

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
March 11, 2021
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for March 4, 2021 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:00PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Balistrieri, Fakhoury, Fasolo, Golabek, Pellegrine, and Council President Wechtler were present. Also present were Mayor Colletti, Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney, Borough Administrator Michael Foligno and Borough Attorney Salvatore A. Ingraffia*.

**Borough Attorney Ingraffia participated via conference call*

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, 2021 and published on January 13, 2021.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

PUBLIC HEARING:

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Special Presentation for Elmwood Park Crew Soccer Team

The Mayor and Council presented certificates of achievement to two Elmwood Park Crew Soccer teams and their coaches. Following the presentation, they shared congratulatory remarks.

1 – CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Dispatcher Resignation** – No discussion ensued.
- b. **NJTA Statewide Multi-Permit Application** – No discussion ensued.

2 – RESOLUTIONS

- a. **Sports Team Stipends** – Borough Administrator Foligno recommended the stipend amount be \$12.50 to correspond with the softball league. A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. **Proposal for Services – Traffic Signalization – River Road/Drive** – The Mayor and Council questioned the amount of the proposal and requested that the Borough Administrator discuss the total cost of the project and the proposal for design services with the Engineer. The item was asked to be held for further clarification.
- c. **Bergen County Traffic Signalization Agreement** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **Risk Manager Memorialization Resolution** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **Bergen County Shared Service Agreement for Road Resurfacing** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Property Tax Delinquent Rates** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- g. **Volunteer Firefighter Applications** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- h. **Route 4 River Drive to Turnbridge Road NJDOT Agreement** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- i. **Education Incentive – Telecommunications Certification** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- j. **CDBG Grant – COVID-19** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

3 – ORDINANCES

- a. **Tattooing Prohibited** – Borough Attorney Ingraffia advised that he was still working on the ordinance, which would also need to be reviewed by the Borough Planner and Planning Board.
- b. **One Stop – Florence Place & St. Anne Street** – The ordinance adopting the one-way stop will be introduced at the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting.

4 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. **Board of Health Minutes – January 11, 2021** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Planning Board Minutes – January 20, 2021** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Recreation Advisory Board Minutes – January 25, 2021** – Accepted without discussion.
- d. **Library Board Minutes – January 25, 2021** – Councilman Golabek noted that in the minutes it stated that the library would be complete in 4-6 weeks. He then requested a status update. The report was then accepted.
- e. **Municipal Court Report – January 2021** – Accepted without discussion.
- f. **Building Department Assignment Tracker – February 2021** – Accepted without discussion. Councilman Golabek requested that a similar assignment tracker be implemented with the Department of Public Works.
- g. **Millennium Strategies Monthly Report through February 28, 2021** – Accepted without discussion.
- h. **EMS Report – February 2021** – Accepted without discussion.
- i. **Municipal Court Report – February 2021** – Accepted without discussion.
- j. **Finance Report through February 28, 2021** – Accepted without discussion.

5 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Balistrieri stated that baseball and soccer registration is now open. She shared her enthusiasm about putting the stipends back in place for the sports teams and shared the date for the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt.

Councilman Fakhoury advised that he attended the Coffee with a Cop event, which was a success.

Councilman Fasolo reported Progress.

Councilman Golabek provided an update on the Stimulus legislation signed by President Biden. He said that while Elmwood Park will be receiving money, there is yet to be clarification as to how it can be spent.

Councilwoman Pellegrine provided her Board of Health update by stating Borough Attorney Ingraffia was their latest guest speaker and announcing the dates of the next meeting and rabies clinic. She then went on to share that the RAP program has received a \$5,000 grant to benefit the people's pantry and thanked resident Rachel Johnson for applying on behalf of the program. Councilwoman Pellegrine then presented the 2020 Municipal Innovation Award to the Mayor and Council, of which the Borough was awarded in 2020 on behalf of the RAP Program but could not be officially presented due to the pandemic.

Council President Wechtler thanked the EMS team for all of their hard work and their responsive, great service. She then advised Councilman Golabek that she will provide a library status update at the next meeting.

Mayor Colletti shared that the Mayor's Office has received multiple calls regarding the COVID-19 vaccination. He noted that the staff in the Clerk's Office and Administrator's Office has gone above and beyond in assisting the residents by assisting with scheduling and coordinating transportation. Mayor Colletti wanted to make note that their hard work has not gone unnoticed.

6 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Dominick Scalcione, E. 54th Street, raised his concerns in regards to the difficulty in getting a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. He encouraged the Borough to connect with the County, as they are our Health Department shared service provider, to offer the vaccination to seniors in town. Mr. Scalcione shared that the State publishes the number of vaccinations per County but inquired as to whether it is the number administered in the County or the number of residents in the County who have been vaccinated.

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, followed up in regards to his comments made at the last meeting regarding the raising of the Borough's flags. He then requested an update on the 222 New Trees by 2022 initiative, drainage remedy on Philip Avenue, and marijuana sales within the Borough. Lastly, Mr. Freitag stated that Council President Wechtler can speak at library meetings and suggested the Borough look into having a liaison with Public Service.

7 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Legal Reports/Litigation**
- b. **Personnel –Department of Public Works**
- c. **Personnel – Fire Prevention**
- d. **Personnel – Fire Department**
- e. **Personnel – White Collar**

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**
- Personnel –Department of Public Works**
- Personnel – Fire Prevention**
- Personnel – Fire Department**
- Personnel – White Collar**

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 Council President Wechtler and seconded by Councilman Fasolo to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the April 1, Special Meeting