Air Dryer Repair \$4,000. Engine 5 is currently in need of repairs due to a leaking valve on a water tank. We expect to have a proposal on this any day now. Resolution 22-133, the borough is in receipt of a proposal for tree work that needs to be completed in and around the sports complex and at the Police and Firefighters Memorial. At the May 26th meeting council approved M&A Tree Service for an amount not to exceed \$22,000. Since that time, additional tree work in the amount of \$17,100 has been identified and needed to be completed now. Finally, resolution 22-134 is for additional service work needed with Air Brake and Equipment on State Contract. They repair the boroughs garbage trucks. We have had the following repairs completed this year: 2016 Garbage Truck – Replace Pump and PTO for a cost \$11,000; 2011 Garbage Truck- Brake repairs \$2,000; 2011 Garbage Truck Fuel System Repair \$4,000.The 2011 garbage truck is currently out of service and needs a \$1700 repair on the coolant system. In the fall of 2021, council adopted an RVSA ordinance, that ordinance needs to be amended by all 11 municipalities in the RVSA. I have asked representatives of the RVSA to come to one of our September meetings. We will plan to have this ordinance on the agenda in October.

Report of Mayor Sara Todisco

Police Youth Academy - I would like to start tonight by congratulating all of the 6th through 9th graders who graduated from our Garwood Police Youth Academy last Friday. This was started back in 2018, so with two years sidelined due to COVID, this was our 3rd graduating class. The children had an incredible experience and learned so much each day of the five day program. I really appreciated the opportunity to go to the Union

County Stamler Police Academy with Councilman Graham to see the cadets in action. I cannot thank Chief Wright, Sergeant Wright, and all of the officers involved in making it such a huge success.

Garwood Baseball - Also, I would like to congratulate the 8U Garwood Gunners baseball team on a perfect season culminating in a championship. Yes, a perfect season, which means 14 wins, including the postseason. We will be recognizing the players as well as coaches at our September 22nd Council meeting and I am honored to do so.

Planning Board - Last night, the Planning Board met and continued the discussion on the application for 33 and 39 Second Avenue. The application was for a C variance to allow side-by-side orientation of two-family homes on each lot where only up and down are permitted by Borough Code. The feedback from the Board and the public at the first hearing requested the homes at 33 Second and 39 Second be further differentiated through design elements, and for the homes to be pushed back to allow for longer driveways in front of the garage. The applicant made those adjustments and presented them last night. The parking now allows for 3 spaces per unit with two in the driveway and one in the garage, which was an improvement from the first submission that provided for the minimum of two spaces, one in the garage and one in the driveway. The Board voted 5 to 1 to approve the application with conditions. The conditions included compliance with the review letter of Harbor Consultants, a submission of a landscaping plan prior to the CO, and a provision to ensure both units in each of the homes keeps consistent aesthetics, such as color, if they were ever made into condos.

Comments from the Council:

Councilman Graham

TWO MEETINGS AGO I REQUESTED THAT A NUMBER OF ITEMS UP FOR VOTE ON THE CONSENT AGENDA BE REMOVED SO THAT SUPPORTING OR NEGATING COMMENTS COULD BE OFFERED FOR EACH ONE. THE ITEMS ALL REPRESENTED EXPENDITURES THAT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED EXTENSIVELY OVER A PERIOD OF MONTHS AND WOULD ALL ADD TO THE BOROUGH INDEBTEDNESS. DEBT IS A SUBJECT THAT GETS BROUGHT UP OFTEN AND IS A CONSTANT CONCERN FOR A SMALL COMMUNITY THAT HAS LIMITED REVENUE SOURCES BUT VARIOUS WIDE SPREAD NEEDS. WHEN THIS COUNCIL HAS MADE THE HARD CHOICES ABOUT HOW MUCH DEBT TO ADD DURING ANY GIVEN YEAR IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN DRIVEN BY NEED AND WHENEVER POSSIBLE VARIOUS EXPENDITURES HAVE BEEN DEFERRED SUCH AS WITH OUR LONG-RANGE CAPITAL SPENDING PLAN. IN FACT, WE HAVE SEEN OUR NEEDS CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR AND HAVE ADJUSTED OUR PURCHASING ACCORDINGLY. FOR ANYONE TO SUGGEST THAT OFFERING COMMENTS IN JUSTIFICATION FOR TAKING ON ANY DEBT IS NOTHING BUT A POLITICAL STUNT HAS NOT BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO MY OVERALL PERFORMANCE ON THIS COUNCIL. FOR NEARLY FOUR YEARS I HAVE STRIVEN TO BE APOLITICAL WHEN IT COMES TO MY DECISION MAKING. I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ON EVERY MAJOR COMMITTEE INCLUDING BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS, STREETS AND ROADS, FIRE, POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND FINANCE. I HAVE SPENT COUNTLESS HOURS ALONG SIDE MY DEDICATED FELLOW COUNCIL MEMBERS MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS AND OTHERS TO SECURE THE BEST PATH FORWARD FOR OUR BOROUGH. NOT ONE SINGLE TIME DID PARTY AFFILIATION OR POLITICAL BEARING PLAY A ROLE IN THE DECISIONS THAT WERE MADE BY ME OR MY FELLOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS. WE WERE ALWAYS FREE TO EXPRESS OUR OPINIONS AND TO VOTE HOWEVER WE SAW FIT REGARDLESS OF THE RAMIFICATIONS. I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT WHAT BEING A PART OF THIS COMMUNITY FOR THE PAST 33 YEARS HAS MEANT TO ME. YOU ALL KNOW MY BACKGROUND AND LIFE EXPERIENCES SO I DO NOT FEEL I HAVE TO REPEAT THEM. SUFFICE TO

SAY THAT AS LONG AS I SERVE ON THIS COUNCIL, I WILL MAINTAIN MY COMMITMENT TO BE OPEN AND CONSIDERATE OF ALL OF THE ISSUES THAT COME BEFORE US. THANK YOU

Councilman Kearney

I've often spoken in my reports to Council this year about the hard work and dedication I see from our volunteer firefighters and praised them for specific responses and other services over and above the call. This is part of my role as Fire Commissioner, or any Fire Commissioner, but it does not mean a one-way street where I advocate ONLY for the Garwood Fire Department. Members of this Council are advocates for everyone in our community; residents, visitors, business owners, employees and volunteers. I have listened to repeated comments from a member of the public, and several from members of this governing body, questioning how and why money was allocated this year, and in prior years, for the Garwood Fire Department.

Let's stop with the games. To suggest money was needlessly spent by this, or prior, Councils for the Garwood Fire Department is nothing more than revisionist history. I can't speak for people who served as Commissioner prior to me, but I had my battles with our Fire Chief over what's needed and when, and also had debates in the Finance Committee this year where things started out 2-1 against and became 2-1 or 3-0 in favor. Many of the things in this year's operating budget and capital expenses represent compromises from the original requests, and that is to the credit of both the Chief and his officers' willingness to come to the table and negotiate with us, our shared understanding that there must be limits on a budget every year, and to the committee and budget processes put in place by Mayor Todisco and my colleagues up here who have nearly 20 years of service on the Finance committee combined.

Without a doubt, our firefighters saved lives during last year's flooding. They did this, in my opinion, at an unacceptable risk to their own lives because they did not have the proper equipment to help mitigate that risk. Chief Scalzadonna stood before this Council, in public session, and fully justified his requests for a boat, training, wet suits and other equipment he and his officers felt was needed to address water rescue (please note, there is no "scuba gear" involved). This is unfortunately becoming a thing many inland fire departments now have to deal with. I've spoken at length with firefighters who were in the water that night. They need these things. They need them now. Period. So, we provided them.

