

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
February 6, 2020
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for January 9, 2020 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:00PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Fasolo, Golabek, Ingui, Pellegrine, Wechtler, and Council President Balistrieri were present. Also present were Mayor Colletti, 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 published on January 8, 2020.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, raised questions about the meeting agenda. He asked for more details for items A,B, and D under the Engineers Report. Additionally, he inquired if the Borough owns the property to be discussed under 3C, reminded the Mayor and Council about the graffiti in the area of 4E, asked what kind of vehicle is being purchased under 4G, and questioned what kind of parking restrictions will be discussed under 5A.

Councilwoman Wechtler made a motion to enter into executive session which was seconded by Councilwoman Ingui. Mayor Colletti informed the public that the Governing Body had to discuss a personnel matter and will reconvene the meeting following the discussion. Municipal Clerk Delaney read Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 which permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances.

Municipal Clerk Delaney reconvened the meeting and re-established a quorum at 8:45PM.

1 – ENGINEERS REPORT:

- a. **Improvements to Marina** – The Mayor and Council directed the Engineer to look into which grants are stackable with Green Acres as they are under the impression that they can do so with Bergen County Open Space funding. Councilman Golabek suggested that the Governing Body keep in mind that the Borough would not find out the result of a Bergen County Open Space application until about a year from now. The Mayor and Council agreed that this would be the best route to take should it be allowed. Councilman Golabek noted that the Borough can use the Green Acres funds,

Bergen County Open Space funds (if successful), and then a portion of Recreation Trust so that no bonding would be needed for the project.

- b. **Curb Replacements** – Mayor Colletti stated that he requested this item be placed on the agenda so that the Governing Body can specify a plan for curb replacement with the Engineer. The condition for replacement agreed upon was 30%. Additionally, DPW Superintendent Scott Karcz stated that he works very closely with the Engineer to determine when curb replacement is necessary.
- c. **Monthly Status Report** – John Clemente and Ali Mohamed from Alaimo Group reviewed the monthly status report. It was noted that a proposal for Rosemont Park Bergen County Open Space will be submitted for the next meeting. Additionally, Mayor Colletti iterated that before the tennis courts’ top coat is applied there must be 96% drainage as there is currently drainage issues.
- d. **Proposal for Design Services – Donor & Echo** – A resolution will be placed on the February 27th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

2 – CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **Frank Santora Retirement** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting Dates** – Accepted without discussion.

3 – DISCUSSION:

- a. **Liquor License Fees** – Municipal Clerk Delaney reviewed fee costs that other municipalities charge for their yearly liquor licenses as most are significantly higher than Elmwood Park’s. She noted that the maximum fee for consumption and distribution licenses set by the state is \$2,500 but the Borough charges \$1,200 and \$600, respectively. Discussion ensued about raising the fees. Ultimately, it was agreed upon that the two fees would be raised by \$500 totaling \$1,700 and \$1,100.
- b. **Street Fair** – Mayor Colletti stated that he would to enhance and expand Community Day by bringing in an outside vendor that will organize a street fair. The remainder of the Governing Body was in support of doing so and suggested that the Borough consider expanding the hours.
- c. **Van Riper Island** – Mayor Colletti concurred with Councilwoman Ingui’s point that installing benches may be dangerous given the location. He suggested that the Governing Body consider, instead, erecting a Veterans statue. Discussion ensued as to how many statues are necessary and which battles should be depicted. Mayor Colletti requested that Councilwoman Pellegrine, as the Veterans’ liaison, schedule a meeting to discuss this in more detail.

4 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Third Party Tax Liens** – A resolution will be placed on the February 27th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. **Refund Overpayments – New Jersey Tax Court Judgements** – A resolution will be placed on the February 27th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- c. **Veterans Friendly Municipality** – A resolution will be placed on the February 27th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

- d. **Aelux Invoice – Lighting** – Municipal Clerk Delaney informed the Governing Body that a resolution will not be needed until final payment is requested as the project’s contract was approved.
- e. **Slaughterdam Emergency Repair** – A resolution will be placed on the February 27th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Fire Applications** – A resolution will be placed on the February 27th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- g. **Fire Department Chassis Purchase** – A resolution will be placed on the February 27th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

5 – ORDINANCES:

- a. **No-parking Restrictions** – Borough Attorney Ingraffia will draft an ordinance to be introduced at the February 27th, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

6 – APPLICATIONS:

- a. **Raffle – Defender Fire Company #2** – Accepted without discussion.

7 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Fasolo informed the Governing Body that he attended the last Board of Education meeting where Ms. Carrie Paretti was appointed to a one-year term. He wished her congratulations. Additionally, Mr. Fasolo noted that he feels the re-registration process the school district is working on is a great idea and step in the right directions. Lastly, Councilman Fasolo requested that the Borough look into a “meet-up” spot for internet transactions as a safety precaution for our residents.

Councilman Golabek had no report.

Councilwoman Ingui wished congratulations to Ms. Carrie Paretti and thanked everyone for their recent support during this difficult time.

Councilwoman Pellegrine announced the date of the next Board of Health meeting and that the first Chamber of Commerce breakfast was a success as new businesses attended. She then went on to suggest that the Mayor and Council consider recognizing employees who are retiring and/or have worked with the Borough for a significant amount of time. Lastly, Councilwoman Pellegrine ended her report by sharing a letter received from Superintendent Iachetti thanking the RAP program for their contributions to students during the holiday season.

Councilwoman Wechtler detailed the latest adult programs that the Library has been able to bring to our residents. Additionally, she asked that Mayor Colletti share an update on the library inspections.

Council President Balistrieri shared that signage has been installed at both Cherry Hill and Birchwood Parks and that sign replacement will begin throughout the Borough. Continuing on, she noted that early registration for the summer camp will begin in the near future and Council Corner was held in January where residents voiced their concerns about littering. Councilwoman

Balistreri requested that the garbage receptacles near the arena be swapped for new receptacles that are able to be closed this way animals are unable to rummage through them. Ms. Balistreri ended by noting the date for the next Stigma Free meeting.

Mayor Colletti advised the Council that both he and Borough Administrator Foligno walked through Artesian Fields. He stated that he would like to see progress made with the County by implementing some small improvements including: benches, marquees, a connection from vehicle parking to the walkways, and cleaning up the fencing overgrowth. Lastly, Mayor Colletti shared his wish to work on advocating for sound barriers along Route 80.

8 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeanne Freitag, Hillman Drive, stated that the drainage issue at the tennis courts is a shame and inquired as to whether or not they have been paid in full. Additionally, she made mention that she feels the increase in liquor license fees is excessive.

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, questioned if traffic will be diverted if Community Day is expanded. Mr. Freitag then noted that the Borough's Ordinance regarding curbing may need to be changed if there is new policy regarding replacement as discussed under 1B. Lastly, he affirmed that at a previous meeting he inquired if the tennis courts have been paid in full and he was advised that they were not.

Joseph Dombrowski, Lincoln Avenue, noted that should the Borough proceed with stacking grants for the Marina improvements the project will be prolonged, however he understands it is beneficial to save money. He urged the Mayor and Council to at least proceed with the design services proposed by Alaimo. In regards to curb replacement, Mr. Dombrowski suggested that the Borough look into a program where the Borough offer low interest loans for residents to be able to afford their own curb replacements. Lastly, he requested that the Borough consider allowing the Little League to sell food at Community Day again as they were not allowed to last year.

Doug DeMatteo, Lincoln Avenue, requested an update on the completion date for the tennis courts. He also questioned if there was a clause in the contract should the contractor not complete the project by a certain date.

9 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Ambulance Corps. – Legal**
- b. **DPW – Personnel**
- c. **Recreation Department – Personnel**
- d. **Building Department – Personnel**
- e. **Borough Planner – Personnel**
- f. **Tax Department – Personnel**
- g. **Rent Leveling – Personnel**
- h. **Litigation/Legal Reports**
- i. **Special Legal Counsel**

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:

Ambulance Corps. – Legal
DPW – Personnel
Recreation Department – Personnel
Building Department – Personnel
Borough Planner – Personnel
Tax Department – Personnel
Rent Leveling – Personnel
Litigation/Legal Reports
Special Legal Counsel

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ingui and seconded by Council President Balistrieri to return to public portion as an item of concern was not discussed.

Scott Karcz, DPW Superintendent, reviewed his request for upgrading the Borough's sewer system, which will be incorporated into the Borough's upcoming General Bond request. He stated that the Borough is currently sinking money into the current system which is outdated, cannot be maintained, and is resulting in a large amount of overtime and repair costs. The current proposal, of which he has been working on with our Borough Engineer, will resolve a lot of the current issues they are facing and will include an additional pump. The Governing Body approved Mr. Karcz moving forward with this request to be included in this year's General Bond.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wechtler and seconded by Councilman Fasolo to re-enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

Ambulance Corps. – Legal
DPW – Personnel
Recreation Department – Personnel
Building Department – Personnel
Borough Planner – Personnel
Tax Department – Personnel

Rent Leveling – Personnel
Litigation/Legal Reports
Special Legal Counsel

A motion was made by Councilwoman Ingui and seconded by Council President Balistreri to return to the public portion. Motion carried by the members present.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the February 27, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.