

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
ELMWOOD PARK MAYOR AND COUNCIL
December 10, 2020
6:00P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park was called to order on Thursday, December 10, 2020 at 6:21PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 182 Market Street, Elmwood Park, New Jersey.

On Roll Call Councilmembers: Fasolo, Golabek, Ingui, Pellegrine, Wechtler, and Council President Balistrieri. Also present were Mayor Colletti, Borough Administrator Foligno, Borough Clerk Erin Delaney, and Borough Attorney Salvatore Ingrassia.

2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

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 and transmitted on December 3, 2020 and published on December 8, 2020.

3. RESOLUTIONS:

R-450-20 Approving Fire Department Suspension – James Mills
R-451-20 Approving Fire Department Suspension – Robert Chvasta, Jr.
R-452-20 Approving Fire Department Suspension – Harry Casper

4. PUBLIC HEARING:

5. ADJOURNMENT:

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION R-450-20**

**RESOLUTION BY: COUNCILWOMAN PELLEGRINE
SECONDED BY: COUNCILWOMAN INGUI**

**APPROVING FIRE DEPARTMENT SUSPENSION
JAMES MILLS**

WHEREAS, James Mills is a member of the Elmwood Park Fire Department and the current Battalion Chief of Fire Company No. 3; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its authority as vested in Borough Code § 2-28.3 et seq., the Elmwood Park Fire Board considered a personnel dispute involving Mr. Mills’ conduct as a member of the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mills was given the opportunity to appear before the Fire Board to defend against the accusations made against him; and

WHEREAS, following Mr. Mills’ appearance, the Fire Board made findings and conclusions regarding Mr. Mills’ conduct and has determined to suspend him from the Fire Department for a period of forty-five (45) calendar days; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed and considered the Fire Board’s findings and conclusions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park hereby approves the findings and conclusions of the Fire Board and its determination to suspend him from the Fire Department for a period of forty-five (45) calendar days effective on December 11, 2020. Notice of this action shall be served on Mr. Mills as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is effective immediately.

APPROVED: December 10, 2020

Robert Colletti, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Record of Council Vote on Passage

	AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent		AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent
Fasolo	X				Pellegrine	X			
Golabek	X				Wechtler	X			
Ingui	X				Balistreri	X			

This resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park at a regular scheduled meeting held on the 10th day of December 2020. Signed and sealed before me.

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Dated

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION R-451-20**

**RESOLUTION BY: COUNCILMAN GOLABEK
SECONDED BY: COUNCILWOMAN PELLEGRINE**

**APPROVING FIRE DEPARTMENT SUSPENSION
ROBERT CHVASTA, JR.**

WHEREAS, Robert Chvasta, Jr is a member of the Elmwood Park Fire Department and the current Department Chief; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its authority as vested in Borough Code § 2-28.3 et seq., the Elmwood Park Fire Board considered a personnel dispute involving Mr. Chvasta’s conduct as a member of the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chvasta was given the opportunity to appear before the Fire Board to defend against the accusations made against him; and

WHEREAS, following Mr. Chvasta’s appearance, the Fire Board made findings and conclusions regarding Mr. Chvasta’s conduct and has determined to suspend him from the Fire Department for a period of thirty (30) calendar days; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed and considered the Fire Board’s findings and conclusions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park hereby approves the findings and conclusions of the Fire Board and its determination to suspend him from the Fire Department for a period of thirty (30) calendar days effective on December 11, 2020. Notice of this action shall be served on Mr. Chvasta as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is effective immediately.

APPROVED: December 10, 2020

Robert Colletti, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Record of Council Vote on Passage

	AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent		AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent
Fasolo	X				Pellegrine	X			
Golabek	X				Wechtler	X			
Ingui	X				Balistreri	X			

This resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park at a regular scheduled meeting held on the 10th day of December 2020. Signed and sealed before me.

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Dated

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION R-452-20**

**RESOLUTION BY: COUNCILWOMAN INGUI
SECONDED BY: COUNCILWOMAN PELLEGRINE**

**APPROVING FIRE DEPARTMENT SUSPENSION
HARRY CASPER**

WHEREAS, Harry Casper is a member of the Elmwood Park Fire Department and the current President of Fire Company No. 3; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its authority as vested in Borough Code § 2-28.3 *et seq.*, the Elmwood Park Fire Board considered a personnel dispute involving Mr. Casper’s conduct as a member of the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Casper was given the opportunity to appear before the Fire Board to defend against the accusations made against him; and

WHEREAS, following Mr. Casper’s appearance, the Fire Board made findings and conclusions regarding Mr. Casper’s conduct and has determined to suspend him from the Fire Department for a period of ninety (90) calendar days; and

WHEREAS, the Council has reviewed and considered the Fire Board’s findings and conclusions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park hereby approves the findings and conclusions of the Fire Board and its determination to suspend him from the Fire Department for a period of ninety (90) calendar days effective on December 11, 2020. Notice of this action shall be served on Mr. Casper as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution is effective immediately.

APPROVED: December 10, 2020

Robert Colletti, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Record of Council Vote on Passage

	AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent		AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent
Fasolo	X				Pellegrine	X			
Golabek	X				Wechtler	X			
Ingui	X				Balistrieri	X			

This resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park at a regular scheduled meeting held on the 10th day of December 2020. Signed and sealed before me.

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Dated

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Councilwoman Ingui thanked the fire departments for their cooperation and remorse shown. Additionally, she thanked the Fire Board and attorney involved in the investigation for their time and insight.

Councilman Golabek stated that the Mayor and Council did not seek out the suspensions but, rather, complaints were brought to the Mayor and Council by fire department members. He went on to note that a lot of time was spent on this investigation and is in agreement with the decisions as the Governing Body has a responsibility to the Borough being elected officials.

Mayor Colletti echoed the Councilmembers' comments and advised that no pleasure was taken in the suspensions. He also stated that although it is a volunteer fire department there needs to be some form of order.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the January 7th 2021 Re-Organization meeting.