

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
October 13, 2016
8:00 p.m.

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for October 13, 2016 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Keith Kazmark at 8:05 p.m. The Statement of compliance was read.

Council Members Colletti, Chirido, Caramagna, Dombrowski, Giandomenico and Vuoncino were present. Also present were Municipal Clerk Keith Kazmark, Borough Attorney Brian Giblin and Borough Engineer Nordan Murphy. Mayor Mola was absent due to illness.

Whereas, Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of the State of New Jersey requires at the commencement of every meeting a Statement of Compliance be read by the presiding officer.

Now, therefore be advised, that the meeting requirements for this meeting have been met by the publishing an annual notice in The Record and Herald News of Woodland Park and by posting such notice in the office of the Borough Clerk as well as in a public place within the Municipal Building and by notifying interested citizens. Said notice was posted on January 1, 2016.

Public Hearing:

Jeff Frietag, Hillman Drive, discussed the number of political signs used during election season.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

1 – ENGINEERING REPORT:

- a. **Monthly Status Report** – Mr. Murphy requested a copy of the previous bid specs for Emergency regarding water and sewer breaks. Market Street Force Main Improvements corrective work has been completed. Mr. Murphy stated that the improvements to Pump Station #6 is approximately running a week behind but will not affect the projected date of completion. He then stated that the corrective work for the 2015 Road Program has been completed. All corrective work with the Boulevard Improvements and application for final payment has been received; however the project is one of the TTF projects that funding has been suspended. Mr. Murphy discussed items that need to be considered when installing basketball hoops in the hockey rink. Council President Vuoncino discussed the Borough applying for an Open Space grant to install a hockey rink and the change of plans to include basketball at the location. He stated the Council should move forward with the Hockey rink without the basketball. After some discussion five members of Council agreed to move forward with a hockey rink only with one council member against. A notice to proceed was issued for the Improvements to Summit Avenue, North Street, Franklin Street and Gall Avenue. The date of completion is expected to be around December 9, 2016. Mr. Murphy discussed the Market Street Streetscape Improvement project was audited by the FHWA on October 4, 2016. He stated a preconstruction meeting was held regarding the 2016 Road Program. It is anticipated the project will be completed by October 24, 2016 weather permitting. Mr. Murphy stated the inspection regarding the Market Street Bridge Pipe Hanger project is scheduled to be completed on October 14, 2016 weather permitting.
- b. **Current Engineer's Estimate #1 – Improvements to Pump Station #6** – A resolution will be placed on the October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting agenda.
- c. **Transportation Alternatives Program – Market Street Streetscape Phase 3** – An endorsing resolution will be placed on the October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting agenda.

2 – Memo from Boswell Engineering regarding Engineer's Estimate #3 regarding ADA Ramps on County Roads – A resolution will be placed on the October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting agenda.

3 – COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS:

- a. **Blue Line Supporting Our Local Police**– Council President Vuoncino discussed the growing trend of painting a blue line in municipalities to show support for the men and women of the Police Department. He asked that Chief Foligno attend this work session to be a part of the discussion with the Council. Chief Foligno stated he feels supported by the Mayor and Council and that the blue line is a nice gesture and welcomes it.

Discussion ensued as to the placement of the line on Market Street. The blue line will run from Mulberry Street to Church Street.

- b. **Recycling Receptacles** – Mr. Kazmark discussed the receipt of bids and recommended a representative come to a future work session for discussion. Mr. Kazmark will forward to the Councilmembers a scanned copy of the bid to review prior to the next discussion.
- c. **Recreation Commission** – Councilman Colletti discussed his opposition to changing the Commission to an Advisory Board. He stated that after seeing the process first hand as the Recreation Liaison, he feels that either the Commission or the Advisory Board is acceptable. Councilman Dombrowski discussed the issue that drove the desire to change from the Commission to the Advisory Board was the spending. Council President Vuoncino stated the Council is spending a lot of time discussing items that the Recreation Board should be working out. He further stated that he is not suggesting reverting back to a Commission but to make adjustments to the ordinance. Discussion ensued as to the trustees. Mr. Kazmark stated that under a Commission the appointment of trustees falls solely on the Mayor without the consent of the Council. Mr. Kazmark will distribute the State Statute that governs a Recreation Commission. Further discussion will be taken up at a future meeting.

4 – Letter from Kaufman, Semeraro & Leibman, LLP regarding a Zoning Overlay for Block 902, Lots 2 & 10 – Mr. Giblin stated the Borough Planner should review the request as he has some concerns with the request. The request will be forwarded to Michael Kauker so that he can review the request and report back to the Council.

5 – 2017 Best Practices Checklist – Mr. Kazmark and CFO Roy Riggitano reviewed the 2017 Best Practices Checklist with the Council.

6 – Proposed Street Sweeping Pilot Program – Councilman Chirido stated the pilot is a work in progress. The Council reviewed maps that represent the current and proposed street sweeping schedule. Councilman Dombrowski discussed the issue of garbage or recycling containers being left in the roadway and the inability to sweep along the curb line with the street sweeper. Discussion ensued as to the budgeting aspect of the program. Utilizing Nixle for notification to the residents was discussed. Discussion then ensued as to streets which only allow parking on one side of the street along with other parking issues. Further discussion was held over to the next work session.

7 – Borough Owned Vehicle Use Policy – Mr. Kazmark discussed his review of accidents involving Borough owned vehicles which totaled 15 incidents. He then discussed prior discussions by the Council to consider having the employee responsible for the deductible if the police investigation show the employee is at fault for the accident. Mr. Kazmark stated that Chief Foligno has put in place a policy regarding damage to Borough vehicles. Chief Foligno discussed the policy how it is broken down between preventative and non-preventative accidents. He stated if an accident is deemed preventable, the Police Officer is charged for 2 vacation days. Mr. Kazmark suggested making the policy Borough with the exclusion of the volunteers such as the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps. A draft of the new policy will be presented to the Council at the next work session.

8 – Noise Restriction Ordinance and Follow-up to Joint Administrative Meeting with Paterson – Mr. Kazmark discussed a joint meeting with Paterson to work on strategies to address the noise issues stemming from Paterson's Eastside Park. Discussion ensued regarding making adjustments to the Borough's Noise Ordinance expanding the Borough's ability to act upon the noise complaints. Chief Foligno stated the Paterson Police would forward to the Elmwood Park Police Department information regarding the identity of individuals that are violating the Borough's noise restriction ordinance. Mr. Giblin discussed some issues that might arise when a summons is challenged in court. Mr. Giblin suggested making a court appearance required. Chief Foligno suggested reaching out to Judge Gallina for recommendations.

9 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Petition to Install Anti-Suicide Fencing along walkways of George Washington Bridge** – A resolution will be placed on the October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting agenda.
- b. **Request to release Road Opening Performance Bonds**
 - 1. **Permit # 166-16 - 1 Maplewood Avenue** – A resolution will be placed on the October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting agenda.

2. **Permit # 15-161 – 161-17th Avenue** – A resolution will be placed on the October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting agenda.

10 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- a. **Building Department – September 2016** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Police Department – September 2016** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Municipal Court Report – September 2016** – Accepted without discussion.
- d. **Recreation Department Report – September 2016** – Accepted without discussion.
- e. **Building Department Property Maintenance Violations Report – August & September 2016** – Accepted without discussion.

11 – ORDINANCES:

- a. **Fire Department Stipend Program** – Council President Vuoncino discussed the updated draft of the ordinance and the metrics that were submitted by Chief Pressler. He stated a 5% increase from the prior year to measure the success of the stipend program was agreed upon with the Fire Department. The Council and Fire Department reviewed the ordinance. Items addressed were the suspension of the LOSAP program, 16 year old Firemen, verbiage of calls versus credits, Borough employees earning credits while on the job and benchmark for determining an extended fire call and credits earned for those calls. Councilman Dombrowski asked the Fire Department to submit a monthly report similar to the Police Department. Council President Vuoncino discussed the 25% response for 2015 and suggested a 30% increase for 2017. Discussion ensued as to when the Council would review the data to determine the success of the program. Council President Vuoncino recommended evaluating the program after 18 months with the 30% increase being the target to achieve. Mr. Kazmark inquired about how the stipend program and standby pay would interact with each other. Mr. Giblin stated being paid by the standby ordinance and getting credit for the stipend program can be considered double dipping. If during an emergency standby situation a fire call was to come in, the Fire Department would need to choose between the two ordinances and which one would be utilized. Discussion ensued as the length of the program before the review process. The Council will review the program 18 months after the implementation. The ordinance will be introduced at the October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting.

12 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Chirido stated there is progress regarding the street sweeper pilot program.

Councilwoman Giandomenico announced the rescheduling of the Board of Education meeting.

Councilman Dombrowski announced the grand opening of two new businesses in town. He then discussed a conversation with a resident regarding handicap parking spaces. He asked that the Council visit the possibility of implementing handicap parking spaces that are for a specific handicap parking permit. Mr. Kazmark will forward to the Council a copy of Woodland Park's handicap parking ordinance.

Council President Vuoncino announced the date and times for the Elmwood Park Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Haunted House event. He discussed the proposed joint meeting with the Library Board and asked if the meeting can be postponed due to the Mayor Mola's illness. The Council agreed.

Councilman Caramagna reported progress.

Councilman Colletti reported progress.

13 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Personnel – Police Department**
- b. **Litigation – COAH**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

Personnel – Police Department
Litigation – COAH

Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the public be excluded from this meeting.

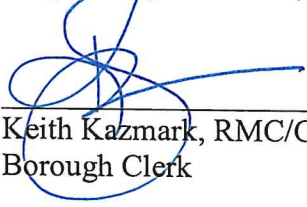
A motion was made by Councilman Chirido and seconded by Councilwoman Giandomenico to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel – Police Department
Litigation – COAH

A motion was made by Councilman Colletti and seconded by Councilman Chirido to return to the public session. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilman Colletti and seconded by Councilman Chirido to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith Kazmark, RMC/CMC/MMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the January 5, 2017 Re-Organization Meeting of the Mayor and Council.