

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK**  
**WORK MEETING**  
**September 2, 2021**  
**7:00PM**

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for July 8, 2021 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:10PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Balistreri, Fakhoury, Fasolo, Golabek, and Council President Wechtler 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 posted on January 8, 2021 and published on January 13, 2021.

**Work Meeting Agenda Items:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Clara Albernaque, Miller Avenue, raised concerns regarding the path of airplanes arriving and departing from Newark Airport and residents draining their pools into storm drains. Ms. Albernaque then discussed illegal parking and the cutting of bushes and trees.

**1 – RESOLUTIONS**

- a. **Redevelopment Plan – East 54<sup>th</sup> and Main** – This item was pulled from the agenda.
- b. **Redevelopment Plan – River Drive (Royal Warsaw)** – This item was pulled from the agenda.
- c. **Escrow Fees for Redevelopment Plans** – A resolution will be placed on the August 19th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **Hunger Action Month** – A resolution will be placed on the August 19th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **Block Party Request** – A resolution will be placed on the August 19th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Fire Department Volunteers** – A resolution will be placed on the August 19th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- g. **Police Department Equipment Request – Signage** – A resolution will be placed on the August 19th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- h. **2021 Used Car License Renewals** – A resolution will be placed on the August 19th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

- i. **Cannabis Licensing Board Members** – Discussion ensued regarding the logistics of the ordinance that created the board and whether or not the Mayor and Council should act as the board instead. Mr. Ingraffia recommended the ordinance remain as is and that the members of the board be appointed sooner rather than later. A resolution will be placed on the August 19th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

## **2 – ORDINANCES**

- a. **Salary Ordinance** Update – This item was pulled for Executive Session.

## **3 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilwoman Balistrieri stated that the Police Department’s recent block party was a success. She then shared dates for the Girls’ Softball 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Community Day, and next Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Councilman Fakhoury thanked all involved in putting together the block party as it was very successful.

Councilman Fasolo commended all first responders and the DPW for their work during Hurricane Ida in addition to the diversity committee for all of the events they put together throughout the last few months. He then detailed the proposed internship program through the youth advisory committee.

Councilman Golabek echoed the sentiments of all of the previous comments regarding recent community events. He shared his excitement for the upcoming Community Day as it will be the first fireworks display in the Borough. Councilman Golabek ended by welcoming back Councilman Fasolo.

Council President Wechtler thanked the DPW and first responders for their hard work throughout the recent storm. She discussed flag staffing throughout the Borough and ended by stating the Borough is making up for lost time with all of the events that have taken place.

Mayor Colletti provided a summary on the Summer Concert series that was held, of which he is looking forward to continuing next year. He then spoke upon the softball competition the Elmwood Park PBA held against the Garfield PBA. Mayor Colletti stated that though they lost, they look forward to continuing the tradition next year. Lastly, he noted that the Borough is looking to combine VFW chapters with surrounding municipalities and thanked all that have been instrumental in doing so.

## **4– 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:**

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, shared that she is glad to hear about the success of the many recent events. She then went on to inquire about an update regarding the library and why inspections cannot be coordinated as smoothly as said events.

**5- EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. Legal Reports/Litigation**
- b. Personnel – Salary Ordinance**

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

**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 – Salary Ordinance**

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 Balistreri 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 Balistreri to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC  
Borough Clerk