

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK  
WORK MEETING  
February 7, 2019  
7:00PM**

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for February 7, 2019 was called to order by Acting Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:10PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Balistreri, Dombrowski, Ingui, Pellegrine, Wechtler, and Council President Golabek were present. Also present were Mayor Francesco A. Caramagna, Acting Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney, Borough Administrator Michael Foligno, and Borough Attorney Salvatore A. Ingraffia.

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 publishing a special meeting notice in The Record and Herald News 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 7, 2019.

**Work Meeting Agenda Items:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

James Golembiski, Falmouth Avenue, raised concerns about the reorganization of the Board of Adjustment as members were not in attendance and there were no voluntary appointments to Chair and Vice-Chair. Borough Attorney Salvatore A. Ingraffia will be connecting with Board of Adjustment Attorney DeMaria to rectify any and all situations.

Dominic Scalcione, E. 54<sup>th</sup> Street, recommended that the Borough download and archive footage of the Marcal Fire that can be found on YouTube.

**1 – DPW REPORT:**

**a. DPW Requests** – DPW Superintendent Scott Karcz shared a proposal that included purchasing equipment so that the Borough could be responsible for its own line painting and street signs. The proposal also included hiring one full-time employee to be responsible for the program. All Councilmembers were in favor of doing so.

**b. Water quality with Engineer** – Scott Karcz, along with Robert DeBlock informed the council of upcoming changes that will need to be made regarding new state statutes that coincide with the Water Quality Accountability Act in addition to an Asset Management Plan that will need to be laid out in tandem with the Borough Engineer.

## **2 – ENGINEERING REPORT:**

- a. **Monthly Status Report** – Ms. Delaney introduced John Clemente to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Clemente reviewed the monthly status report.
- b. **Veterans Memorial Park** – Mr. Foligno and Ms. Delaney met with members at the Veterans Memorial to discuss plans for the Memorial Day unveiling of the project. The engineer was relayed the request and will begin working on site plans.
- c. **Mola Boulevard** – Due to concerns raised at a previous meeting, \$30,000 was held from the contractor due to inadequate aesthetics.

## **3 – TOPOLOGY REPORT:**

Topology, a planner retained in 2018, gave an updated presentation on their revitalization project focused on the areas of Broadway and Market Street.

## **4 – CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. **61 Fencsak** – Borough Attorney Salvatore Ingraffia will draft a hold harmless agreement.
- b. **Tina Novellino** – Hold harmless agreement has been signed. Borough Attorney Salvatore Ingraffia informed the governing body that, being this will affect the deed, Ms. Novellino needs to file said agreement with the County and pay the recording fee.
- c. **Millennium Strategies report** – Councilman Dombrowski inquired about the notification process of grants. After said discussion the report was accepted.
- d. **Veterans accommodation** – Mr. Brunda will be honored at the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Regular Mayor and Council Meeting.

## **5 – RESOLUTIONS:**

- a. **Suez Lead Water Replacement** – The Mayor and Council decided against proposing such a resolution as Suez does not conduct business in the Borough.
- b. **Vacation Buyback – Carrie Paretto** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- c. **Sick Buyback – Franke Thorpe** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **Sick Buyback – Mike Foligno** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **Third party tax title lien** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Dog license refund** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- g. **South Bergen JIF Fund Commissioner** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

## **6 – ORDINANCES:**

- a. **Re-introductions and Second Readings** – It was discussed that the only ordinances on the agenda for the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council will be re-introductions and second readings.

## **7 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

- a. **Fire Department** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Municipal Court** – Accepted without discussion.

## **8 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Balistrieri shared details about a recent meeting with Donna Puglisi, Recreation Director, in regards to Borough Parks and upcoming grant applications. Council President Golabek also added to this discussion having being present at said meeting. Additionally, Councilwoman Balistrieri noted that the Stigma Free sign unveiling took place on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The committee was fortunate enough to be joined by our county partners, including County Executive Jim Tedesco. She thanked the DPW for assisting with the project and making the signs.

Councilwoman Pellegrine congratulated Councilwoman Balistrieri on the Stigma Free sign unveiling. She then announced that the next Board of Health meeting will take place on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 7PM and gave details on the upcoming Council Corner and Tax Preparation Course.

Councilman Dombrowski spoke about the recent Marcal fire and thanked all of the departments and individuals that were instrumental during and after the emergency fire. He asked that the Mayor and Council look into and consider taking out an ad in the Bergen Record and/or Star Ledger to formally thank all of those involved. Lastly, Councilman Dombrowski inquired about the clock-in protocol for Borough employees.

Council President Golabek also commended those involved in the emergency Marcal fire. He shared that he is very pleased with Topology's efforts and ended by notifying the Mayor and Council that a planning board application will be coming back to the board after adjustments are made.

Councilwoman Wechtler shared that there was a Homeowners Association meeting held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 with the next meeting to take place on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. She also raised concerns about the closing down of the Library for renovations.

Councilwoman Ingui announced that the next Ambulance Corps. meeting will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. They are currently looking to plan a meet and greet to recruit more volunteers. In regards to the Marcal fire, there was an Ambulance Corps. representative there every day. Lastly, she mentioned that she will be asking the Chief for monthly reports of calls that were answered versus calls that were received.

Mayor Caramagna complimented the Council for working together and getting so much accomplished on behalf of the Borough. He then thanked those establishments that assisted the Borough during the Marcal fire by making donations, such as coffee and food, to those first responders on site. The Mayor concluded his report by expressing his wish to brighten up the Borough and suggested considering an aesthetically pleasant divider through the center of Market Street.

## **9 – 2<sup>nd</sup> PUBLIC HEARING:**

Dominic Scalcione, E. 54<sup>th</sup> Street, again recommended that the Borough download and archive footage of the Marcal Fire that can be found on YouTube. Additionally, he inquired about the new striping machine to be purchased for the DPW.

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, inquired about the following: the Gilbert Avenue and Mola Boulevard project, parking on E 55<sup>th</sup> and available spaces for the Park and Ride, Topology's

awareness of our zoning laws, and the functioning of the Borough Clock. Lastly, he provided insight to the concerns raised in regards to the Library renovations.

Christine Grezlak, Linwood Avenue, raised concerns about the dumpsters located at Glenwood Plaza.

**10 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. Personnel – Mayor’s Office
- b. Personnel – Building Department
- c. Personnel – IT & Cyber update
- d. Personnel – Police Towing
- e. Personnel – Police Department

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 – Mayor’s Office**
- Personnel – Building Department**
- Personnel – IT & Cyber update**
- Personnel – Police Towing**
- Personnel – Police Department**

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 Councilwoman Wechtler and seconded by Councilwoman Pellegrine to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

- Personnel – Mayor’s Office**
- Personnel – Building Department**
- Personnel – IT & Cyber update**
- Personnel – Police Towing**
- Personnel – Police Department**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pellegrine and seconded by Councilwoman Wechtler to return to the public portion. Motion carried by the members present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wechtler and seconded by Council President Golabek to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

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Erin Delaney, MPA  
Acting Borough Clerk

*Minutes approved at the April 18, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council*