

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
September 25, 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).

Mayor Lombardo	P		
Councilwoman Bianco	P	Councilman McCormack	P
Councilwoman Cuccaro	ABSENT	Councilwoman Todisco	P
Councilman Lazarow	P	Council President Blumenstock	ABSENT

Also present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud

Mayor Lombardo did not present the award for Near Space Club because they were not present.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud updated council on the affordable housing litigation including the outcome of the hearing held on September 14, 2018. He mentioned a couple items need updating before the end of the year and that he will be working on those items. Council commented briefly on the matter.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS –

Statements by Councilwoman Bianco:

“I’d like to address the council and residents regarding the absence of Councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro. Ileen recently suffered a heart attack the week before last. She is now home and doing well. The doctor’s prognosis was that they expect her to fully recover within the next few weeks. She is very grateful for all the warm wishes and support received from the residents and council. She looks forward to being back soon and serving the town.”

“To be addressed to the Mayor and Council of Westfield

In light of current situation of the Temporary Ice Rink at Gumpert Park in Westfield. I would like to send the Mayor & Council of Westfield, a letter signed by the entire Mayor and council of Garwood, making it clear, Garwood does not want to see this rink there for more than one year. Furthermore, it does not return to that location invoking one of the 5, 1 year options extending its residency at Gumperts Park.

I would like full bi partisan support, and ask that the mayor & my fellow councilmen / women all sign this letter.

We as Borough Council must stand together to defend, and protect the residents, our constituents at the Pointe, and the Lofts.”

Councilwoman Todisco, Mayor Lombardo and Councilman Lazarow commented and Ms. Ariemma was directed to prepare a letter for council consideration.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilwoman Bianco – no comment

Council President Blumenstock - *ABSENT*

Councilwoman Cuccaro - *ABSENT*

Councilman Lazarow – commented on the request from the Garwood Baseball League to install a batting cage at the Garwood Sports and Recreation Complex. Mr. Renaud responded that council should have a licensing agreement with the league, allowing for location on municipal property with ownership and maintenance maintained by the league. All agree and Mr. Renaud was directed to prepare the agreement.

Councilman McCormack – no comment

Councilwoman Todisco –
Statement by Councilwoman Todisco

“Post office boxes - This is quite the talk of the town these days! At the last Council meeting, a resident brought up a suggestion of asking the Post Office to move the boxes away from the driveway now that they have been replaced with the smaller opening, security boxes. After speaking with many residents that it would be great if they could just turn the new boxes facing the driveway as they did in the past. I personally agree with them and sent along my sentiments to Bobbi Goodman who works in Congressman Lance’s office. I think it would be even better if we as a Council could ask that our Borough Clerk send them a letter on behalf of the Council expressing our interest in having the location adjusted either to turn around (ideally) or to be moved away from the driveway.” Ms. Ariemma provided an explanation why the boxes no longer face the parking lot which was confirmed by Chief Wright. She said that it is dangerous to post workers that empty the boxes. When facing the driveway they are exposed to being hit by a motor vehicle. After brief discussion Ms. Ariemma was directed to prepare a letter concerning the above.

“Westfield rink - I attended the walkthrough with Mayor Lombardo and Council President Blumenstock, which was very informational. The owner of Union Sports Arena went over the location of the project, general plans, and answered many resident questions. They began working to remove picnic tables and put in new sidewalks about a week and a half ago. Some issues have already arisen, such as the contractor beginning work before the ordinance stating 8 am as the earliest start time. Residents of the Pointe have been diligent in communicating any issues and questions to the Westfield Mayor and Council. In speaking with Mayor Brindle, she asked me to become a liaison to the project to give the residents a point person to include on emails from the Garwood Council and so that I could help ensure a direct line of communication between Garwood and Westfield. We’re also working on seeing what can be done to alleviate another concern of The Pointe, which is stray foul balls from Gumbert Park hitting Pointe properties that are adjacent to the baseball field. Residents near the rink are also concerned about the on-street parking on Chestnut Street being used by rink patrons rather than them using the 48-parking spot lot down the road. I agree with this concern and think our Police Department should look into this to see what can be done, such as restricting the parking down from 2-hours until 7 pm like it is now. Perhaps no parking during rink hours whenever possible, like weekdays, to ensure rink patrons use the designated parking lot, but also making a restriction that does not negatively affect our Garwood businesses and residents.”

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.

Bill Nierstedt, 320 Hickory Avenue commented on Resolution No. 18-189, requesting council table the resolution.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on Resolution No. 18-189 and the Casale/Russo parking areas.

Councilman McCormack commented that the council agreed at the last meeting to a resolution concerning hate speech against the President of the US. It was followed by comments from Councilman Lazarow and Councilwoman Todisco in which they stated that they believed the matter was referred to Laws and License for different wording from the Union Township resolution. Discussion of tabling the resolution was made and Mr. Renaud suggested council deal with it at consent agenda time.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:27 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Todisco, and seconded by Councilwoman Bianco to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood