

# Borough of Garwood Meeting of the Mayor and Council

## MINUTES

November 25, 2019

Start Time: 8:02 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

### **MINUTES:**

Regular, Workshop and Executive Minutes of the Mayor and Council held on November 14, 2019.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham to accept minutes as presented. All in favor, opposed

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- 1) **NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES –**
  - a. Mayor's Advisory –
    - i. 11/11/19, RE: Weekly Round-Up, November 8
    - ii. 11/15/19, RE: League Testified on 5G & Small Cell Deployment, Weekly Round-Up
    - iii. 11/22/19, RE: Daily Update
- 2) **RAHWAY VALLEY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY –** 11/18/19, RE: Minutes of the meetings held on October 10, 2019 and October 17, 2019.
- 3) **TOWN OF WESTFIELD –** 11/15/19, RE: Ordinance No. 2152

### **ALL RECEIVED AND FILED**

### **ORDINANCES:**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance 19-19 by title only:

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 19-19**

**ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD, COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY CREATING A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Councilman Benoit to introduce Ordinance 19-19.

Roll Call:

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

6-AYE, 0-NAY, Ordinance 19-19 was introduced.

### **COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS AND OTHER REPORTS:**

#### **POLICE: Councilman Ince, Chr.**

Center Street between South Avenue and Willow Avenue will be closed on Saturday November 30 between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. for the annual tree lighting celebration.

#### **STREETS AND ROADS/ECOLOGY: Councilwoman Blumenstock Chr.**

No official report, Mayor, but the DPW has been busy picking up leaves and getting the holiday decorations up, including our Christmas tree.

#### **FIRE: Councilman McCormack, Chr.**

NO REPORT. The Fire Department is very happy.

**FINANCE: Council President Lazarow, Chr.** NO REPORT

**BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Councilman Graham** NO REPORT

**LAWS AND LICENSES: Councilman Benoit**

Laws and License Committee met to discuss the two issues which we brought up during the workshop session.

**RECREATION: Councilman Benoit**

NO REPORT. The next meeting will be on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the Rec Complex.

**GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock** NO REPORT

**LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Council President Lazarow**

On Thursday, December 5, wolves will visit library. Representatives from Howling Woods Farm will talk about wolf conservation and the history of wolves. They will be accompanied by 2 wolves from their farm. Registration is required. Limit 30. This program was funded in part by a grant from the Union County Freeholders.

The Library recently installed two new public computers to replace the 07 windows computers that will no longer receive technical support in 2020. The computers were also funded by a grant from the Union County Freeholders.

Within a day of Facebook and Instagram posts the Library's Annual Santa event is full. Santa will visit a packed house on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 11 to noon. Refreshments will be on hand. Parents and caregivers are invited to bring their cameras for a Christmas season photo opportunity. The first 50 children will receive a small gift from Santa.

The Library is 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. The Library will be closed November 28, 29 and 30 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Blumenstock**

Report will be done by Councilman McCormack, who attended the last meeting in my absence.

Councilman McCormack read:

On November 19th the BOE held its regular meeting. At the start of the meeting there was a presentation given by "Dr. Gambino. Program specialty school preparedness and emergency planning" Dr. Gambino talked about school safety, beginning with the entrance into the building and from what he found that night trying to get in Garwood schools is that Dr. Quigley is up to speed on school safety here in Garwood. Dr. Gambino gave a 30 minute presentation on school safety and school shootings that have been occurring across our country. He provided 6 charge of what to look for before such a tragedy could occur. The one that drew my attention is the Mass shooting chart. 99 incident involved a single shooter, 96% of shooters are male 4% female, 94% 1st shot a family member, 60% of incidents ended before police arrived, 40% of shooters committed suicide. 28% of shooters were killed at the scene by police. This is terrible news but it's a reality again of today's world. Other discussions at BOE meaning where recommendations for substitute teachers. This was alarming for me to hear the outcome of a vote in a 5 to 3 favor of not hiring someone that has been a substitute teacher for years now, I hope politics is not getting into the BOE decisions, and lastly One resident asked the board to show more transparency under the decisions they make and where the tax payers money is being applied to.

**CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS LIAISON: Councilman Benoit**

Celebrations has some great events coming up this holiday season. First up is the Annual Tree Lighting will be held on Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup>, that's this Saturday!, from 5 to 7pm. Next is the Brunch with Santa which will be held at the Knights of Columbus on Sunday December 15 at 11am. Tickets are available at the Library and here at Borough Hall. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Menorah Lighting event will be held on Monday 12/23 here at Borough Hall at 6pm. Refreshments will be served. And lastly, from November 29 through December 18<sup>th</sup> Celebrations has a mailbox here at Borough Hall where kids can place their letters to Santa. Please make sure the letter to Santa has the child's first and last name and a return envelope and stamp, and Celebrations will make sure that Santa writes back! And of course, stay tuned for more exciting events as we had into 2020. I also want to say that everyone on Celebrations has done a great job this year. They've continued with the traditional events that the borough loves, and they've added a few new ones, like the brunch with the Easter bunny and Santa, and the scarecrow stroll. They're doing a great job.

COMMENT: Mayor Todisco thanked the Committee Chairs.

**HISTORICAL COMMITTEE: Councilman Graham** NO REPORT. The Historical Committee meeting is tonight.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

Jim Wright, Chief of Police: monthly report for October 2019.  
 A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Councilwoman Blumenstock 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 spoke about the new ladder truck for the Fire Department.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on the Board of Education vote on a substitute teacher matter. He asked about the ordinance abolishing the Recreation Commission. Mr. Paterson mentioned the Historical Committee will be working on re-creating the memorial wall for service members that was on the original town hall. He also mentioned the committee will be selling ornaments during the tree lighting.

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

Mayor Todisco responded to Mr. Paterson explaining the ordinance is restructuring the commission into a committee. The Mayor stated re-creating the memorial wall is a great idea as is the ornament sale. Mayor Todisco spoke about the Board of Education vote. She stated she wants a good working relationship with the Board of Education.

There was lengthy discussion concerning the elected official/substitute teacher matter.

Councilman Benoit stated he does not support the Board of Education decision to not hire a sitting council person.

Council President Lazarow also commented, stating these are our opinions and we should be able to state them.

**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. 19-292**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council that the treasurer be and she is hereby authorized to draw checks to the sum of \$22,915.00 to members of Garwood Fire Department for clothing allowances due for 2019; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the report of the Chief and Secretary of the Garwood Fire Department, which shows the amounts due to by said members for a period of one year from December 1, 2018 to November 30, 2019, be made a part hereof.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-293**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby directs the transfers of 2019 budget appropriations be and they are hereby made:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chief Financial Officer be and is hereby authorized to make necessary transfers prior to year-end and that these be ratified at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Governing Body.

2019 Budget Transfer #2				
Resolution #19-293				
FROM:	Department	Account Name	Account Number	Amount
	Municipal Clerk	S&W	9-01-20-120-100-0100	8,250.00
				8,250.00
TO:				
	Fire Department	Equipment Maintenance	9-01-25-265-200-0150	3,250.00
	Buildings & Grounds	Contractual Services	9-01-26-310-200-0320	5,000.00
			Total	8,250.00

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-294**

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A 40:14B-66 municipal authorities shall cause an annual audit of its accounts to be made, and for this purpose it shall employ a registered municipal accountant of New Jersey or a certified public accountant of New Jersey to conduct an annual audit and provide other required accounting services and therefore the Mayor and Council have determined that there exists a need for professional auditing and consultant services to provide Auditing/Consultant services of a specialized nature to the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Borough of Garwood posted in accordance with law a request for proposals and received proposals on November 14, 2019, under a fair and open process in accordance with P.L. 2004, c.19, as amended by P.L. 2005, c.51; and WHEREAS, the said Governing Body has determined that such services are professional services as defined in the Local Public Contracts Law of the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law requires that a notice stating the nature, duration, services and amount of each contract awarded as a professional services contract be printed once in the official newspaper of the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood:

That the Mayor and Borough Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute an agreement with Suplee, Clooney & Company, 308 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090, for the provision of professional auditing and consulting services for the Borough of Garwood; and

That said Contractor shall receive fees not to exceed \$39,800.00 for 2019 Statutory Audit, \$7,800.00 for 2020 Financial/Debt Statement including 2020 Municipal Budget preparation, and \$425.00 per preparation of Supplement Debt Statements, \$1,100.00 Borough's Deferred Compensation Plan, and telephone consultation and meeting attendance as needed for no charge which are included in proposal dated November 14, 2019; and

That the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to maintain this resolution and the professional services contract on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and

That the Borough Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a copy of this notice as required by law.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-295**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby approve the CFO/Treasurer to issue a refund check for the tax overpayment on the following property:

<b>PROPERTY OWNER</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>BLOCK/LOT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
ZEIGERSON, G & K	216 WALNUT ST	108/25	\$2,385.26
MARIANOVSKY & REKHTER	303 NEW ST	510/1.02	\$1,000.00
GOODELL, A & J	334 HEMLOCK AVE	609/19	\$2,685.03

**REFUND TO:**

CORELOGIC CENTRALIZED REFUNDS

PO BOX 9202

COPPELL, TX 75019-9760

AMOUNT OF REFUND: \$6,070.29

EXPLANATION: 4Qtr 2019 taxes were paid by CORELOGIC Tax Services in excess of the amount due. Refund is made to the tax servicer on behalf of the homeowner.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-296**

**WHEREAS**, A & J Contractors Group, 105 Federal Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831, has satisfactorily completed on July 9, 2019, the project known as "Curbing improvements on Spruce Avenue Project"; and

**WHEREAS**, the work included curbing improvements to certain areas of Spruce Avenue; and

**WHEREAS**, Maintenance Bond No. 015206766(M) has been received for one-year period concluding on July 9, 2020, for \$9,751.64; and

**WHEREAS**, the as built construction cost is \$99,558.80.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby accepts the Municipal Engineer's recommendation that the project is complete and authorizes the Treasurer to issue a check made payable to A & J Contractors Group, 105 Federal Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831, for final payment in the amount of \$11,794.04.

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

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**PROCLAMATION**

Lion's Club of Garwood 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**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 Councilman McCormack to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

<b>Councilman Benoit</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman Ince</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>AYE</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>AYE</b>

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on, **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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, ON ORDINANCE NO. 19-19, ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 12, 2019, AT 7:15 P.M. OR SOON THERE AFTER**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock second by Council President Lazarow to adjourn.  
Time: 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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