

**Borough of Garwood**  
**MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**December 22, 2022**

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Moment of Silence

Salute to the Flag

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Union County Hawk advertised on December 2, 2021. Notification was sent to the Star Ledger, and is posted on the Municipal website, 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:**

|                           |          |                                      |          |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Mayor Todisco</b>      | <b>P</b> |                                      |          |
| <b>Councilman Graham</b>  | <b>P</b> | <b>Councilman Lazarow</b>            | <b>P</b> |
| <b>Councilwoman Herz</b>  | <b>P</b> | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>           | <b>P</b> |
| <b>Councilman Kearney</b> | <b>P</b> | <b>Council President Blumenstock</b> | <b>P</b> |

**Also Present:**

Kyle Harris, Borough Administrator  
Adam Abramson, Borough Attorney  
James Wright, Chief of Police  
Catherine D. Cameron, Borough Clerk

Report of Borough Attorney NO REPORT

Report of Borough Administrator

Borough Hall will be closed tomorrow and Monday for the Christmas Holiday. Borough Hall will also be closed next Friday and Monday for the New Years Holiday. A reminder to all resident, the Borough's contractor for recycling will be changing to Grand Sanitation in 2023. Recycling schedules have not changed. Please be patient as the new contractor takes over, as the time of day your recycling is picked up might be earlier or later in the day. The 2023 Garbage and Recycling Schedule is in the mail and residents should be receiving it in the next few days. Additionally, the schedule is available on the borough website at [garwood.org](http://garwood.org).

**Report of Mayor Sara Todisco**

Welcome Councilwoman Herz.

I'd like to start by welcoming Councilwoman Rachel Herz to the Council. I've had the honor of working with Councilwoman Herz on the Education Foundation of Garwood for the past several years and I appreciate that she brings new ideas and a willingness to work hard to get the job done, whatever it may be. While we will have only one meeting together, I wish you all the best in 2023.

Menorah Lighting:

This past Monday night was the 5th annual Menorah Lighting. I was happy to attend to help celebrate the festival of lights here in Garwood. I want to thank the volunteers on the Garwood Celebrations Committee for putting on another fun event.

Santa Ride:

I want to thank the volunteers of the Garwood Fire Department for escorting Santa through every street in Garwood two weekends ago. This is a beloved, longtime tradition in Garwood and I'm glad it continues.

Historical Committee Interview: This past Sunday, I was interviewed by the Historical Committee in what I am calling an "exit interview" as I prepare to leave office at the end of this year. None other than Bruce Paterson was the moderator and I thank him for taking the time to put this together and ask good questions.

I'd also like to thank member Kim Ficarra for being there behind the camera. The video will be kept in the Library for the records.

#### New Police Officers:

I want to wish Police Officers Ed Mironski and Ian Rivera all the best in their future endeavors as they leave our department. I appreciate their service to Garwood over the years. It is great to see two people on tonight's Consent Agenda to be hired in our Police Department who are here tonight.

Brian Contreras is coming to us from Fairleigh Dickinson University where he has been employed as a Campus Security Officer since February of 2022. Prior to that He served as a Police Officer with the City of Irvington Police Department where he began his career in September of 2020. Officer Contreras comes from a family background in law enforcement as his father proudly served the Irvington Police Department for 25 years. Officer Contreras will begin his service with Garwood on January 3, 2023. Congratulations to Officer Contreras!

Next, I am very happy to see that Garwood is about to hire its first ever female police officer tonight. It is no secret that I have wanted to see this for some time and I know Jada Schucaï will make Garwood proud. Jada Schucaï has been a 911 Dispatcher for Garwood since June of this year and currently resides in Cranford. Prior to her service with us, she was a dispatcher with the Carteret Police Department where she began her career in April of 2021. Dispatcher Schucaï is a graduate of Middlesex Community College where she received her Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and Police Science. Dispatcher Schucaï also comes to us with a family background in law enforcement as her father is a retired Sheriff's Detective from the Passaic County Sheriff's Office. Dispatcher Schucaï is not yet a certified police officer and will be the first Officer to attend the John H. Stamler Police Academy with a Garwood PD patch since Officer Mario Morelli did so in 1990. Congratulations to Officer Schucaï.

