

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
November 27, 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>EXCUSED</b>		
<b>Councilwoman Bianco</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>P</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 Borough Attorney Robert Renaud

Borough Attorney, Robert Renaud – commented on the resolutions on tonight’s agenda

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – **No Report**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS – NONE

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

**Councilwoman Bianco** - NONE

**Council President Blumenstock** - I want to report that unfortunately our street sweeper in the Department of Public Works is once again no longer functioning, though this isn’t completely surprising given that it is 29 years old. It was able to finish out the fall season, but it looks like it will require thousands of dollars of more repairs now — if they could even be done, as, again, it is from 1990 and various parts aren’t available anymore. The streets and roads committee met a little while ago to discuss this with the DPW Superintendent and Foreman. We discussed prioritizing the purchase of a sweeper in the next year as a part of the capital plan. We all agreed that while having Fanwood as the back up will be necessary in the spring and is much appreciated for times like this, we feel our residents want street sweeping to be on a set schedule which unfortunately, it’s the one negative to having Fanwood do it. The only real way to have a consistent, set schedule is to have our own sweeper in Garwood. So at this point, the committee would like to recommend turning this issue over to the finance committee come January. I know the Superintendent and Foreman would be happy to speak with whoever is on that committee at that point.

On another note, Green Team installed the adopt-a-pots for the holiday season around town. I’d like to thank everyone who helped out with that.

And just one more note that again the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is set for January 21st but we are in need of donations for the various activities. There are drop boxes at Borough Hall, the library and the school and a full list of the donations can be found at those locations or on Facebook at mlkdaygarwoodnj. I want encourage everybody to really look to donate to this cause. We have a number of people looking to help out on that day but it’s crucial to get these donations to make the day a success.

**Councilwoman Cuccaro** – commented on sanctuary city resolution. Councilman Lazarow stated he needs more time to review the resolution. Councilwoman Todisco asked Councilwoman Bianco her opinion on the matter. Councilwoman Bianco said she spoke to Chief Wright on there is no need to pass the resolution. Council President Blumenstock also stated this is not necessary in Garwood. Discussion followed. Chief Wright commented.

**Councilman Lazarow** – From my understanding, sanctuary cities are jurisdictions with policies that limit the extent to which they cooperate with federal immigration agents. That usually means declining to hold undocumented immigrants arrested locally on behalf of [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement](#) (ICE) under a detainer request.

But regardless of sanctuary city or county status, federal immigration agents can still conduct raids, deport undocumented immigrants and enforce immigration laws with or without the help of local authorities.

After talking at length with the chief about this issue, it is clear that any resolution relating to Sanctuary City designation does not impact the way the Garwood police department does it job which is determined by attorney general regulations. So on top of the fact that this resolution does not actual have any practical

implications on enforcement, voting to pass a resolution like this is then clearly a political statement. Passing a political statement like this seems to indicate that

1. Garwood council knows better than the attorney general to try to micromanage how our Garwood police department deal with illegal immigrants. It implies that we don't think that the current police department are able to properly enforce the laws.
2. The Garwood Council wants to bring up a national issue that does not impact Garwood residents into a debate that sows division amongst the town.

Therefore I do not support moving forward on this resolution as I do not feel the resolution provides any positive outcomes whatsoever.

If anything I would be in favor of a resolution past by NJ towns like Princeton, for example, has joined the "[Welcoming America](#)" movement, a network of more than 100 municipalities and agencies across the country that say they are striving to be more inclusive of immigrant communities.

**Councilman McCormack** – commented on sanctuary city and legalizing marijuana.

**Councilwoman Todisco** - EFG Fundraiser - Thursday, November 29th from 3pm to 12 midnight at The Station - 15% of each check with the flyer will be donated to the EFG, which funds scholarships for Garwood students graduating 8th grade and high school as well as grants for educators

**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.

Steven Blaufeder, 602 Center Street commented on the nativity vs. the menorah. Council President Blumenstock responded. Mr. Renaud commented that as Municipal Attorney his only recommendation is that all religious symbols should not be on display by any government.

Bill Nierstedt, 320 Hickory Avenue states he agrees with comments made by Mr. Blaufeder. He commented on sanctuary city matter. He commented on legalization of marijuana. He commented on cost of Hartman Park and Sports Complex. He commented on the road work on Hickory Avenue.

Michael Ince, 512 Locust commented on sanctuary cities: Definition: Are local governments that refuse to assist the Federal authorities to enforce immigration policy. If ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) wants to enforce immigration law in Garwood, or any state or community it can. Federal law enforcement does not have to ask for permission or assistance to enforce Federal Law, although they may request it. Sanctuary city status could put our police at odds with the Federal authorities; this is not something we want to see. The Federal Government has the power of the purse, and could cut funding to any state or local government that refuses to adhere to Federal Law. This is something that has been done by past administrations. The State of New Jersey has not approved Sanctuary State status to date, whether this will come to pass is unknown. Personally I have my doubts especially as it relates to Federal Funding. Lastly, I am not a supporter of Sanctuary City status and will not support it now or in the future. Let's put this issue to bed once and for all.

Krystal Zawoyski, 208 Myrtle Avenue commented on the sanctuary city matter.

Andrew Wiecek, 524 Fourth Avenue commented on the batting cage matter. Baseball registration is open. Discussion followed on the use of the batting cage.

Krystal Zawoyski, 208 Myrtle Avenue commented on the painted rumble strips and how they were selected.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on the batting cage matter. Mr. Paterson commented on the comments made earlier concerning religious symbols. He commented on the sanctuary city matter.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:50 p.m., a motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, and seconded by Councilman Lazarow to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



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