

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES**

December 12, 2019

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

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 Thomas C. Jardim, Esq.

Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim mentioned the amendment to Ordinance 19-19.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – NO REPORT

Mayor Todisco's Report:

**Roadwork** - I am very happy to report the New Street project is complete with new curbs, additional drainage, new sidewalks where previously none existed between South Avenue and Willow Avenue, and re-paving. I've heard from a few residents already about how happy they are to have a new New Street. I want to thank the entire Council and our engineer Mike Disko for supporting my idea to add this project to an existing DOT project, once we knew the water company was going to replace the main there and would pay their portion of the paving cost.

**Volunteer Rewards Card** - We are still looking for Garwood businesses who are interested in signing up for the second series of our volunteer rewards card program. If you are interested in having your business part of this fantastic program, which offers our volunteers a 10% discount on purchases or services in appreciation for all they do for our community, please contact me by December 15th.

**Mayor's Wellness Campaign** - If the weather holds up, the next scheduled Mayor's Wellness Campaign 3K Walk is on December 28th at the Recreation Complex.

**Mayor's Breakfast** - I want to thank our Fire Chief Allan Tweedle for joining me at my latest quarterly Breakfast with the Mayor event on December 1st at the Firehouse. It was well attended and I know all who took the Chief up on the offer to go up in the bucket of the new ladder truck were really appreciative. The appreciation is for much more than the ride--it's for how this ladder truck makes us a safer Garwood.

**Celebrations** - Also, I wanted to take a moment to thank all the volunteers on the Garwood Celebrations Committee for really giving it 110% this year as they continued long-standing traditional events and added new ones. This year's Christmas tree lighting was literally the best ever. We had the largest turnout and I heard so many compliments regarding the additional snacks, face painting, tables about other town committees, and performances by the Y dance group and the girl scouts. I look forward to Santa coming back to Garwood on the firetruck this Saturday hosted by our volunteer Fire Department and for brunch this Sunday, which is another new event presented by the Celebrations Committee. On December 23rd, I hope to see a big turnout for our 2nd annual Menorah lighting at 6pm at Borough Hall. Like the tree lighting, all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Planning Board** - Last night, the Planning Board unanimously supported the resolution for a variance for Lidl, which would fill about half of the vacant Pathmark site once occupied. Also, there was a continued application for a certificate of non-conformity on the agenda, but the applicant asked for it to be postponed just a few hours before the meeting. The Board decided to require the applicant to re-notify the surrounding properties again. As a result of this late request to postpone, I asked if the Board might consider a policy outlining a deadline to cancel by and the Board attorney suggested a fee for late notice as some other towns have. The Board generally supported this idea, but it will be discussed further at the Reorganization meeting of the Planning Board on January 15th.

**Councilman Benoit:** NO REPORT

**Councilwoman Blumenstock:** I'm happy to announce a new recycling service that the Borough will be providing to our residents and I'd like to thank Ms. Ariemma for bringing this program to our attention and working to bring this to fruition. We will be partnering with GreenChip E-Waste and ITAD Solutions for the collection and disposal of e-waste, such as laptops, old computers, printers, televisions and keyboards. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of January, April, July and October, the DPW yard here in Garwood will be open to those who would like to drop off their e-waste. The great part of the program is that GreenChip will actually pay Garwood for the E-Waste, so it's a win-win. Convenient for our residents, a little extra money for Garwood, and of course, good for the earth. Again, this will start the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of January so be on the lookout for more reminders as we get closer. That's all for me, Mayor.

**Councilman Graham:** mentioned to Chief Wright that his wife was almost hit by a car in the crosswalk at Fourth and Walnut..

**Councilman Ince:** At this time I would like to take a moment to remember Jersey City Detective Joseph Seals who was killed in the performance of his duty on Tuesday as he approached two possible suspects in a murder which took place in Bayonne, NJ the previous weekend. As we all are now aware after Detective Seals was shot the suspects fled about a mile away where a gun battle took place in and around a kosher grocery store in Jersey City. This resulted in the deaths of three civilians in the store, the wounding of two police officers and one civilian. The two suspects were shot killed by responding police and agents from multiple agencies. The motive for this tragedy has yet to be determined.

Detective Seals began his law enforcement career in Jersey City in 2006. He was married and the father of five school age children. During this Christmas season please take a moment to remember Detective Seals, his family, as well as the other innocent victims who lost their lives or were injured as a result of this horrific event. Remember all our police officers and first responders who protect our communities every day and are always there when we need them the most.

**Councilman McCormack:** I would like to let the residence of Garwood know this Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at approximately 5:30 p.m., St. Anne's Church will be having and blessing of our Nativity scene in front of the rectory. Afterwards all are invited to the Bethlehem room for tea and coffee and holiday cookies. It's a wonderful way to start the Christmas season.

**Council President Lazarow:** He thanked the Celebrations Committee for an outstanding tree lighting event.

Board of Chosen Freeholders Liaison Report: NO REPORT

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.

NONE.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:10 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Council President Lazarow to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



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