#### Planning Board:

The Planning Board held its last meeting of the year on December 14th. The majority of the meeting was spent discussing short-term rentals. The Board unanimously supported recommending the adoption of the ordinance on tonight's agenda to prohibit short-term rentals, meaning any rental of a residential property for less than 28 consecutive days, along with the rental of swimming pools, in Garwood. This essentially codifies what has already been true as it has not been listed as a permitted use and when it comes to land use, anything not permitted is prohibited. If passed, the ordinance on the agenda tonight will make such prohibition clear. The Planning Board intends on presenting an ordinance outlining regulations, if the majority of the membership of the 2023 Board wishes to recommend it to the Council and if it does, the 2023 Council will make a decision whether to continue with prohibition or put regulations in place instead. I know this issue has been around since August when I first brought it up and whether for or against, I appreciate everyone's time in getting us to where we are tonight.

Effective December 14th, Planning Board Member Steve Napolitano resigned his position and I want to thank him for his service to the Board as a full member the past four years and for the years before that as an Alternate. I also want to recognize and thank Planning Board Member Mike Vena for serving over 20 years on the Board. He has recently made it known that he does not wish to seek re-appointment for next year. Over 20 years of volunteerism, through applications large and small, is no small feat and Mike deserves to be commended for his contribution to Garwood. The members of the Board had kind words to say about me as it was my last meeting since being appointed in 2018 by Mayor Lombardo and I truly appreciate what they had to say, but most importantly, I appreciate their service. Our Board has a great diversity of life experience and years of service to the Board as well as different political backgrounds and it has been my honor to appoint each of them to the Board over the past four years.

**Comments from the Council:**

Councilman Graham

I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy Holidays to everyone. I also want to wish everyone a Happy New Year as well.

I also want to remind everyone that these are the darkest days of the year and to please be extra cautious when driving around town and in general. Families and especially children will be moving about at night and the little ones may forget to look both ways in their excitement to see other loved ones.

Please be extra careful if you plan to travel near or far and I wish everyone the best.

Councilwoman Herz NO REPORT

Councilman Kearney

Thank you, Mayor, I just want to take a moment to wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to all!

Councilman Lazarow NO REPORT

Councilwoman Salmon NO REPORT

Council President Blumenstock NO REPORT

**MINUTES:**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on December 8, 2022.

Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on December 8, 2022.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1) NEW JERSEY STATE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES**

a) 12/09/2022, SHBP Increases Loom, Inspection Bill Advances, Federal Grant Webinars Set

<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/message/188711>

b) 12/12/2022, Unions and Local Government Management Submit Plan to Address Pending SHPB

<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/message/188888>

c) 12/16/2022, SHBP Response; Inspection & Cap Relief Bills Votes Set

<https://www.njlm.org/CivicSend/ViewMessage/Message/189120>

RECEIVED AND FILED

**ORDINANCES:**

**ADOPTION:**

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 22- 17 by title only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-17**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 106 (LAND USE), ARTICLE VIII (ZONING REGULATIONS), NEW SECTION 124.1 (SHORT TERM RENTALS) IN THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD.**

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-17-INTRO\\_Short\\_Term\\_Rentals\(1\).pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-17-INTRO_Short_Term_Rentals(1).pdf)

List correspondence concerning Ordinance No. 22-17. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance No. 22-17. NONE

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Councilman Graham, to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 22-17.

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Kearney to adopt Ordinance No. 22-17.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

|                           |            |                                      |               |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Councilman Graham</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilman Lazarow</b>            | <b>RECUSE</b> |
| <b>Councilwoman Herz</b>  | <b>NAY</b> | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>           | <b>RECUSE</b> |
| <b>Councilman Kearney</b> | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Council President Blumenstock</b> | <b>AYE</b>    |

3- AYES, 1-NAY, 2-RECUSE, Ordinance No. 22-17 was adopted.

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 22- 20 by title only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-20**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 34, ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT," ARTICLE I, "ESTABLISHMENT, ORGANIZATION, AND ADMINISTRATION."**

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-20-Amending\\_PD\\_Table\\_of\\_Organization\(1\).pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-20-Amending_PD_Table_of_Organization(1).pdf)

List correspondence concerning Ordinance No. 22-20. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance No. 22-20. NONE

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Councilman Kearney to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 22-20.

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-20.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

|                           |            |                                      |            |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Councilman Graham</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilman Lazarow</b>            | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilwoman Herz</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>           | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilman Kearney</b> | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Council President Blumenstock</b> | <b>AYE</b> |

5- AYES Ordinance No. 22-20 was adopted.

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 22-21 by title only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-21**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 34, ENTITLED "POLICE DEPARTMENT," ARTICLE V, "PRIVATE EMPLOYMENT OF POLICE OFFICERS."**

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-21-AMENDING\\_CHIEF\\_OUTSIDE\\_DUTIES.pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-21-AMENDING_CHIEF_OUTSIDE_DUTIES.pdf)

List correspondence concerning Ordinance No. 22-21. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance No. 22-21. NONE

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Councilman Kearney, to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 22-21.

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-21.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

|                           |               |                                      |            |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Councilman Graham</b>  | <b>AYE</b>    | <b>Councilman Lazarow</b>            | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilwoman Herz</b>  | <b>RECUSE</b> | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>           | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilman Kearney</b> | <b>AYE</b>    | <b>Council President Blumenstock</b> | <b>AYE</b> |

4- AYES, 1-RECUSE Ordinance No. 22-21 was adopted.

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 22-22 by title only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-22**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A RESTRICTED PARKING ZONE PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 39:4-197.6 IN FRONT OF 405 WILLOW AVENUE IN THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD.**

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-22-ESTABLISH\\_HANDICAPPED\\_PKNG.pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-22-ESTABLISH_HANDICAPPED_PKNG.pdf)

List correspondence concerning Ordinance No. 22-22. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance No. 22-22. NONE

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Council President Blumenstock, to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 22-22.

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-22.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

|                           |            |                                      |            |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Councilman Graham</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilman Lazarow</b>            | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilwoman Herz</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>           | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilman Kearney</b> | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Council President Blumenstock</b> | <b>AYE</b> |

5- AYES Ordinance No. 22-22 was adopted.

Municipal Clerk to read Ordinance No. 22-23 by title only:

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-23**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF GARWOOD BY AMENDING CHAPTER 5, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION," ARTICLE V, "BOROUGH TAX COLLECTOR, BOROUGH CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, BOROUGH TREASURER" AND ARTICLE VIIIA, "OTHER OFFICERS AND POSITIONS".**

[https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-23-REMOVING\\_JOB\\_DUTIES.pdf](https://garwoodnj.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B7F1088A0-CEC9-4505-80EE-1DF1BF7DFFBD%7D/uploads/22-23-REMOVING_JOB_DUTIES.pdf)

List correspondence concerning Ordinance No. 22-23. NONE

Does anyone present wish to be heard concerning Ordinance No. 22-23. NONE

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Lazarow to close Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 22-23.

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Kearney, to adopt Ordinance No. 22-23.

Discussion: NONE

Roll Call:

|                           |            |                                      |            |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Councilman Graham</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilman Lazarow</b>            | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilwoman Herz</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>           | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilman Kearney</b> | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Council President Blumenstock</b> | <b>AYE</b> |

5- AYES Ordinance No. 22-23 was adopted.

