

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
December 11, 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>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, Borough Attorney Robert Renaud and Borough Engineer Michael Disko.

Mayor Lombardo made a presentation to Gene Jannotti.

Borough Engineer Michael Disko – reported on Hartman Basketball Court, saying it is partially complete. Spruce Avenue catch basins project has been completed. He mentioned the 2017 DOT Road Project is underway. He provided information on the projects. He commented on the bids received for the Spruce Avenue curbing project. He recommended re-bidding it in the future. Councilwoman Todisco commented that she feels re-bidding the project is the best option. She commented on potential work on New Street. Mr. Disko explained the condition of New Street and future work being done by the Water Company. Brief discussion followed. Councilman McCormack commented on Spruce Avenue curbing bids and the idea of waiting. He commented that he feels waiting is a better option. There was brief discussion on Hartman Park resurfacing project and the ponding water matter. The firehouse roof project and stress cracks in the building were briefly discussed.

Lisa DiLeo, 221 Spruce Avenue commented on the ponding in front of her home. She presented photos and brief discussion followed.

Borough Attorney, Robert Renaud – commented that the Affordable Housing matters are almost complete.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – mentioned canceling the council meeting of December 27, 2018. She said she will present a resolution for consideration deleted from the consent agenda.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Lombardo**

I would like to personally thank the following group of people who volunteered to help decorate the Council Chambers for the holiday Season:

- The Garwood Girl Scouts from Troop 40123
- Council President Blumenstock and her two daughters
- Mayor-Elect Sara Todisco
- My wife, Carol Lombardo

I would also like to thank the Garwood Celebrations Committee for coordinating the Community Lighting of the Menorah. Hopefully this tradition will continue into the future, but we will all wish for better weather conditions.

**Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:**

**Councilwoman Bianco** – Thanked Garwood for allowing her to represent the citizens.

**Council President Blumenstock - No Report**

**Councilwoman Cuccaro – No Report**

**Councilman Lazarow – No Report**

**Councilman McCormack** – At this time on behalf of the residents, I would like to thank the Garwood Fire Department for giving up their day this past Sunday to escort Santa around the borough to visit the

children so Santa could listen to the children's wishes. They also gave time for photos which we all adore. The Department also collected Toys for Tots as they escorted Santa through the borough.

Tonight is possibly the last night sitting up on council that this governing body will be together. With that said I the junior councilman would like to express my true gratitude to my fellow councilwoman Ileen Cuccaro for giving up much of her time as well we all do to make Garwood a better place to live and have ownership of a home. Also I would like to thank Stephanie Bianco for stepping in to fill a vacant seat which I'm sure was not an easy task to do, but Stephanie did a tremendous job with all her duties as a councilwoman so again thank you for giving your time to make Garwood a better place to live. Lastly I as councilman would like to give our current Mayor Charles Lombardo a big thank you for his 27 years of service to our small but lovely Borough of Garwood. I hope you can find some time to help us all as we move forward with the interest of our borough citizens. Mayor, thank you again.

St. Anne's will be hosting a blessing of our nativity to start our Christmas season along with singing of Carols this Saturday at 5:30 p.m. All are invited to attend. "rain or shine". Afterwards, hot chocolate, coffee and sweets will be served in the Bethlehem room. I am hoping to see you all. Thank you everyone for a successful year.

**Councilwoman Todisco** - The Westfield rink advisory committee held an open public listening session last week on December 5th. I attended as a member of the committee. I was also happy to see Council President Blumenstock in attendance along with our Police Chief, who spoke on concerns he has with the rink's location, namely being the parking issues and how they are adversely affecting our local businesses nearest the rink, particularly on the weekend. About 30 people attended and a number of them were from Garwood, specifically residents of The Pointe, who spoke about the noise, lighting, parking, and traffic issues. One Garwood resident suggested the front gate be closed, but not locked, to the rink operator Mr. Anderson in order to encourage rink users to use the front-side entrance rather. This has seemed to have helped to discourage drop offs by cars directly in front of the rink opening on Chestnut Street, while not a complete solution of course. The rink advisory committee will be meeting again in early January, even though some emails have been traded with Mr. Anderson and Westfield Town Administrator Jim Gildea as resident concerns are forwarded to our committee. This advisory board's purpose is to create a list of pros and cons about the rink to advise the Westfield Recreation Commission. I will continue to serve on that advisory panel.

**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.

NONE

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 7:44 p.m., a motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, and seconded by Councilwoman Cuccaro to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



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