

Borough of Garwood

Meeting of the Mayor and Council

MINUTES

October 24, 2019

Start Time: 7:45 p.m.

Moment of Silence.....

Salute to the Flag.....

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).

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Todisco	P		
Councilman Benoit	P	Councilman Ince	P
Councilwoman Blumenstock	P	Councilman McCormack	P
Councilman Graham	P	Council President Lazarow	P

Also present Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Christina M. Ariemma and Borough Attorney Scott Salmon, Esq.

MINUTES:

Regular and Workshop Minutes of the Mayor and Council held on October 10, 2019.

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

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) **NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES** –
 - a. Mayor's Advisory –
 - i. 10/08/19, RE: Conference Sessions & Upcoming Opioid Webinar, Daily Update, October 8
 - ii. 10/11/19, RE: State & Federal Initiatives on Water, Weekly Round-Up, October 11
 - iii. 10/15/19, RE: Daily Update, October 14
 - iv. 10/16/19, RE: Important Conference Sessions, Daily Update, October 15
 - v. 10/18/19, RE: Daily Update, October 17, 2019
- 2) **RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY** – 10/18/19, RE: Minutes of the meetings held on 9/19/2019
- 3) **TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD** – 10/07/19, RE: Resolution 2019-016, Master Plan Re-Examination Report

ALL RECEIVED AND FILED

ORDINANCES:

NONE.

COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:

POLICE: Councilman Ince, Chr.

The Police Department is temporarily suspending grooming standards to allow officers to participate in No-Shave November. The goal of No-Shave November is to grow awareness by embracing our hair, which many cancer patients lose. Officers will donate the money they typically spend on shaving and grooming to educate about cancer prevention, save lives, and aid those fighting the battle. Anyone interested in supporting the department in their effort or donating to the cause can check us out at www.no-shave.org.

Second Ave between Walnut Street and Maple Street will be closed to vehicle traffic on Saturday October 26th between the hours of 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. for the annual Trick-or-Trunk celebration sponsored by the Garwood PTA weather permitting. The event will take place from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Congratulations to Officer Jonathan Pridy for receiving the Police Officer of the Year award presented by the Garwood K of C at their annual Columbus Day luncheon. Officer Pridy was recognized for his hard work and enthusiasm in leading the department in summons' and arrests.

STREETS AND ROADS/ECOLOGY: Councilwoman Blumenstock Chr.

In addition to regular garbage pickup, the DPW performed street sweeping operations on the North and South side of the Borough and they continued to inspect all drainage inlets in accordance with the NJDEP Storm water Management Regulations and clean the inlets as needed. They also cut up and removed fallen branches from alongside the road and on Borough properties due to the recent heavy winds and planted mums in the roadside pots along Center Street, South Avenue and North Avenue. In addition, they removed graffiti from the newly painted underpass walkway areas along Center Street and they also began cutting up and removing the overgrown brush from the brook area behind Myrtle and Willow Avenues. And finally, all employees completed the annual storm water management training hosted by Union County.

FIRE: Councilman McCormack, Chr.

NO REPORT – Commented on the dedication of the fire department.

FINANCE: Council President Lazarow, Chr. NO REPORT

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Councilman Graham

NO REPORT - Commented on the dedication of the fire department.

LAWS AND LICENSES: Councilman Benoit

The draft of the public assembly ordinance has been sent to Chief Wright for review and discussion at the next police committee meeting, and hopefully we'll have a revised version for discussion at the next workshop session.

RECREATION: Councilman Benoit

The Rec Commission met on October 14th, and they discussed several upcoming activities. On October 27th from 11am to 2pm they will be having the senior fall event at the Knights of Columbus. I believe this year it will be a football theme and there will be a photo booth and a DJ. And on Friday November 15th at 7pm at the Rec Complex, there will be a game night for 3rd to 5th graders. I believe you can sign up for it via Facebook. So check out the Garwood Recreation Commission Facebook page to sign up. The next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be Monday November 11th at 6pm at the Rec Complex, it is open to the public.

GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock

At our last meeting, we enjoyed a lunch and bingo. I updated the club on the old Pathmark property and that Lidl is currently still moving through their application with the Planning Board. I also updated them on the upcoming activities in town, including the Mayor's Wellness Walk this weekend. Our next meeting is on November 7th. At that meeting we will be joined by Ellen Steinberg, Chair of the NJ Senior Council who will be speaking to the club on a variety of topics central to seniors living in the NJ area. That's all for my report, Mayor.

LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Council President Lazarow

October/November's programs include:

Knitting Club – Every Monday and Thursday at 10:30am

Kid's Chess - Every Monday at 3:00pm.

Book Clubs - Monday afternoon at 1pm and Thursday evening at 7 pm.

Kid's Craft – Wednesday, November 12 at 3:00pm

Adult Craft – Tuesday, November 12 at 6 pm.

Story Time - Every Wednesday at 10:30am,

Lego Club - Thursday, November 14 at 3:00 pm.

ASK Kiosk - Senior Services Information Kiosk, Thursday November 21 (10am to noon)

The **family pumpkin decorating contest** has begun and we have received some great pumpkins. Winners will be announced on Friday, October 29th.

The Library will be a **polling location on November 5**. The Library will be open but all programs are cancelled and seating will be limited.

The Library is now open Monday and Wednesday 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM, **Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM**. Fridays from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and Saturdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We are opening later on Tuesday and Thursday to accommodate the school children before the Library opens to the public.

SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock

At the meeting on October 15th, Principal Mary Emmons presented the test scores for Lincoln School for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment tests for grades 3-8. Between grades 3 through 8, including grade 8 Algebra, Lincoln School students outperformed the state average in five of the seven grades. Grade 3 outperformed the New Jersey state average at meeting or exceeding expectations in the ELA subject category by over 15 percent and grade 8 tested at meeting or exceeding expectations in the ELA subject category at 81.4 percent while the state average was 62.8 percent. Of some discussion was grade 5, where students tested below the state average at meeting or exceeding expectations in the ELA category, with 51 percent of students meeting or exceeding expectations compared to the state average of 57.9 percent. The possibility was raised of grouping this grade into 3 groups as opposed to 2 since the student population in that particular grade is above average for Garwood's typical classroom size. A total of 38.8 percent of grade 5 students met or exceeded expectations in the mathematics content category.

Also a part of the presentation was the intervention strategies Garwood will now implement to foster growth in the test scores. The district will implement increased differentiation in the classroom to help the students improve from meeting expectations (level 4) to exceeding expectations (level 5). The district will also implement other intervention strategies such as in-class support, basic skills improvement programs, increased personalized instruction and practice based on IXL analytics. IXL is a new strategy. It is a computer based ELA and Math program that provides both parents and students the ability to track their progress throughout the year. Mrs. Emmons stated that there would soon be parent meetings to demonstrate how to use the IXL program at home.

Also of news is the new format the BOE is taking for their meetings. They are switching from a committee-based structure to a new committee of the whole. This will add an additional meeting in November and December where the matters before the Board will be workshopped prior to being placed on the agenda. This is being done in an effort to promote transparency. So the November workshop meeting is now scheduled for November 12th with the regular meeting remaining on November 17th. That's all for my report, Mayor.

CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS LIAISON: Councilman Benoit

The Halloween House competition is currently going on. There may still be time to sign up...I think the deadline might be today or tomorrow. Go onto Celebrations' Facebook page to get the details. Also, Celebrations is doing a Scarecrow Stroll in town that will begin this weekend I believe. I think there still may be slots available, so go to their Facebook page for more info on how to sign up. Lastly, the annual Garwood Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday November 30, 2019 from 5 to 7pm. Celebrations is looking to enhance the tree lighting experience this year, so stay tuned for more details.

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: Councilman Graham

Commented on Historical matters, particularly the pictures at the recreation complex

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Council President Lazarow to suspend the regular order of business to hear from Borough Engineer Mike Disko.

Mr. Disko reported on the firehouse roof project. He commented on road projects ongoing. Councilwoman Blumenstock commented on conditions in the gabion at the Garwood brook. Mr. Disko suggested the brook be inspected.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Council President Lazarow to resume the regular order of business.

OFFICER'S REPORTS:

Sandy Bruns, Tax Collector report for 3rd Quarter of 2019.

A motion was made by Councilman McCormack, second by Councilman Benoit 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.

John Pritchard, 410 Spruce Avenue commented on Veteran's Day and sang a song.

Krystal Zawoysky 208 Myrtle Avenue commented on the brook matters.

