

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK

WORK MEETING

April 2, 2020

7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for April 2, 2020 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:04PM. 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. Ingraffia.

**Please note that Councilmembers Fasolo & Golabek and Borough Attorney Ingraffia participated by way of teleconference.*

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 8, 2020.

Due to the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, precautionary measures were taken in an attempt to prevent further spread of the virus and to protect the health and public safety of the Governing Body, Borough Professionals, and members of the public. As a result, the public was unable to physically attend the meeting. In order to participate in the meeting, the public was required to use the free access number which was provided and advertised in advance.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Borough Clerk Delaney read the following into the record which was submitted via e-mail by Donna Virga of Obal Avenue:

Good afternoon,

I am emailing you in regards to situation at hand with the crossing guards. I am a crossing guard in town and has been lead off because of the COVID-19. During this we were told we are not getting paid going forward and we must us our sick days and then apply for unemployment . Knowing that we don't qualify for unemployment because of the way our job hours ,but we all did it anyway and got denied. As you know trying to get through to unemployment at this point it very difficult to dispute the claim because of what's going on. We all relying on this money in one way or another especially during these hard times. It saddens me to see the lack of support for us during this time. Our jobs are just as important as any other, we all stand outside in any kind of weather, deal with drivers who don't pay attention and among other things. But no matter what we make sure the kids get home safe from . I hope you guys revisit this with a different outlook after reading our emails or hearing are phone call today. If this can't be resolved then I hope that someone from the office can email unemployment explaining as the employer that they need to expect us during these times of need. Hope everyone is safe and thank you for reading my email.

Thank you again,
An Elmwood Park Crossing Guard

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, requested an update on the construction taking place at the library. Additionally, he inquired as to whether or not inter-library transfers can be made possible for anyone wishing to borrow a book during this crisis.

1 – ENGINEERS REPORT:

- a. Monthly Memo** – The monthly memo was submitted by Alaimo Group electronically for the Governing Body's review. Councilman Golabek asked that a representative call into the meeting should we still be meeting remotely in May.

2 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **NJDEP TWA Application – River Drive Development** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- b. **Recreation Department – Gym Supervisor** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- c. **Emergency Sewer Improvements – Pumping Services, Inc.** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- d. **Emergency Sewer Repair – Colonnelli Bros., Inc.** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- e. **Recreation Department – Cleaning Services** – The Mayor and Council requested a comparison in pricing of the proposed quote and the current cleaning service. It was requested that should the resolution move forward, the reference to Coronavirus be removed as it is misleading.

3 – ORDINANCES:

- a. **Stop Sign Distance Reduction** – Chief Foligno discussed the need for a reduction in stop sign distances in the Borough to help alleviate parking issues. The Borough Attorney advised that an ordinance has been drafted accordingly, with the exception of areas near a school zone. The Mayor and Council supported moving forward with the ordinance as long as it is in compliance with state requirements and will not affect ticketing procedures. It will be introduced at the April 16, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.
- b. **Dumpster Ordinance** – Department Heads within the Borough worked on updated the Borough Code to address issues related to dumpster permits. Issues that will now be addressed include renewals, time frames, enforcement, etc. The Borough Attorney reviewed the changes and suggestions and submitted the draft. It will be introduced at the April 16, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.
- c. **Illegal Dwellings Ordinance** – It was discussed that the Borough’s current ordinance needed to be updated due to new laws throughout the state. Department Heads worked on an update to the code which was reviewed and submitted by Borough Attorney Ingraffia. It will be introduced at the April 16, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.
- d. **Code Supplement Follow-up** – Borough Clerk Delaney requested that Borough Attorney Ingraffia review the suggestions submitted by General Code for the Borough’s latest supplement and offer an opinion.

4 – DISCUSSION

- a. **Shared Parking for Businesses** – Borough Administrator Foligno presented an idea to allow for existing businesses to share parking by means of the Borough Code. He stated that the courtesy would only be extended to those business that are currently established and would not carry over to new businesses. Borough Attorney Ingraffia advised that he would look into this matter and advise on any potential concerns on doing so.
- b. **Rosemont Park Basketball Court** – Discussion ensued regarding the renovation of the Rosemont Park Basketball Court as, given its closure related to COVID019, now would be a convenient time to begin. The Governing Body shared their thoughts on the size of the court and location. Councilman Golabek urged that administration follow the grant application and its guidelines submitted for Rosemont Park improvements. Mayor Colletti asked that the Recreation Advisory Board first submit their recommendations for the park as a proper process needs to be followed. The Governing Body asked that the Recreation Director get feedback from the Advisory Board prior to next week’s work session meeting.
- c. **Board of Health Appointment** – This item was not discussed as Special Legal Counsel has been instructed to review and offer a legal opinion.

5 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Given the circumstances of the meeting, no committee reports were shared by the Governing Body.

6 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Joseph Dombrowski, Lincoln Avenue, shared information on when shared parking for businesses was discussed with the Governing Body approximately five years ago.

Peggy Thyf, Lincoln Avenue, discussed the current predicament the Borough’s crossing guards are currently facing.

Christine Grezlak, Linwood Avenue, thanked the Borough for assisting the residents get through the current tough time.

Donna Virga, Obal Avenue, also thanked those within the Borough for their leadership during the current crisis.

7 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. Legal Reports/Litigation**
- b. Planning Board – Personnel**
- c. Crossing Guards – Personnel**
- d. 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:

Legal Reports/Litigation
Planning Board – Personnel
Crossing Guards – Personnel
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.

Legal Reports/Litigation
Planning Board – Personnel
Crossing Guards – Personnel
Special Legal Counsel

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the April 16, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council