

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
September 11, 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

At 7:00 p.m. motion by Councilwoman Todisco, second by Council President Blumenstock to enter Executive Session.

[RESOLUTION NO. 18-183A](#)

**CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE PILOT FINANCIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD AND THE DEVELOPER OF NORTH AVENUE GARDEN HOMES AND MATTERS OF ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE RELATING TO THE ABOVE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.J.S.A., 10:4-12**, Closed session, Meetings open to public; exclusion of public; subject of matter.

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood to conduct an executive session closed to the public in order to discuss the above listed matters.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Borough of Garwood hereby move to go into executive session in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et. seq., for the purpose of discussing the subjects stated above; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the matters discussed in and minutes of the closed session shall be disclosed to the public when the reason for confidentiality no longer exists.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilwoman Bianco</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Cuccaro</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilwoman Todisco</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>

Workshop Session resumed at 7:17 p.m.

Borough Engineer, Michael Disko: The 2019 Municipal Aid application was discussed. Mr. Disko went over the roads that he previously recommended. He discussed the water company projects and impacts on the streets. Discussion followed. All agreed to submit for Pine Avenue from Center Street to West Street and Liberty Court and Union Street. Mr. Disko discussed his meeting with the water company concerning the repaving part of the project. Discussion followed including paving another street in lieu of Hickory. Discussion followed and will continue at next meeting.

Mr. Disko reported the Hartman Park Basketball Court resurfacing project will commence last week of September and take about a week. He reported the design for the firehouse roof is almost complete and will be out for bid soon. The firehouse roof was discussed by Councilman McCormack also the stress cracks in the building. Ms. Ariemma and Mr. Disko said they are not aware of these cracks. Mr. Disko said the stress cracks would not be included in the project. Discussion regarding the stress crack repairs in the building took place. Councilwoman Cuccaro brought up the matter of the Engineer serving as Superintendent of Public Works Managers. Mr. Disko explained how Engineers can serve in this capacity. He outlined several options. He also stated that he is not seeking to fill that position in the Borough of Garwood.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud commented ordinances are on the agenda. The certificate of compliance was discussed. Mr. Renaud suggested the matter be referred to Laws and License Committee.

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

Jennifer Edwards of Acacia Group updated council and the public on the PILOT for Garden Homes, Garwood Paperboard Project. She outlined the 30 years of the PILOT. She commented on the 4,000 square foot space.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS - Mayor Lombardo

At this time I would like to tell you of an email I sent to Mayor Brindle of Westfield last week. I basically told Mayor Brindle that it was unfortunate that I had to hear about a meeting, second hand, regarding a walk through at Gumpert Fields site of the temporary Ice Rink. I told her that Council President Blumenstock and Councilwoman Todisco would be joining me at the meeting. Since I haven't heard from her since our last meeting months ago, I also requested her to provide all current updates on the project to relay to Garwood's residents, especially those directly affected by it. To this date, she has not responded and I am still waiting for a reply.

I would like to reach out to Fanwood to thank them for helping us in our time of need last Monday, on Labor Day. They sent out their sewer truck and their Public Works Foreman to assist us in clearing out the sewer line on North Avenue near Walnut Street. I believe this assistance was above and beyond the call of duty and our Shared Serviced Agreement.

After reviewing all the documents that were talked about at the last meeting on behalf of the Raritan Valley Line, I will be submitting a press release supporting the Raritan Valley Mayors Coalition. This Mayor's group is bi-partisan and consists of 23 mayors that represent their communities and nearly 300,000 residents. The effort is not only critical to Garwood for economic health, investment and vitality but is also important to other surrounding towns. The lack of direct train service to and from NY Penn Station hinders the ability to be competitive and to attract home buyers and renters to our redevelopment projects.

We will be posting the current status report issued from the Russo Redevelopment project authored by Peter Harsen LSPR, LEP of ECOL Sciences Inc. which specialize in Environmental Management and Regulatory Compliance on our website.

Just a reminder that this Saturday, September 15th, is Mayor's Saturday. It will be held at Boro Hall at 11:00 A.M. I have invited Councilman Rich McCormack to join me. Please stop by to voice your concerns, ask your questions, or just to chat with us.

I am dedicating tonight's Moment of Silence to those thousands of innocent people and brave first responders who lost their lives on 9-11, this being the 17th anniversary.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

**Councilwoman Bianco – NO REPORT**

**Council President Blumenstock** - As a part of the Green Team's Mayor's Wellness Program, Shoprite's nutritionist, Victoria Coglianese, will be holding a workshop for Garwood employees this week on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00. It will be held at Borough Hall and will be about proper nutrition for all day energy. Victoria always provides helpful and insightful talks and will also provide a tasting at the workshop. So I'd like to invite all Garwood employees as well as council members to attend. It should be very educational. That's all for my report, Mayor.

**Councilwoman Cuccaro** - It came to our attention that a very hateful billboard about our president caused a stir with Union township. They passed a resolution against this type of hate speech and I am hoping we in Garwood can follow suit and do this as well. I hope we can get unanimous consensus so this can be moved forward at our next council meeting. Can I get approval for this to move forward?

Mike Disko Concerning the DPW super position. As Roselle Park has their town engineer doing the superintendant position, I called up Mike to see if this can be done in Garwood. We spoke a few times, and he said that it is a fact that this can be done, and not have to go through the whole process with the education and time requirements and expenditure. I just want to say that there are other options to keep our super hear in Garwood and not share it. Mike can you please explain what we spoke about and what you found out with the calls you made. This does not mean Mr Disko would do it but the option is there for now or in the future

Discussion followed regarding the resolution on concerning hate speech. It was referred to Ms. Ariemma for the next meeting.

**Councilman Lazarow - NO REPORT**

**Councilman McCormack - NO REPORT**

**Councilwoman Todisco** - Post office boxes - As many have probably noticed, the convenient drive up mailboxes at our post office have been replaced and now there are boxes with a much smaller opening, which faces the opposite way (away from the parking lot). I first called Congressman Lance's office about this yesterday and was directed to email someone who specifically handles postal questions. I haven't

received an answer from them yet, but I did call our post office directly and was told that the new boxes have been installed for security purposes. They are being changed all around the country and have already been installed in Cranford and Kenilworth. She mentioned how she's received many calls about this--some nice and others not so nice. While more inconvenient and in many regards a sad statement about our world today, as we meet today on September 11th and remember the horrendous attacks made on our country 17 years ago today, this is the rationale behind the change. The postal clerk I spoke with said customers should park in the lot and walk over to the new boxes to drop mail as some have still parked there and taken up to 10 minutes to drop the mail in, which blocks the driveway.

Water Company - I just wanted to say again how much I appreciated having the representatives of NJ American Water here at our last meeting to update us and take resident questions. The inspector, RJ, has been extremely responsive by phone call and email every time I have reached out to him. I called him recently to see if the resident concern on the 500 block of Locust had been addressed, which he told me it had been as there is topsoil there now. I encourage any residents with questions about the work to reach out to RJ directly

**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.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on the Mayor's report. He asked about Hartman Park that was mentioned earlier. Council President Blumenstock commented it's resurfacing of the basketball court project. He commented on hate speech and the post office boxes.

Councilman McCormack commented on the water fountain and Mr. Disko commented.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Councilman Lazarow, Second by Council President Blumenstock to adjourn  
Time: 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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