Asking a firefighter to do a water rescue, without anything but the clothes on their back, would be like asking me and every other cop to go out and do our jobs without body armor or firearms. Cops and firefighters both sign up for the risks inherent in the profession, however as members of this Council, we have an obligation to mitigate those risks whenever and wherever we can, while also being responsible with tax dollars. We've done that this year. I'm proud to be a part of that, and while I hope this stuff is never needed, I'll be glad it's there if it ever is! I look forward to continuing support for all of our departments to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

Councilman Lazarow stated his best wishes to all students returning to school.

Councilwoman Loffredo NO REPORT

Councilwoman Salmon NO REPORT

Council President Blumenstock

The winners of the Green Team Garden Contest winners have been announced. In the flower category, the Varela Family on Myrtle came out on top, as did Michelle Vivona and Patrick Lerouge on Center St. in the vegetable garden category. Marano and Sons Auto Sales at 150 South Avenue impressed the judges the most in the Business Landscaping category. The winners will receive each a \$25 gift card, graciously

donated by Dreyer Farms. The Green Team is set to do a big planting day on October 24th, where we will be working on JFK Plaza as well as revitalizing the Rankin Ave Triangle. More on that to come in the next few weeks.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on August 11, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Councilman Kearney to accept minutes as presented. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1) NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES

a) 08/12/2022, SHBP Rate Overview, Municipal Insurance Registry, Grant Bootcamp

<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/178717>

b) 08/19/2022, MS4 Permit Tier Changes; Certification Updates; FEMA Webinar

<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/179217>

2) TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD

a) 08/11/2022, RE: Ordinance

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Township_of_Cranford_-_Adopted_Ordinance_No._2022-16\(1\).pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/Township_of_Cranford_-_Adopted_Ordinance_No._2022-16(1).pdf)

3) RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

a) 08/19/2022, RE: Minutes

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/RVSA_MINUTES\(2\).pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/RVSA_MINUTES(2).pdf)

ALL RECEIVED AND FILED

ORDINANCES:

ADOPTION:

Municipal Clerk to read Bond Ordinance No. 22- 10 by title only:

BOND ORDINANCE NO.22-10

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE VARIOUS TESTING OF SOIL, ENVIRONMENT, ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$40,000 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.

https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-10_BOND_ORD_INTRO.pdf

List correspondence concerning Bond Ordinance No. 22-10. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Bond Ordinance No. 22-10.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue requested clarification regarding tracking the expenditures outlined in the bond ordinance.

Mayor Todisco clarified the expenditures would be tracked.

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Council President Blumenstock, to close Public Hearing on Bond Ordinance No. 22-10.

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adopt Bond Ordinance No. 22-10.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	ABSENT
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 22-11 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO.22-11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 71, ENTITLED “HAWKERS, PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS, CANAVASSERS, DISTRIBUTORS OF ADVERTISING”

[https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-11-Intro-No_Knock_Registry\(1\).pdf](https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-11-Intro-No_Knock_Registry(1).pdf)

List correspondence concerning Ordinance No. 22-11. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance No. 22-11.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue requested clarification regarding notification to solicitors of registered residents.

Mr. Harris clarified the registration process. Mr. Harris informed stickers for registered residents will be forthcoming from the police department.

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Councilman Lazarow, to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 22-11.

A motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-11.

Discussion: Council President Blumenstock thanked the Council for supporting the Ordinance.

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	ABSENT
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 22-12 by title only:

ORDINANCE NO. 22-12

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ENTITLED “ADMINISTRATION”, ARTICLE X “MEETINGS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL”.

[https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-12 - Establish_Video_Recording_Council_Mtngs\(1\).pdf](https://garwood.org/vertical/sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-12 - Establish_Video_Recording_Council_Mtngs(1).pdf)

List correspondence concerning Ordinance No. 22-12. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance No. 22-12. NONE

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham, to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 22-12.

A motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-12.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	ABSENT
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL: Councilman Lazarow, Chair

The Finance Committee met last week to discuss two different topics. First, you will see that tonight we are voting tonight on resolution 22-135. This resolution was unanimously agreed upon by myself, Councilwoman Loffredo, and Mayor Todisco, who filled in for Councilman Kearney who will be abstaining on this vote. The reason for this resolution is to increase the hours our crossing guards work from 2 hours a day to 2.5 hours a day for the purposes of staying competitive with our neighboring towns in terms of daily compensation and to increase the safety of our intersections by adding 15 additional minutes in the morning and in the afternoon for those students/pedestrians staying later at school or needing to arrive early for before school activities. This is also in line with our recommendation in resolution 22-136 which is a resolution to hire new bus drivers at the 25 dollar per hour rate. Finding bus drivers has been very challenging and we believe that raising the hourly rate will help ensure we have bus drivers for our senior programs. I encourage the entire council to vote to support these two resolutions that will make sure our students and seniors are provided these essential services.

Finally, our normal finance committee started discussions with our borough administrator to create a revised evaluation system for our non-union employees. Using other neighboring borough rubrics, we collaborated to come up with some great ideas to help in providing constructive feedback for our employees as well as help the finance committee during the next round of finance meetings when discussing salary increases and performance reviews.

FIRE AND OEM: Councilman Kearney, Chair

We finally have some new numbers rolling in from the updated reporting system, so I'm pleased to present activity for the month of August as of today (8/25):

16 total responses which include: 5 Fire Alarm activations for a total of 23 firefighter hours; 2 Outdoor Rubbish Fires for a total of 8.5 firefighter hours; 2 Motor Vehicle Crash responses for a total of 52 firefighter hours; 1 Dumpster Fire for a total of 44 firefighter hours; 1 Carbon Monoxide Alarm activation for a total of 2 firefighter hours; 1 Power Line Down response for a total of 15 firefighter hour; 1 Chemical Hazard response for a total of 18 firefighter hours; 1 Odor of Smoke response for a total of 15 firefighter hours; 1 Mutual Aid Cover assignment for a total of 16 firefighter hours; 1 Mutual Aid Structure Fire response for a total of 20 firefighter hours. The total for all these alarms is 231.5 firefighter hours. The monthly drill consisted of vehicle stabilization and extrication, freeing a patient from a vehicle that was on its side. 18 members attended the drill for a total of 54 firefighter hours.

I'd also like to request Council support for Resolution 22-132 for needed repairs to fire apparatus.

FACILITIES, GROUNDS AND SHADE TREES: Councilwoman Loffredo, Chair

Good evening, Mayor, Members of Council and Members of the Public

One update this week, As Borough Administrator Harris noted in his report, tree work needs to be completed in the Sports Complex. It's currently quiet on the building front. That's all for tonight. Thank you.

STREETS, ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY: Council President Blumenstock, Chair

In addition to regular garbage pick-up, the DPW continued the street-sweeping operations in accordance with the annual Public Works Schedule. The no parking signs were put up and taken down accordingly. The department also performed the monthly night-time street sweeping of the business district along Center and Walnut Street. In addition, the department cut and trimmed shrubs at the Sports Complex and Georgiana Memorial, as well as removed or pruned and elevated shade trees in the following areas: Hickory Avenue; Hemlock Avenue Hazel Avenue; Pine Avenue; Myrtle Avenue; Center Street near the Post Office; South Avenue Intersection of Myrtle Avenue and West Street; 329 Pine Avenue; Dead end of Willow Avenue.

They also removed the large hanging branches that were obstructing the roadway at 115 Willow Avenue due to Monday's thunderstorm. Fanwood's bucket truck was used to complete all of this work. New LED stop signs were installed at the intersections of 2nd/Walnut Street, Pine Avenue/Center Street and 2nd and Oak Street. The department also began the annual line striping program of crosswalks, stop bars, arrows and intersection striping in various areas of the Borough.

POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Graham, Chair

Since the last meeting of Mayor and Council on August 11, 2022 the Garwood Police Department has recorded the following activity: Initiated 32 motor vehicle stops; Conducted 22 building/property checks; Initiated 8 community policing posts; Assigned to 8 fixed traffic posts (Radar, Stop Sign, Distracted Driving); Responded to 22 calls for medical assist; Responded to 6 business/residential alarms; Responded to 13 false 911/fire/co alarms; Responded to 4 Fire/Co alarms

After a 2 year delay the Garwood Police Department held the 3rd Youth Academy last week. Our officers thoroughly enjoyed the time spent with our young residents. The week was jammed pack with exercise, training and demonstrations which hopefully gave the cadets a better understanding of what being a police officer is all about. We are already planning next year's academy to improve upon our success.

The Police/Public Safety Committee met last week to discuss the short term house and pool rental policy in our borough. It was the unanimous opinion of the committee to ban rental of this type for periods of 30 days or less and pool rentals entirely. Presently there are only two properties that are being used for this purpose and I believe now is the best time to address this. Our overriding concerns were for the impact to the neighbors and ongoing concerns about traffic and parking.

Councilman Graham referred to and commented on a recent newspaper article regarding Airbnb rentals. Mayor Todisco stated an Ordinance regarding short term rentals would be placed on the next Council agenda for introduction.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: RECREATION, HISTORICAL AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEES:
Councilwoman Salmon, Chair NO REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Councilman Kearney

No report tonight, Mayor, but I'd like to put a thank you on the record for both you and my colleagues on the Council who supported adopting Ordinance 22-12 tonight.

LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Councilman Lazarow

LIBRARY HOURS The Library's Saturdays hours will begin September 10 – 10 AM to 1 PM Library will be closed September 5 for Labor Day.

SUMMER READING WRAP UP This year's summer reading program at the Library had more participation than any prior year with participants reading over 35,000 minutes. The Scream Truck donated their ice cream

services to celebrate these incredible readers. The top readers won Amazon gift cards, and a Virtual Reality Headset was awarded to a lucky raffle winner.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 12, 19 and 26 at 10:30 am - A new knitting club, open to all levels, whether you're a beginner or you want to share your vast knowledge of knitting. No Registration required. Yarn and needles provided to newcomers. September 14 from 10 to Noon - ASK- Aging Services Kiosk - Union County Division of Aging Staff will be on hand to assist seniors (age 60+) or their caregivers with information on services, such as meal delivery, respite care, adult day care, support services for caregivers and more. No registration required.

September 14 at 7 pm – Basic Genealogy - Join Eric Midgal of "It's All Relative" for a fun and informative evening that will provide insight to help you start your journey into your family history. Once registered a Zoom link will be sent. September 15, 22, and 29 at 10:30 am YoBoo in the Park- Join us at 10:30 for YoBoo at Hartman Park for little ones (ages 2-8). YoBoo is yoga and aerobic exercise for kids. Hartman Park is located at 431 Second Ave in Garwood. Registration required. September 28, October 5, 12, and 19 at 4 pm – Virtual Minecraft Gaming – The Library in collaboration with the virtual program host TD3 Innovative Gaming will send your child on a Minecraft journey through time, from the inception of the universe, through Ancient Egypt and the Lost City of Atlantis. Along the way your child may develop their problem solving and communication skills. This program runs for 4 sessions. It is offered for children in 1st through 5th grade. Registration required. Limit 10. September 29 at 7 pm - SHIP - State Health Care Insurance Program - A representative from Sage Eldercare will explain the facts about the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). SHIP provides free help to New Jersey Medicare beneficiaries who have questions about their health insurance. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Registration is required.

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilman Kearney

The Garwood Board of Education met this past Tuesday, August 16th. As this was the final meeting for our retiring Superintendent, Dr. Teresa Quigley, the Board did a presentation and Resolution thanking her for 33 total years of service to Garwood Schools, 15 as the Super, and wished her well in her well-deserved retirement. Lincoln School Principal Mrs. Mary Emmons will serve as the Acting Superintendent.

