

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
May 6, 2021
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for May 6, 2021 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:16PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Balistrieri, Fakhoury, Fasolo, 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.

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:

Dominick Scalcione, E. 54th Street, discussed the COVID-19 vaccinations and 2 outstanding issues. He advised that town local numbers are not always accurate and that a new report should come in the future.

1 – DISCUSSION

- a. **Capital Budget Expenses** – Borough Administrator Foligno reviewed the capital expense costs from departments that submitted. The Mayor and Council requested that this item be added again to the next work session meeting on May 13, 2021 with a breakdown of cost per item. Borough CFO Riggitano advised that all items are being sought under state contracts or bid estimates.
- b. **Youth Advisory Committee/Pride Month** – Councilman Fasolo advised that the first Youth Advisory Committee will be held on May 17th in an attempt to tie it into the PRIDE flag raising ceremony scheduled for June 1st.

2 – RESOLUTIONS

- a. **Vacation Buyback Request** – A resolution will be placed on the May 20th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. **Library Paving Quote** – A resolution will be placed on the May 20th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- c. **Falmouth Avenue Driveway Apron Quote** – A resolution will be placed on the May 20th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **Immigration Resolutions** – Councilman Fasolo presented two draft resolutions addressing immigration reform. Mayor Colletti stated that he feels that said resolutions do not belong in the chambers of the Mayor and Council.
- e. **BCUA Solid Waste Cooperative Marketing Program** – Borough Clerk Delaney advised that she and Borough Administrator Foligno are awaiting feedback from the DPW Superintendent regarding this program and that it will be re-added to the May 13th work session agenda.
- f. **BCOS Grant – Borough Park Improvements** – A resolution will be placed on the May 20th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

3 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Balistrieri advised that softball and baseball games have begun. She gave kudos to all of those involved in the opening of the food pantry. Councilwoman Balistrieri then discussed the organization Strangers Helping Strangers as they have been providing meals two times a week for the last year to Elmwood Park residents. She stated that she has had the opportunity to volunteer with them and shared how gratifying it is. Councilwoman Balistrieri then encouraged others to volunteer.

Councilman Fakhoury discussed the opening of the food pantry and thanked all of those involved, especially Councilwoman Pellegrine and RAP Coordinator Angela Fava.

Councilman Fasolo stated that the food pantry has received countless donations and commended the work put in to its grand opening. He also noted that there will be a new program coming to the community that will focus on inclusivity and diversity.

Councilwoman Pellegrine provided her Board of Health update by sharing the dates for the rabies clinic and next Board meeting. She then thanked everyone for participating and attending the food pantry grand opening which was a huge success. She concluded her report by giving details regarding an upcoming VFW fundraiser.

Council President Wechtler shared that she has had the pleasure to be a part of the RAP program for three years and saw first-hand the great events that have been put together and countless donations. She thanked everyone who has assisted with its success. In regards to the reopening of the library, Council President Wechtler updated everyone by announcing that the new furniture is now in and the stocking of the shelves has begun. While there are still a few inspections that remain, they expect the Grand Opening Dedication Ceremony to Richard Mola, former Mayor, in the beginning of June.

Mayor Colletti thanked Councilwoman Pellegrine for all of the great things that have taken place with the RAP Program. He went on to note that the Borough has great employees with a strong moral compass. Mayor Colletti then discussed the noise coming from Paterson and asked that Borough Administrator Foligno inform the public on the plan to re-enter an agreement with Paterson to assist with alleviating and addressing the noise. Lastly, he encouraged all to attend the upcoming VFW fundraiser.

4– 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, asked about the ad published in the paper for the Bergen County Open Space grant. He further went on to inquire about what is proposed in the grant application. Mr. Freitag then asked if there is an age requirement or if parental permission is required for the Youth Advisory Committee. He ended his report by stating that immigration reform resolutions, as discussed earlier, can be too broad.

Dominick Scalcione, E. 54th Street, inquired as to which Borough parks are proposed to have cameras installed as per the Capital Budget discussion.

Theresa Sheridan, E. 54th Street, announced and provided details for the three upcoming VFW fundraisers in May and June.

5– EXECUTIVE SESSION:

a. Legal Reports/Litigation

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

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pellegrine 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 May 20, 2021 Regular Meeting.