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

**FINANCE AND PERSONNEL: Councilman Lazarow, Chair** NO REPORT

**FIRE AND OEM: Councilman Kearney, Chair**

Thank you, Mayor. The Garwood Fire Department held their regular December meeting on Wednesday, December 7th. Elections were held, with the Chief and all current officers being re-elected. TY to the members who assisted with the annual Santa ride. Additionally, I'm happy to report that 2 recruits passed their final examinations at the Union County Fire Academy this past Saturday. Congratulations to Firefighter Jerome Palmer and Firefighter Theodore Trojan on completing your training! Stay safe, gentlemen. For my final report this year as Fire Commissioner, I want to go on record with a thank you to Chief Scalzadonna, the officers, and the firefighters of the Garwood Fire Department for the warm welcome into their meetings, and more importantly, their firehouse this year. It's been an honor to serve in this role, as well as an awesome learning experience to see the day-to-day operations of our fire department up close and personal (so long as it's not raining). That's all for my report!

**FACILITIES, GROUNDS AND SHADE TREES: Councilwoman Herz** NO REPORT

**STREETS, ECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY: Council President Blumenstock, Chair** NO REPORT

**POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Graham, Chair**

Since the last meeting of Mayor and Council on December 8, 2022 the Garwood Police Department has recorded the following activity: Initiated 27 motor vehicle stops; Conducted 61 building/property checks; Assigned to 8 fixed traffic posts (Radar, Stop Sign, Distracted Driving); Responded to 11 calls for medical assist; Responded to 6 business/residential alarms; Responded to 17 false 911/fire/co alarms; Conducted 2 welfare checks; Assisted 4 Disabled vehicles; Initiated 8 community policing posts.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: RECREATION, HISTORICAL AND CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEES:**  
**Councilwoman Salmon, Chair** NO REPORT

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Councilman Kearney** NO REPORT

**LIBRARY, MAYOR'S REPRESENTATIVE: Councilman Lazarow** NO REPORT

**SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON: Councilman Kearney**

The Garwood Board of Education met on Tuesday, December 13th for their final regular meeting of 2022. The meeting began with a presentation from Mrs. Emmons to students for the Honor Society. There was commentary during subcommittee reports regarding various issues recruiting and retaining substitute teachers, which was reported to be a growing problem all across New Jersey. The Board took later action on their agenda to raise the substitute rate to \$120.00 per day for the remainder of the 2022/2023 school year in an effort to assist with this issue. The new Superintendent of Schools / Director of Special Services. Mr. Kinney, who will begin his new position on January 2, 2023, was appointed by the Board to a non-compensated Educational Consultant position beginning on December 15, 2022 to assist with the transition process. The Board accepted the final 2022 PILOT payment from the Borough. The Board also accepted the resignation of School Business Administrator Marci Krasny effective February 13th, 2022.

The Board also acknowledged that the ALJ Teacher of the Year is none other than Garwood's own Anthony DelConte, so congratulations to him!

Finally, with this being the final meeting for three members of the Board, I'd like to thank departing Trustees Vincent Bastiano, Tim Ryan and Adrienne Savard for their dedicated service over the last three years and wish them all the best going forward.

**GARWOOD SENIOR CITIZEN LIAISON: Council President Blumenstock**

Classic movies at the Library are January 6 and January 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. Come enjoy some coffee, tea and light snacks while watching a feel good movie. Senior Club meetings begin again in January, with our first one on January 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm at the Knights of Columbus.