The Board took action on a number of agenda items. Relevant to this report, resolutions were approved for the New Jersey School Boards Association to conduct a Superintendent Search; and approving both the curriculum and 5-year curriculum plans for the following areas: 21st Century Skills; ELA (English Language Arts for those who attended school with or before me), Comprehensive Health & Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Visual and Performing Arts; and World Languages/World Culture.

GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Council President Blumenstock

Last week's senior club meeting held on August 18th included lunch and bingo as usual. Our next meeting is September 1st at 12pm and will include a speaker from the County to go over different programs available from the County for our seniors. Our senior classes begin back up again in September, with the calendar going out this week, so keep an eye on your mailbox. On September 8th, we will have a special addition craft activity at 1:00 at the Knights of Columbus where we'll be making sun catchers. You can call Borough Hall to register for that. Each month, we're looking to have a special additional craft, game or activity like that, so check out those calendars for more information.

SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY LIAISON: Councilman Kearney NO REPORT

PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Salmon REPORT PROVIDED BY MAYOR TODISCO

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Chief of Police Monthly Reports for July, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Council President Blumenstock, 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.

Joe Gola, 25 Second Avenue, requested rumble strips be placed at Anchor Place.
Mr. Gola expressed parking concerns as related to Vermella residents.

Andy Kuhtik, 516 Myrtle Avenue, commented on short term rentals in the Borough.

John Bartolick, 231 Hemlock Avenue commented on short term rentals in the Borough.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on the 250th Nation Celebration.
Mr. Paterson requested clarification regarding paving on North Avenue and paving inflation costs.
Mr. Paterson requested clarification regarding final tax bill status.
Mr. Paterson requested clarification regarding the State's procurement threshold.

Andy Kuhtik, 516 Myrtle Avenue, commented on businesses operating from private residences as related to short term rentals in the Borough.

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

Mayor Todisco clarified rumble strips can be added following paving.
Mayor Todisco clarified traffic pattern changes are being considered for Anchor Place.
Mayor Todisco clarified parking is not permitted for Vermella residents on Willow and South Avenues. Mayor Todisco stated striping on North Avenue at Vermella is a state obligation.

Mr. Harris clarified paving on North Avenue will be performed by the utility company.
Mr. Harris clarified paving inflation estimates.
Mr. Harris stated he will provide clarification regarding final tax bill status at the next Council meeting.
Mr. Harris clarified the State's procurement threshold.

Mayor Todisco acknowledged the resident concerns regarding short term rentals in the Borough.
Mayor Todisco clarified the parameters of her support for an Ordinance regarding short term rentals in the Borough.

Councilman Lazarow commented on businesses operating from private residences as related to short term rentals in the Borough.

Council President Blumenstock commented on various safety concerns expressed by residents regarding short term rentals.

Councilman Kearney commented on fire safety and permitted use concerns as related to short term rentals.

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. 22-130

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:

PROPERTY OWNER	ADDRESS	BLOCK/LOT	AMOUNT
FRANCIS KELLY	317 MYRTLE AVE	408/11	\$2,367.75
GERARD VITTITOE	515 CENTER STREET	412/13	\$6,436.94

REFUND TO:

CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS
PO BOX 9202

COPPELL, TX 75019-9760

AMOUNT OF REFUND: \$8,804.69

EXPLANATION: 3Qtr 2022 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. 22-132

RESOLUTION CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT WITH FIRE & SAFETY SERVICES TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASES AND/OR SERVICES IN THE AGGREGATE NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00 FOR SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

