

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
September 5, 2019
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for September 5, 2019 was called to order by Acting Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:13PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

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

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 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. Notice was posted on January 7, 2019.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, again raised his concerns about the water accumulation near 102 Philip Avenue. The Borough Administrator and Engineer gave a brief update on the issue.

1 – ENGINEERS REPORT

- a. **Monthly Status Report** – Mr. Clemente reviewed the monthly status report.

2 – CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **Recreation Hockey Rink** – Councilman Dombrowski stated his disapproval of the Recreation Hockey Rink continuously being locked to the public. Conversation ensued with the Mayor and Council about this topic which the remaining councilmembers being in agreeance with Councilman Dombrowski. It was ultimately decided that Borough Administrator Foligno should work on a schedule with Recreation Director Donna Puglisi.
- b. **Bond Sale** – No discussion ensued.

3 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Dedication by Rider Requests** – A resolution will be placed on the September 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. **Parking Lot Resurfacing** – A resolution will be placed on the September 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda contingent on receiving all necessary Pay-To-Play paperwork.

- c. **Firemen Applications** – A resolution will be placed on the September 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **Audit Corrective Action Plan** – A resolution will be placed on the September 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **Fire Department 2nd Quarter Stipends** – A resolution will be placed on the September 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Sick-time Buyback** – A resolution will be placed on the September 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- g. **Tax Exemption Disabled Veteran** – A resolution will be placed on the September 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

4 – ORDINANCES:

- a. **Lot Sizing** – Borough Attorney Ingrassia updated the Mayor and Council on the status of the pending lot sizing ordinance. He is currently working with Acting Borough Clerk Delaney to locate the resolution adopting an updated Master Plan from 2010 and stated that he would send the ordinance to the Planning Board Attorney.
- b. **Philip and Speidel 4-way stop** – It was requested to add Gall & Franklin and Miller & Lee. Ordinances will be drafted for the September 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

5 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Balistriero delivered updates on the activities of the Public Works department and Borough sports sponsored by the Recreation Center. She announced upcoming dates for the Food Truck Festival, Movies Under the Stars, and Council Corner.

Councilman Dombrowski discussed a letter received from Councilman Pascrell regarding a grant opportunity. He then went on to state that motorists are stopping at the pedestrian signs by the crosswalks on Mola Boulevard. He suggested that perhaps reflectors be installed to avoid any confusion. Councilman Dombrowski concluded his report by declaring there needs to be more accountability with Borough professionals as items are not being addressed in a timely manner. He suggested that Borough Attorney Ingrassia visit Borough Hall at the beginning of the week in case anything needs attention prior to the Thursday meetings.

Councilman Fasolo announced that the school district has seen an increase in all of their testing scores and that they have passed the QSAC which, essentially, means the Borough is a high-performing school district. Lastly, he thanked all of those involved in the erection of the temporary fence surrounding the tennis court construction.

Councilwoman Ingui reported out that the Ambulance Corps. monthly meetings will resume on September 11th. She shared the success of students' first day back to school and that she looks forward to a good year.

Councilwoman Wechtler shared dates for the upcoming Library Board meeting, Homeowners Association meeting, and bus-trip fundraiser.

Council President Pellegrine announced the date for the September Board of Health meeting. Moving on, Council President Pellegrine shared that the Chamber of Commerce is hosting two upcoming events, the first being a school supply drive with multiple drop-off locations throughout the Borough and the second being a fundraiser at St. Leo's School. The proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Rare Is Beautiful and the Residents Assistance Program. The goal of the Chamber of Commerce is to continue this fundraiser on an annual basis and switch the benefitting organizations every year.

Mayor Golabek informed the remainder of the Governing Body and the public of new resident packets that are now being delivered on behalf of the Mayor's Office. He then announced that the tree program will be underway soon. There is now a section on the Borough website where residents can request a tree. Before planting begins, the Borough Attorney will have to draft a hold harmless agreement/waiver for all participating residents. Mayor Golabek shared that the kick-off for the campaign will be in tandem with the School District to ensure that a tree be planted on Borough property and at each school. This, in turn, led to the Council in thanking Acting Borough Clerk Delaney for spearheading the Trex Community Campaign. All members stated they think it would be a great project for the schools to begin as well.

6 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, asked for clarification on the Borough Wi-Fi credentials.

7 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Department of Public Works – Personnel**
- b. **Building Department – Personnel**
- c. **Payroll – Personnel**
- d. **Litigation**
- e. **Police Department – Personnel**

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:

- Department of Public Works – Personnel**
- Building Department – Personnel**
- Payroll – Personnel**
- Litigation**
- Police Department – Personnel**

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 Ingui to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

Department of Public Works – Personnel
Building Department – Personnel
Payroll – Personnel
Litigation
Police Department – Personnel

A motion was made by Council President Pellegrine and seconded by Councilman Dombrowski to return to the public portion. Motion carried by the members present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wechtler and seconded by Councilman Fasolo to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA
Acting Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the October 10, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.