**SMALL BUSINESS ADVISORY LIAISON: Councilman Kearney** NO REPORT

**BOARD OF HEALTH LIAISON: Councilman Graham**

The Garwood Board of Health meeting was held last night, Wednesday December 21<sup>st</sup>. Agent's activity reports were given. It was reported this has been the worse early flu season since records have been kept. 2023 Budget was discussed and agreed upon. There was discussion concerning amending the Board of Health licensing fees to include an Annual Temporary Permit. This is a permit issued to someone selling food products at multiple events held in Garwood throughout the year. All agreed to amend the fee ordinance. The health department continues to provide vaccinations. Residents can also book appointments online by visiting [westfieldnj.gov/vaccine-appointments](http://westfieldnj.gov/vaccine-appointments) or by calling 908-789-4070. Walk in flu vaccines continue to be offered as well. That's all for my report Mayor.

**PLANNING BOARD LIAISON: Councilwoman Salmon** NO REPORT

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

Chief of Police Monthly Reports for October and November, 2022.

A motion was made by Councilman Graham, second by Council President 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.

Ann Taratino, Chair of the Garwood Democratic Committee, honored Mayor Todisco.

John Pritchard, 410 Spruce Street, sang a song regarding veterans.

Tom Jardim commended Mayor Todisco for her dedication and years of service on the Borough Council.

Stephanie Bianco, 540 Fourth Avenue, thanked Mayor Todisco for years of service on the Borough Council and the Borough Planning Board.

Mayor Todisco's family members, Jeremy Carper and Mrs. Therese Todisco honored Mayor Todisco.

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

**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. 22-185**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Administrator and the Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector of the Borough of Garwood have determined that due to the reorganization of the position functions of the Accounting/Payroll Clerk that the salary of said position as originally set do not reflect the new responsibilities as listed below and should be adjusted; and

**WHEREAS**, the Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector hereby recommend that the new responsibilities for the position of Accounting Payroll Clerk/ are hereby adjusted to reflect the salary as set forth below for the following employee of the Borough of Garwood and in the amount set forth opposite the job classification.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the council of the Borough of Garwood hereby acknowledge and accept the recommendation of the Borough Administrator/Clerk and Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector and adjust the new responsibilities and salary of said position for employee AR in accordance with the recommendation.

| <u>TITLE</u>             | <u>NEW RESPONSIBILITIES</u>   | <u>NAME</u> | <u>SALARY</u> | <u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u> |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Accounting/Payroll Clerk | Under direction, coordinate and administer an employee benefits program   | Amy Rivera  | \$58,000      | January 1, 2023       |
|                          | Assist with new hire enrollments in various pension and health plans      |             |               |                       |
|                          | Ensure compliance with the Affordable Care Act and Earned Sick Leave Law  |             |               |                       |
|                          | Oversee Payroll Time and Labor Management and corresponding recordkeeping |             |               |                       |

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-186**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey hereby authorizes the removal of the following handicapped parking spaces as per Borough Chief of Police recommendation:

- 116 Anchor Place
- 204 Cedar Street
- 224 Walnut Street
- 250 Willow Avenue
- 345 Willow Avenue
- 346 Willow Avenue
- 347 Willow Avenue
- 522 Willow Avenue
- 630 Willow Avenue

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-187**

**WHEREAS**, on December 13, 2022 the Borough Administrator received correspondence dated December 12, 2022 from Rachel Herz advising that she is resigning from her position on the Garwood Board of Health effective immediately.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-188**

**WHEREAS**, on December 15, 2022 the Borough Administrator received correspondence dated December 15, 2022 advising that Edward Mironski is resigning from his position as Police Officer effective January 1, 2023.



**RESOLUTION NO. 22-189**

**WHEREAS**, on December 15, 2022 the Borough Administrator received correspondence dated December 15, 2022 advising that Ian Rivera is resigning from his position as Police Officer effective January 3, 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-190**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby appoints Brian Contreras as a Probationary Patrolman in the Garwood Police Department, effective January 2, 2023 at an annual salary of \$44,991 in accordance with P.B.A. Contract 2018-2022.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that he will be on probation for a period of one year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-191**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby appoints Jada Shucaia as a Probationary Patrolwoman in the Garwood Police Department, effective March 1, 2023 at an annual salary of \$44,991 in accordance with P.B.A. Contract 2018-2022.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that she will be on probation for a period of one year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-192**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, hereby hires Frank Anthony Pizzi as a Seasonal Laborer in the Department of Public Works, effective January 3, 2023 at a salary of \$18.00 per hour.

**2022 Budget Transfer #2**

**Resolution #22-193**

| <b>FROM:</b> | <b>Department</b> | <b>Account Name</b> | <b>Account Number</b> | <b>Amount</b>   |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
|              | Streets & Roads   | S&W                 | 2-01-26-290-100-0100  | 2,500.00        |
|              | Group Insurance   | Employer Active     | 2-01-23-220-200-1000  | 2,500.00        |
|              |                   |                     |                       |                 |
|              |                   |                     |                       |                 |
|              |                   |                     |                       |                 |
|              |                   |                     |                       |                 |
|              |                   |                     |                       | <u>5,000.00</u> |

| <b>TO:</b> | <b>Department</b>   | <b>Account Name</b>  | <b>Account Number</b> | <b>Amount</b>   |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
|            | Buildings & Grounds | Contractual Services | 2-01-26-310-200-0320  | 2,500.00        |
|            | Gasoline & Oil      | Fuel                 | 2-01-31-446-200-0460  | 2,500.00        |
|            |                     |                      |                       |                 |
|            |                     |                      |                       |                 |
|            |                     |                      |                       |                 |
|            |                     |                      | Total                 | <u>5,000.00</u> |

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-194**

**WHEREAS**, on December 14, 2022 the Borough Administrator received correspondence dated December 14, 2022 advising that Steve Napolitano is resigning from his position as Class IV Planning Board member effective December 14, 2022.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-195**

**WHEREAS**, on December 19, 2022 the Borough Administrator received correspondence dated December 19, 2022 advising that Zeenab B. Tareen is resigning from her position as Civilian Police Dispatcher member effective January 3, 2023.

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-196**

**WHEREAS**, the Borough of Garwood, Department of the Police is in need of a Civilian Police Dispatcher as defined in Chapter 34. Police Department, Article VI, Section 37-40 of the Code of the Borough of Garwood; and

**WHEREAS**, the Civilian Police Dispatcher shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council under the direction of James H. Wright, Chief of Police in the Department of the Police.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood hereby hires Elizabeth Tresca as a Civilian Police Dispatcher.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Borough of Garwood that Elizabeth Tresca, shall be compensated \$34,000 per year as a Civilian Police Dispatcher, Probationary Class, effective January 3, 2023.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that her employment is subject to the terms and conditions of employment in the Borough of Garwood, including one-year probation commencing January 3, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilman Lazarow, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adopt Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

|                           |            |                                      |            |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Councilman Graham</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilman Lazarow</b>            | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilwoman Herz</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>           | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilman Kearney</b> | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Council President Blumenstock</b> | <b>AYE</b> |

**RESOLUTIONS DELETED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council President Blumenstock requested Mr. Harris to present Mayor Todisco with the Resolution from Senator Bramnick's office honoring Mayor Todisco.

Council President Blumenstock stated the following:

I want to take a minute to talk about Sara, first as the Mayor that all of you know her as. Obviously she has accomplished a lot at a young age. And she did it all first and foremost for Garwood. Her love of Garwood was apparent the moment I met her, and everything she has done as both Councilwoman and Mayor has been because of that love of her hometown. And yes, she got roads paved, she kept our budgets low, she did redevelopment negotiations. But I think what she did best, especially as Mayor, was bring people together. She truly listened to all sides and went out of her way to make sure everyone felt heard. She was a true mentor to me. I always joked about how much younger than me she was, yet here she was mentoring me and showing me the ropes. But she did, and she did that with everyone that with every Councilperson that came along. She has given me big shoes to fill, and though I will never be able to have the memory for numbers that she has had (I mean who can remember the exact dollar amount received in sewer flow rights from 5 years ago – she can), so I will never be able to pull those numbers out of my hat like you can, but when I'm sworn in next week, I will do my best to honor the lessons you taught me.