Motion by Councilman Benoit, second by Council President Lazarow to close public comment. All in favor.

Councilwoman Blumenstock responded to the resident's concerns.

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. 19-274

WHEREAS, the following equipment formally used by the Garwood Fire Department has been determined to be inoperable and obsolete; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to donate the equipment to Liberty Hose Company #1.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby donate the following equipment:

1974 Hahn Fire Engine
Serial # AHC227107465

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this piece of equipment is donated to Liberty Hose Company #1, 415 South Avenue, Garwood, NJ 07027. The above mentioned equipment will be stored off premises by Liberty Hose Company.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-275

WHEREAS, James H. Wright, Chief of Police has recommended that Dispatcher Raymond J. Prato be promoted to Class IV dispatcher, pending approval from Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorize that Raymond J. Prato be promoted from Probationary Dispatcher to Class IV Dispatcher in the Garwood Police Department, effective September 13, 2019, at an annual salary of \$30,677.00.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-276

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING PERMISSION FOR THE DEDICATION BY RIDER FOR MAYORS WELLNESS CAMPAIGN DONATIONS REQUIRED BY N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimates in advance; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29 provides for receipt of Mayor's Wellness Campaign Donations by the municipality to provide for the operating costs to administer this act; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides the dedicated revenues anticipated from the Mayor's Wellness Campaign Donations are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purpose to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, as follows

1. The Governing Body does hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures for the Mayor's Wellness Campaign (N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29)
2. The Clerk of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union is hereby directed to forward two certified copies of this Resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-277

WHEREAS, James H. Wright, Chief of Police has recommended that Patrolman Gregory L. Sanchez, Police Officer in the Garwood Police Department be upgraded to Step 3 Patrolman, pending approval from Council.

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorize that Gregory L. Sanchez be upgraded from a Step 2 Patrolman, to a Step 3 Patrolman in the Garwood Police Department, effective November 6, 2019, at an annual salary of \$55,141.00 in accordance with the existing P.B.A. Contract.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-278

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby authorizes the following:

Vendor: Firehouse Masonry Repairs
Hirsch Construction Co., Inc.
PO Box 192
Garwood, NJ 07027

Cost of contract: \$8,300.00

RESOLUTION NO. 19-279

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2019, the Borough Administrator/Clerk received correspondence from Annmarie Switzer dated October 10, 2019, advising that she will be retiring from the Borough of Garwood; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Switzer has advised that her retirement shall be effective January 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits requires the Finance Department to certify the employment for Ms. Switzer in order to process the January 31, 2020 retirement; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Garwood as follows:

- 1) The Borough of Garwood hereby accepts and relies upon the October 10, 2019 notice of retirement from Annmarie Switzer seeking to retire from the Borough of Garwood.
- 2) Effective January 31, 2020, Annmarie Switzer shall be retired from her position as Tax Assessor in the Borough of Garwood.
- 3) This resolution puts the Administrator/Clerk and CFO on notice to immediately process any and all requests from the State of New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits regarding the retirement of Ms. Switzer.
- 4) This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion was made by Councilman Benoit, second by Councilman Ince to adopt Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilman Graham	AYE	Council President Lazarow	AYE

RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kathy Villaggio presented the checks from the county for Kid's Recreation Trust Grant.

Councilman McCormack reported on:

Yes thank you, the LIDL application was approved unanimously by the planning board with a few changes requested by the board. Some of the changes are as follows, a monument signing like the one at Shoprite, restriping of the parking spaces to fit our ordinance, planting over 16 trees throughout the property, building a wall on the South Avenue side to block the storage of shopping carts, also to included significant bicycle racks just to name a few. That is all for my report, Mayor. Thank you.

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 Councilwoman Blumenstock to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

Councilman Benoit	AYE	Councilman Ince	AYE
Councilwoman Blumenstock	AYE	Councilman McCormack	AYE
Councilman Graham	AYE	Council President Lazarow	AYE

ADJOURNMENT:

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on, **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019**, in Council Chambers at 7:15 p.m. Workshop Session to start at 7:00 p.m.

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC HEARING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND ON THE UNION COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT YEAR 46 PROPOSALS ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019, AT 7:15 P.M. OR SOON THERE AFTER.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham to adjourn.
Time: 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood