

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

December 26, 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>Excused</b>
<b>Councilman Graham</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Council President Lazarow</b>	<b>Excused</b>

Also present Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Christina M. Ariemma and Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim, Esq.

Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim – NO REPORT

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – NO REPORT

Mayor Todisco's Report:

**Energy Savings** - As we all know, we are always looking for creative ways to save taxpayer dollars without negatively impacting services. The purchase of energy is one of those things we must do to power our municipal buildings and for years, we've just accepted the cost. However, other towns are saving money in this area and we can, too. A company named EP&G came recommended to me by Fanwood and I asked them to take a look at our expenses.

Garwood has 22 meters, which range in prices of 10 to 20 cents per kWh. We use about 500,000 kWh per year in our Borough. EP&G sources the Borough energy to wholesale energy suppliers to get better prices and basically manages price budget certainty/risk. EP&G estimates they can save Garwood about 11% or \$4800 per year, if we sign a 3-year agreement. There is no cost to Garwood for signing on to EP&G. Besides Fanwood, they are being used in other towns in our area, such as Borough of Rahway. Additionally, EP&G can set a minimum percentage of our energy to be green, which is good for the environment and our sustainable certification with Sustainable Jersey. They would recommend a minimum of 25% as they have done in other towns and I think this would be very positive. EP&G will also provide free energy consultation on energy efficiency/sustainability projects as a part of the program for Garwood.

If the Council agrees, I would like to ask Ms. Ariemma to include a resolution of agreement at our first regular meeting of 2020 on January 9th.

**Holiday Season** - This has been such a beautiful holiday season here in Garwood. I want to again thank our volunteers on the Celebrations Committee for their time and energy presenting fantastic, heartwarming events this season. In addition to the best-ever Christmas Tree Lighting, Celebrations introduced the first-ever Brunch with Santa and Letters to Santa. They also continued the Holiday House Decorating Contest and luminaries sales. Also, they added even more to the Menorah Lighting this year as they had a magician and more giveaways to mark the second annual Menorah Lighting. The community came out in full force to each of these events and I'm proud to see how we came together to enjoy this season together. I hope everyone has a happy and safe New Year's Eve.

**Garwood in the News** - Yesterday, Garwood made the front page of the Star Ledger for something very special. The article titled, "When her cancer returned, seemingly the entire town showed up on her doorstep," covered a special moment I was honored to take part in this past Sunday. As you might know by now, one of the members of our Garwood family, Cindy Krauss, received the news of cancer's return this past May after surviving her battle with cancer 20 years ago. Cindy is a strong woman with a very supportive family and she is finishing up radiation treatment now.

The Mama Mare Breast Cancer Foundation reached out to our Police Chief to see about getting the Police and Fire Departments on board with their surprise this Sunday to Cindy's home where they would bring Santa to join the carolers on her doorstep to read an adaption of the famous poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas," and give Cindy and her family a trip to anywhere in the world. Knowing we live up to our motto of a "small town with a big heart," I joined our Police Chief Jim Wright, his family, two officers, two police cars, the Humvee, our Fire Chief Allan Tweedle, his family (including his daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons from North Carolina), a bunch of firefighters, and our three firetrucks to surprise Cindy.

I know this is deeply personal news for Cindy and for anyone who has or has had cancer, but I thank her for allowing it to be so public so our community could show our support for her and for anyone else faced with battles like this. I know Garwood is praying and thinking about Cindy and her family and all those who are facing similar battles--you are not alone. Anything our town can do to be of support, I promise you, we are here for you.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

**Councilman Benoit** commented on the Menorah lighting saying it was a success. He thanked Monika Shvetz.

**Councilwoman Blumenstock** thanked Monika Shvetz.

**Councilman Graham:** ABSENT

**Councilman Ince:** NO REPORT

**Councilman McCormack:** ABSENT

**Council President Lazarow:** ABSENT

Board of Chosen Freeholders Liaison Report: NONE

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.

John Bartolick, 231 Hemlock Avenue commented on Ordinance 19-22. He expressed his opinion on public assembly. He commented on specific sections of the ordinance. He provided examples of other ordinances.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on energy savings and what 25% savings on energy means. He commented on the public assembly ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Benoit to close public comment. All in favor.

Mayor Todisco explained how the energy is 25% green energy.

Councilman Benoit commented on the ordinance and said he doesn't agree on the comments made by the public. He provided examples.

Borough Attorney, Mr. Jardim commented on the matter in depth. He expressed his support for the ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:37 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Ince to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



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