

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
October 24, 2019**

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).

<b>Mayor Todisco</b>	<b>P</b>		
<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>P</b>

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

Borough Attorney Scott Salmon – NO REPORT

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – NO REPORT

Mayor Todisco's Report:

Mayor Todisco presented a proclamation to Representatives of METAvivors of N.J.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

**Councilman Benoit:** Commented on the article on Patch.com concerning contaminated drinking water. He read a statement.

Mayor Todisco commented that the water sampling is relatively inexpensive.

**Councilwoman Blumenstock:** As the Mayor mentioned, Clean Communities Day was a success so I just want to myself thank the Green Team members that participated. We had a record number of participants. And a big thanks to Kathleen Wierzbinski for how hard she works to organize the event.

So I wanted to let the Council know that yesterday I toured the town a bit with our DPW Superintendent to check out the various road and utility work being done. We have the water work being done on the North Side which is soon coming to completion and over on the South Side, along the 400,500 and 600 blocks of Spruce and the 400 block of Pine the water mains are being completely replaced. And I'm sure as many of you have driven over those streets in the past few days, the south side replacement is leaving the streets messy and tough to drive to say the least. So we actually stopped to see RJ, the water company's project manager that we've had here at meetings several times. He acknowledged the conditions and explained that they don't normally work in this way. They normally do smaller sections and repave immediately taking more time. However, this project has a special timeline, as they have to be done with the work by October 31<sup>st</sup>. So they have to do the replacements a bit faster, hence saving the repaving to bigger areas at the end. There was also a snag on Spruce causing a bit more construction than they thought they'd have to do – apparently they unearthed old trolley tracks that had to be completely removed. However, there were a few particularly bad areas that I asked him to smooth out in the meantime and he agreed. The paving on the 600 and 500 block was done today up to West and he expects the rest to be done tomorrow or Saturday. As for Pine, I've asked RJ to smooth out where it intersects with West as a temporary measure and that should be done by the weekend as well. But I just want to thank all of the residents, especially the ones who live along those particular blocks, for their patience. We're almost there, and in the end these upgrades are to the benefit of Garwood, so we just have to grit our teeth a bit longer.

I also wanted to update the Council on some maintenance the DPW is doing on the brook. Though the vegetation was sprayed again this year, there is of course always some that grows back. Our Public Works employees have started walking the brook to take care of and cut out any vegetation that remains. And they will continue that work over the coming days. While we're taking a look at the brook, our engineer will also be reporting back to us on the state of the gabions, the rock walls, along it so that we will know their condition and if any maintenance or repairs need to be made in the near future. I believe he will speak to that a little later in our meeting. I know we have spoken at length here on Council about pest infestations and we recently passed the ordinance that will now allow the Board of Health to enforce the extermination of pests. And though the Board of Health hasn't had any uptick of reported incidents, we of course want to do our part in making sure we keep our brook clean, clear, sprayed and baited so that we can at least mitigate any incidents.

**Councilman Graham:** Commented on the report of contaminated water. He also reported on Historical Committee matters and Clean Communities Day.

**Councilman Ince:** Stated he encourages and supports water testing along with the other members of council.

**Councilman McCormack:** Stated he also encourages water testing and mentioned to be cautious of social media.

**Council President Lazarow:** Said he supports the testing of water, however the source of this information is questionable.

Board of Chosen Freeholders Liaison Report:

It was announced that Garwood is receiving \$16,000 for Recreation and \$5,000 for tree planting from the Union County Kid's Recreation Trust Grant.

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 five minutes.

Mr. Meza, 812 Center Street commented about speeding on Center Street. He suggested speed bumps.

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

Mayor Todisco commented on speeding on side streets.

Police Chief Wright commented on speed bumps.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:43 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock to adjourn workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



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