Now for the other Sara I know, the personal side, where she is my close friend, and like a little sister. I was a bridesmaid at your wedding, and my kids call you Aunt. We instantly became fast friends when we met, and having you at my side during the last years as a friend on top of being a colleague, was just the cherry on top. I am beyond happy for you as you move into this next chapter. You have a big heart that we will all miss here, but I can't wait to see you open that big heart for your new family. And I can't wait to babysit! I know there will be great things ahead.

Council members commended Mayor Todisco for her dedication and years of working together on the Borough Council.

Mayor Todisco stated the following:

Well, the time has come. I know some may think I've been counting down to my last day in office for some time now, but that is actually not the case. I've tried to be the least lame duck Mayor possible and hope you have witnessed that to be true. That is because I've really enjoyed the job of Mayor these past four years

and the job of Councilwoman for seven years before that. It's not always easy, but most things worth doing are not.

The honor of being elected to office has never been lost on me. It's a special position to be in. I enjoyed the troubleshooting and the decision making. I enjoyed working with other people, whether fellow elected officials, department heads, or professionals. I enjoyed seeing decisions made in this room become reality throughout our town. It often did not take place quickly, but it was very rewarding to see both of our parks get upgrades, redevelopment revitalizing our main streets, streets being paved, new curbs being installed, new equipment for our departments being put to good use to make Garwood a safer place and a place with a higher quality of life, and so much more. I especially enjoyed being in a position to honor other people in Garwood who have made a positive difference in our community. I will always hold all the times I was able to express gratitude to individuals and to the groups of people who do so much for Garwood.

I want to thank all of the volunteers that I have had the honor to appoint to our various Boards and Committees as well as the volunteers on the Garwood Fire Department and First Aid Squad. I've always said that volunteers are at the heart of our small town with a big heart and it's really true. I will always cherish the many memories I've made here in Garwood, from the tree lightings to Garwood Rocks to visiting residents and businesses and everything in between.

It has also been such a pleasure and honor working with other elected officials in Garwood. I remember feeling a bit awestruck when I first met Mayor McCarthy in 2010. His last address as Mayor left a mark on me. I recently reread it in old minute books and I can't say my speech tonight will be as concise, but I hope it will be as moving. I appreciated the advice he gave me when I was first sworn into office in May of 2011. He reminded me to breathe. It's simple, but needed when your nerves get going. After all, no one wants to botch the oath of office. I am proud to have served alongside dozens of Councilmembers and for two Mayors, Mayor Quattrocchi and Mayor Lombardo. I learned from both of them. I appreciated the committee assignments each of them gave me and I especially appreciate the leadership opportunities given to me by Mayor Lombardo. Each of us have had our different styles and I think that is good.

I know Jen Blumenstock will have her own style, too. From working with her these past six years, I know she will give her full devotion to Garwood and will work tirelessly to improve our town and leave it better than when she found it as I hope I have done.

Jen - I am grateful that Garwood politics brought us together. You know you are like a sister to me. I am so happy you will become Aunt Mayor Jen soon, too. You have always had my back and I have yours. I wish you nothing but success as you step into the role of Mayor. I'll always be here, rooting for you and for Garwood.

I remember first getting involved with local politics just a few months after coming back home from college in 2010 when I made a phone call to the only member of the Democratic Party I knew, which was Kathy Villaggio, like it was yesterday. I came to one or two Council meetings at the end of 2010 and I was really struck by what happens here in this room and how just seven people are elected to make decisions that affect our whole town and often with lasting impact.