WHEREAS, the Borough of Garwood as a contracting unit may, without advertising for bids, purchase any materials, supplies, equipment and/or services from National Purchasing Cooperative Sourcewell vendor under any contract or contracts for such materials, supplies, equipment and/or services entered into on behalf of Sourcewell; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood wishes to evidence an agreement with the Fire & Safety Services Sourcewell Contract number 113021-OKC through this Resolution and a properly executed purchase order, which Agreement shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the State Contract Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood wish to authorize the Borough Administrator to purchase services from Fire & Safety Services for aggregate purchases not to exceed \$40,000.00 for the year ending December 31, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood that this Resolution together with properly executed purchase order shall constitute an agreement between the Borough of Garwood and the above referenced National Purchasing Cooperative Sourcewell vendor subject to all conditions applicable to the current contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood of hereby authorizes the Borough Administrator to purchase from the approved National Purchasing Cooperative Sourcewell Vendor Oshkosh-Pierce Dealer Fire & Safety Services for purchases not to exceed \$40,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood that pursuant to the rules of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey no amount of this Contract shall be chargeable or certified, until such time as goods are ordered or otherwise called for prior to placing the order and a certification of available funds made by the Chief Financial Officer upon receipt of a properly executed purchase order. The individual issuing the purchase order shall have the obligation of securing the necessary certification as to the availability of funds from the Chief Financial Officer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duration of this authorization shall be until December 31, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-133

RESOLUTION CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT WITH M&A TREE SERVICE AND TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASES AND/OR SERVICES IN THE AGGREGATE NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000.00 FOR SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

WHEREAS, the Borough of Garwood, as a contracting unit may, without advertising for bids, purchase any materials, supplies, equipment and/or services from Somerset County Co-Op vendors under any contract or contracts for such materials, supplies, equipment and/or services entered into on behalf of Somerset County; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood wishes to evidence an agreement with the M&A Tree Service through this Resolution and a properly executed purchase order, which Agreement shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the Co-Op Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood wish to authorize the Borough Administrator to purchase services from M&A TREE SERVICE Vendor for aggregate purchases not to exceed \$45,000.00 for the year ending December 31, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood that this Resolution together with properly executed purchase order shall constitute an agreement between the Borough of Garwood and the above referenced State Co-Op Somerset County vendor subject to all conditions applicable to the current Co-Op.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood of hereby authorizes the Borough Administrator to purchase from the approved Somerset County Co-Op Vendor M&A Tree Service for purchases not to exceed \$45,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood that pursuant to the rules of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey no amount of this Contract shall be chargeable or certified, until such time as goods are ordered or otherwise called for prior to placing the order and a certification of available funds made by the Chief Financial Officer upon receipt of a properly executed purchase order. The individual issuing the purchase order shall have the obligation of securing the necessary certification as to the availability of funds from the Chief Financial Officer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duration of this authorization shall be until December 31, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-134

RESOLUTION CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT WITH AIR BRAKE & EQUIPMENT AND TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASES AND/OR SERVICES IN THE AGGREGATE NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00 FOR SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022

WHEREAS, the Borough of Garwood as a contracting unit may, without advertising for bids, purchase any materials, supplies, equipment and/or services from New Jersey State Contract vendor under any contract or contracts for such materials, supplies, equipment and/or services entered into on behalf of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood wishes to evidence an agreement with the Air Brake & Equipment through this Resolution and a properly executed purchase order, which Agreement shall be subject to all the conditions applicable to the State Contract Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood wish to authorize the Borough Administrator to purchase services from Air Brake & Equipment for aggregate purchases not to exceed \$40,000.00 for the year ending December 31, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood that this Resolution together with properly executed purchase order shall constitute an agreement between the Borough of Garwood and the above referenced New Jersey State Contract vendor subject to all conditions applicable to the current contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood of hereby authorizes the Borough Administrator to purchase from the approved New Jersey State Contract Vendor Air Brake & Equipment for purchases not to exceed \$40,000.00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood that pursuant to the rules of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey no amount of this Contract shall be chargeable or certified, until such time as goods are ordered or otherwise called for prior to placing the order and a certification of available funds made by the Chief Financial Officer upon receipt of a properly executed purchase order. The individual issuing the purchase order shall have the obligation of securing the necessary certification as to the availability of funds from the Chief Financial Officer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the duration of this authorization shall be until December 31, 2022.

RESOLUTION NO. 22-136

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood have hereto adopted ORDINANCE NO. 22-06: 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 2022.

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 September 1, 2022 or pro-rated as the case may be.

