

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
October 23, 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>EXCUSED</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 and Substitute Borough Attorney Adam Colicchio.

Mayor Lombardo presented Mayor's Award to James Duffey

Borough Attorney, Adam Colicchio – no report

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – Discussed Re-organization meeting date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Lombardo

As an update to Mr. Patterson's question at our last council meeting, I have reached out to the foreman of our Public Works Department and he is researching the details of the clogged sanitary sewer line on North Avenue and Walnut Street. We will then discuss the details and move forward, bringing the facts to our Health Department for their assistance.

Last week Mr. Del Conte expressed his concerns to me about the handicap ramps on Center Street. I personally walked Center Street to review the situation. I will meet with Mr. Del Conte to discuss my findings.

This December 2nd, the Garwood Celebrations Committee will be hosting a Menorah Lighting ceremony in the Garwood Municipal Parking Lot. They have my complete support in this endeavor. This will be a basic program, much like our tree lighting event, and will be open to all residents.

This Saturday, November 17th, will be Mayor's Saturday to be held at Borough Hall at 11:00 AM. All residents are invited to stop by to chat, ask questions, or express their concerns.

Monica Schvets commented. Brief discussion took place

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

**Councilwoman Bianco** - Sanctuary Cities, a controversial topic has engulfed not only national & state politics but also politics in the small borough of Garwood. This past campaign season proved this to be true in which both political parties actually agreed with one another by voicing their opposition to Sanctuary Cities. Many townships, cities, and counties including Union County are already considered to have Sanctuary Status. A number of townships are also adopting resolutions to voice their opposition to Sanctuary status which I'm proposing we adopt as well. Myself, along with the council and mayor should adopt a bipartisan resolution voicing our opposition to Sanctuary Status for the Borough of Garwood. I sincerely hope we can turn our words into action. I was speaking with the Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Director at Gold Medal Fitness, they will be having a promo for a free week of Jiu-Jitsu and a special Self Defense promo for women. These classes will be led by Professor, Ailson "Jucao" Brites. This is a great opportunity to try BJJ, for free. I will have more details next meeting, ty.

**Council President Blumenstock** - I actually just got back from the league of municipalities conference in Atlantic City where there was a lot going on. I attended along with Mayor Lombardo and Councilwoman Todisco. On Tuesday, Garwood received a plaque and was honored for their sustainable jersey certification at the annual Sustainable Jersey luncheon. Mayor Lombardo, Councilwoman Todisco and I were actually able to attend a workshop about Sustainable Jersey grants where we were able to get some ideas and possibilities for the future. We also sat in on the League of Municipalities resolution setting session and we attended a workshop that discussed improving NJ's infrastructure planning where we

spoke with NJDOT Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti. Just this morning a meeting concerning NJ Transit's Raritan Valley Line held by the Raritan Valley Line Mayors Coalition where we discussed ways to move forward to achieve our goal of peak hour one-seat rides. Also I would just like to give a quick update on the Martin Luther King Junior Day of Service initiative that I mentioned some meetings ago. Our committee has met and we have come up with some activities that we will be doing on January 21st from 12 to 2pm and this will be at the firehouse. We will soon be distributing our flyer with a list of donations we're hoping to gather which can be dropped off at various locations around the borough. Sign-ups will also soon be available online for that day's activities, some of which include sandwich making for the homeless, valentine's for veterans and bookmark making for the children's specialized Hospital. I will of course let everyone know when that becomes available and you can also go to our facebook page mlkdaygarwoodnj for updates.

**Councilwoman Cuccaro** – Thanked everyone for reaching out during her illness and also thanked Kim Salmon.

**Councilman Lazarow** – The Baseball League has supplied the proper insurance documentation to move forward with building the batting cage. If our attorney could explain the next steps of the process, then we can move forward to have this as a resolution on the next agenda.

**Councilman McCormack** – Excused

**Councilwoman Todisco - Planning Board** - The Planning Board met last week, where it held a third meeting to review the site plan for Russo II, also known as South Ave. II, which will consist of 72 luxury apartment rentals, including 11 units set aside for affordable per the settlement agreement Garwood reached with the Court. It was unanimously approved by the Board with over 30 conditions. Here are some of the major conditions. Some will require discussion and input from the Mayor and Council.

- Russo Development will pay for a stand alone emergency light or signal for the firehouse entrance
- redesigned parking lot per the request of the Fire Dept. so there will be 18 dedicated municipal spaces and 28 public/shared (for tenants/visitors) adjacent to South Ave. II building
- will pay for a 4-way stop signage at Willow and West, if requested by Mayor and Council
- use decorative hardscape around northeast corner of building to create a more defined building entrance
- shall pay for and paint crosswalks at Willow and West
- will be built with higher NFPA 13 sprinkler system
- agreed to use Belgian block curbing along their property on Willow and West, and South upon approval of Council (will also put in Belgian block curbing on South for South Ave. I if Council requests them to)
- tenants of South Ave. II will have access to all amenities of South Ave. I (pool, etc.)
- will maintain all shrub and landscaping within the right away
- one electric charging station in the interior parking

Also, Chris Minks of Russo Development shared at the October 24th Planning Board meeting that the Russo I project will have an 11 unit reduction from 298 to 287 and will not change the number of affordable units as agreed to in the settlement agreement. They will also hold a town hall style meeting in the near future to update the community about their projected timeline and will be available to answer any resident questions directly.

The next meeting of the Planning Board will be on December 12th.

**Westfield Ice Rink** - I continue to be a member of the 8-person operations committee, which has held weekly meetings. I've continued to keep our Police Chief informed and our PD has done a great job of enforcement, particularly on the day of the grand opening, which posed challenges particularly in the area of parking.

**League** - I also attended the League of Municipalities the past few days with Council President Blumenstock and Mayor Lombardo. Just to add to the earlier report, I want to commend Council President Blumenstock for all her efforts to help Garwood become certified by Sustainable Jersey this year, which now opens our Borough up to grant opportunities. At that luncheon, we happened to sit next to a person with the Board of Public Utilities, who also mentioned more grant opportunities out there for Garwood.

**Lions Breakfast** - The annual Lions Club Pancake Breakfast will be held this Sunday from 8am to 12noon at The Westwood. I hope many will be able to join the Lions Club and tickets may be purchased for \$7 at the door.

#### 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 Gene's acknowledgement. He commented on the Menorah lighting event. He commented on sanctuary cities, Russo II and the demolition of Russo I.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:34 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Cuccaro, and seconded by Councilman Lazarow to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



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