I feel like I was able to be involved here in Garwood at the right time, especially as Mayor and I hope you would agree with me. Some have heard me say this before, that I had one foot in the past and one foot in the present and I believe Garwood needed this as we were at a time of transition. A lot has changed in town

and with how our government works from when I first joined in 2011 to today. My one foot in the past was the deep roots I am proud to have in this town and the connections I have with some of our residents who have known me since I was born. Another foot, which I think was mostly due to my age, had me with one foot in the future, hoping for Garwood to become an even better place to live at whichever stage or stages you found yourself here. I hope I represented you well, whether a longtime Garwood resident or a newcomer.

I apologize for not being able to name all the individuals who have made an impact on me and share all the key memories I have made, but maybe it's a good thing, too, so that I don't keep you here all night. But I do want to thank our Borough Administrator Harris and past Borough Administrator/Clerk Ms. Ariemma, Police Chief Wright, DPW Superintendent Dickson, all the past Fire Chiefs, especially Chief Tweedle and our current Chief Scalzadonna, our Planning Board Secretary Adele Lewis, all my past Borough Attorneys (and current Mr. Abramson), and our Borough Engineer Mike Disko. I'd also like to thank all of the elected officials I have served with over the past 12 years and the Garwood Democratic Party and its Chair Ann Tarantino who holds a special place in my heart for sticking up for me since my very start before she even knew me. I want to thank all of my friends. As one of my maids of honor said at my wedding, to be my friend meant campaigning with me if you wanted to spend time with me. Also, all of my coworkers who are also my friends and who always gave me an ear when I came into work fired up about something going on in town.

Next, I want to thank my family for always being there for me. My mom, dad, and brother, Brandon, who are tuned in from Florida. My Uncle John. The family I married into who is watching from their homes in Florida as well. I appreciate the instant love you showed me since the first FaceTime in 2020. And of course, my husband, Jeremy who is beyond supportive, patient, and understanding. You'll always be my first man.

As I mentioned earlier tonight, I had what I like to call an "exit interview" with the Garwood Historical Committee, that I am proud to have helped revive a little less than ten years ago as its first ever Council liaison. The interviewer was none other than Bruce Paterson and he asked good questions and I really enjoyed our hour long talk. One question he asked me was how I was able to get involved at such a young age (most 22 year olds were not running for their town Councils) and my answer was twofold. One was my love of this town and what it meant to me as instilled in me by my family, especially my grandfather who was very proud to be from Garwood and to have a business here like his father before him. Recently, I was given an article about him making wine in the basement of his family's building on North Avenue that had been owned by his grandparents since 1903 (the same year Garwood was founded). He used to show me a house in Westfield and chuckle about how he almost bought it, but he was so happy he bought a house on Hickory Avenue instead. But the other part of my answer was that I had the gumption to think I could actually be helpful in running a town and to represent all the people in that town at such a young age because I was raised by a strong, independent woman who raised me as a single mom from when I was about 5 years old to 10 years old. She made me believe in myself and be a strong woman just like her. I can only hope and try my best to do the same with my daughter who is set to arrive in April.

Years ago, I thought I could do this for decades and maybe a small part of me believes this still to be true today, but some things are not about how long you can keep doing what you've been doing, but instead, they are about being in the right place at the right time. I got involved twelve years ago for the same reason I am leaving elected office - for love of family.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

**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 Lazarow, second by Council President Blumenstock, to adopt Payment of Claims Resolution.

Roll Call:

|                           |            |                                      |            |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Councilman Graham</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilman Lazarow</b>            | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilwoman Herz</b>  | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Councilwoman Salmon</b>           | <b>AYE</b> |
| <b>Councilman Kearney</b> | <b>AYE</b> | <b>Council President Blumenstock</b> | <b>AYE</b> |

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2023**, in Council Chambers at **6:00 P.M.**

Information for meetings is posted on the Borough website: [https://garwood.org/gb\\_notices](https://garwood.org/gb_notices)

A motion was made by Council President Blumenstock, second by Councilman Lazarow, to adjourn.  
Time: 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Catherine D. Cameron, R.M.C.  
Borough Clerk