Name	Title	2022
Cheryl DiStefano	Senior Citizen Bus Driver - alternate	\$ 25.00 PH
Len DiStefano	Senior Citizen Bus Driver	\$ 25.00 PH
John Fugett	Senior Citizen Bus Driver	\$ 25.00 PH

A motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adopt Consent Agenda as amended.

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	ABSENT
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION NO. 22-131

Resolution Approving the Annual ‘Garwood Cares’ Food Drive

WHEREAS, the Borough of Garwood is known as the “Small Town with a Big Heart”; and

WHEREAS, Garwood residents wish to give back to their community by organizing an annual food drive as the need for food increases during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, Garwood residents, Coleen Hay and Jen Battiloro, have volunteered to run the annual “Garwood Cares” Food Drive; and

WHEREAS, food donations will take place at the Garwood Municipal Building on November 11, 2022 through November 13, 2022; and

WHEREAS, food donations will be picked up by the Knights of Columbus and/or delivered to Cranford Family Care for distribution to Garwood residents in need.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood that Coleen Hay and Jen Battiloro are named co-chairs for the “Garwood Cares” Food Drive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Borough Council for the Borough of Garwood that the “Garwood Cares” Food Drive will be coordinated between its co-chairs, the Borough Chief of Police and Borough Administrator to ensure all laws, policies and procedures of the Borough of Garwood are followed.

A motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adopt Resolution No. 22-131.

Discussion:

Councilman Kearney commended the volunteers running the food drive.

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	ABSENT
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

RESOLUTION NO. 22-135

WHEREAS, the Borough of Garwood is in need of Special Police Officers, Class “B” School Crossing Guards; and

WHEREAS, effective September 1, 2022, Special Police Officers, Class “B” School Crossing Guards will increase the number of hours worked per day from two (2) hours to two and half (2.5) hours; and

WHEREAS, effective September 1, 2022, the hourly rate of pay for current and new Special Police Officers, Class “B” School Crossing Guards working two (2.5) hours per day will be as followed: Five years or less of service will be compensated at hourly rate of \$21.25 per hour, at the completion of the fifth school year the hourly rate will move to \$22.25 per hour and at the completion of the tenth school year the hourly rate will move to \$24.00 per hour.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, effective September 1, 2022, the below listed hourly rates of pay are hereby established for Special Police Officers, Class “B” School Crossing Guards.

Edward	Bergin	\$22.25	Crossing Guard*
Eileen	Byrne	\$22.25	Crossing Guard
Albert	Cheety	\$21.25	Crossing Guard*
Frederick	Davey	\$22.25	Crossing Guard*
Camille	Defranco Vena	\$22.25	Crossing Guard
George	Diers	\$21.25	Crossing Guard*
Veronica	Kearney	\$22.25	Crossing Guard
Douglas A.	Knierim	\$24.00	Crossing Guard
Jessica A	Knierim	\$24.00	Crossing Guard
Nicholas	Petito	\$21.25	Crossing Guard
George	Snell	\$21.25	Crossing Guard
Linda D.	Temple	\$24.00	Crossing Guard
Stefanie	Willix	\$21.25	Crossing Guard*

*Alternate

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	ABSTAIN	Councilwoman Salmon	ABSENT
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Todisco requested clarification from Councilman Graham regarding pool rental concerns in the Borough.

Councilman Graham provided clarification.

Mayor Todisco stated an Ordinance would be would be placed on an upcoming Council agenda for introduction.

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 Councilman Graham, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

Councilman Graham	AYE	Councilwoman Loffredo	AYE
Councilman Kearney	AYE	Councilwoman Salmon	ABSENT
Councilman Lazarow	AYE	Council President Blumenstock	AYE

ADJOURNMENT:

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on **Thursday, September 8, 2022**, at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers.

Information for meetings is posted on the Borough website: https://garwood.org/gb_notices

A motion was made by Councilman Kearney, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adjourn.

Time: 8:30 P.M.