

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
October 09, 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	EXCUSED	Councilwoman Todisco	P
Councilman Lazarow	P	Council President Blumenstock	P

Also present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma, Borough Attorney Robert Renaud and Borough Engineer Michael Disko.

Mayor's Awards were presented to the Police Youth Academy Students.

Police Chief Jim Wright presented Merit Awards to certain members of his department.

Presentation by Mike Bange concerning the water company projects. Discussion included Hickory Avenue to Hemlock Avenue, South Avenue to Beech Avenue, Myrtle Avenue paving, East Street, Center Street, Oak Street to Locust, paving curb to curb, etc. New Street to Oak Street cancelled till 2019.

Mr. Bange assured the council that if the inferred doesn't work he will address in 2019. Spring of 2019 for New Street and Oak Street - All agreed.

Borough Engineer, Michael Disko reported that the 2019 DOT Application has been sent to DOT. Firehouse bids were received. Mr. Disko went over the bids received. Discussion followed concerning the bids and stress cracks in the buildings. Mr. Disko was directed to investigate the stress cracks in the Municipal Building and firehouse building. Discussion followed concerning granite curbing on Spruce Avenue. The 2019 DOT application was discussed.

Borough Attorney, Robert Renaud - **No Report**

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma discussed the healthcare matter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Lombardo

I reached out to Mr. Chris Minks, General Counsel from Russo Redevelopment to discuss having their 4th Town Hall Meeting with regard to the progress on Russo Phase One. I suggested to him, that in my opinion, that the first week in December would be an appropriate time. He agreed. He will be sending us a few dates so we can check with Lincoln School for its availability.

I also reached out to Tony DiGivoani of Garden Homes and I passed on to him some questions I had about the progress of the project at the paperboard site. The highlights of some of his responses are as follows: Rodent abatement was completed on July 18, 2018 by Arrow Extermination. The LSRP for this site is Robert Edgar of Peak Environmental located in Woodbridge NJ. The project will include 70% dismantling and 30% demolition. The engineering/environmental consulting firm of French& Parrello Associations (FPA) of Wall Township N.J. will perform perimeter air particulate monitoring during demolition activities. For the dust suppression, a Buffalo Turbine Water Cannon is being used to wet down the area prior to and during demolition activities. The current estimation to complete the demolition is December 8, 2018. The timeline is to complete all contracts by year end and will be submitted to the Planning board in January, for all approvals, then the project should be completed in eighteen months.

Due to a work a commitment, I am cancelling the Mayor's Saturday that was to be held on Saturday October 20.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilwoman Bianco – No Report

Council President Blumenstock - I am happy to announce that after a lot of hard work from our Green Team and many others, that we are able to call Garwood a sustainable borough. After a lengthy application process, Garwood has been certified by Sustainable Jersey on the bronze level with 13 actions in 8 categories. This not only serves as a great distinction and honor, but will allow us to possibly benefit from grants in the future as we continue to keep Garwood an environmentally friendly and sustainable place to live. There will be an award luncheon at the League of Municipalities on November 13th where Garwood will be recognized for this significant achievement. I would personally like to thank Mayor Lombardo with all his work on the Mayor's Wellness campaign, Councilman Lazarow and Councilwoman Todisco for their organizational support, Ms. Ariemma for all of her work in helping this along, Ken Capobianco for his work with emergency management, and Police Chief Wright and his department for their diligence and support of our Green Team work. All of these people were key to achieving our new certified status.

Councilwoman Cuccaro - ABSENT

Councilman Lazarow – Thanked Council President Blumenstock for her efforts in gaining suitable certificate.

Councilman McCormack – commented on Garwood's small town, big heart.

Councilwoman Todisco – Westfield rink – Thanked Council President Blumenstock for her efforts concerning suitable certification

As I mentioned at the last meeting, I am basically the liaison for Garwood on the Westfield ice rink project, so I have a few updates I'd like to share. I was asked to be a part of the operations committee, which plans to begin meeting tomorrow night and holding regular meetings to discuss and monitor the project, including addressing any issues or complaints that arise. They have completed much of the set up work to date, but still have major work to go in order to be ready to open the rink on November 1. Again, the rink will be open for four months, then they will need the month of March to disassemble the rink. Our Police Chief has been in contact with the Acting Chief of Westfield who has communicated how Westfield will have officers on site when the rink is open. Our Police Department ordered signs to be posted on existing poles along Chestnut Street to indicate ice rink parking ahead. The designated parking for rink users is the lot next to one of the baseball fields, which has 45 spots. It's worth pointing out that the rink will only be used for hockey practice, not games, special events, and small time slots for open public skating on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. I will continue to communicate the information I receive from Westfield to our Police Chief, Administrator, and the Pointe, which has shown particular concern with the project.

Flag Poles by underpass - As you all have probably noticed, another flag pole at the median by the underpass was taken down by a car recently. Now that we are down from 4 poles originally to just one, what the Council may think about addressing this issue as we move forward. While a great idea initially as they look great, it has turned into a safety issue to some degree and perhaps there is a better solution for that spot.

Rental registrations and inspections - I recently learned about an ordinance in Roselle Park pertaining to rental homes/buildings with 3 or more units that requires them to register with the town and be inspected to make sure they are proper. For instance, that a bedroom is really a bedroom and a living room is really a living room. It would also require apartments to be inspected at turnover from one renter to another. Fees would be collected at the initial registration as well as at each inspection. Considering the significant number of 3 or more unit homes currently in existence in Garwood and with new developments coming in on North and South Avenue, I believe this should definitely be something for Garwood to investigate to protect current tenants as well as future tenants, and really the town as a whole, to make sure apartments are proper. The Roselle Park clerk already gave me a copy of this ordinance and I believe it will be important to protecting Garwood now as well as in the future.

Discussion concerning the flagpoles particularly the two at the top of Center and North Avenue that were knocked down by a motor vehicle

Councilwoman Todisco commented on the inspection of units with more than 3 units. Discussion followed.

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.

Allan Tweedle, 329 Willow Avenue commented that the compressor has been installed. He commented on Russo II and parking issues. Discussion followed.

Joe Gola, 25 Second Avenue commented on speeding on Second Avenue.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on the roofing and cracks matter. He commented on an article in the Local Source concerning Gene Janotti. He commented on various police awards. He commented on HAS and comments made by HSA

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:01 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