

**WORK SESSION  
OF THE  
ELMWOOD PARK MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
ACTION ITEMS  
December 7, 2023  
7:00 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park was called to order on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:00PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 182 Market Street, Elmwood Park, New Jersey.

On Roll Call Councilmembers: Dennis, Fasolo, Golabek, Pellegrine, Sheridan and Council President Balistrieri. Also present were Mayor Colletti, Borough Administrator Foligno, Acting Borough Clerk Shanee Morris, 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 January 6, 2023 and published on January 10, 2023.

**3. RESOLUTIONS:**

R-443-23                      Appoint Police Officer – Danny Maganinho

Danny Maganinho came forward with his family to be sworn in by Mayor Robert Colletti along with Police Chief Michael Foligno and Police commissioner Councilman Fasolo.

Mayor and Council then shared congratulatory remarks for the new Police Officer.

**4. WORK SESSION: NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**5. ADJOURNMENT:**

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
RESOLUTION R-443-23**

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

**APPOINT POLICE OFFICER – DANNY MAGANINHO**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park that the following named be and is hereby appointed as a Police Officer in the Police Department of the Borough of Elmwood Park effective December 7, 2023:

**Danny Maganinho**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that said appointment is in accordance with the Intergovernmental Transfer Process as promulgated by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that remuneration is set at the rate as per the 2018-2025 PBA Contract.

I, Roy Riggitano, Chief Financial Officer for the Borough of Elmwood Park do hereby confirm that there are sufficient funds available for this resolution.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Riggitano, Chief Financial Officer

December 6, 2023  
Dated

APPROVED: December 7, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Colletti, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shanee Morris, CMR  
Acting Borough Clerk

Record of Council Vote on Passage

|         | AYE | NAY | Abstain | Absent |            | AYE | NAY | Abstain | Absent |
|---------|-----|-----|---------|--------|------------|-----|-----|---------|--------|
| Dennis  | X   |     |         |        | Pellegrine | X   |     |         |        |
| Fasolo  | X   |     |         |        | Sheridan   | X   |     |         |        |
| Golabek | 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of December 2023. Signed and sealed before me.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shanee Morris, CMR  
Acting Borough Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

## **Work Meeting Agenda Items:**

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Kenney, Mulbury street informed the Mayor and Council there are 20 lights out on Market Street.

### **1– CSG REDEVELOPMENT REQUEST**

Mike Plum, a representative for the owner of 99 main avenue came before the Mayor and Council to request a letter of support in order to apply for tax credit in order to start the clean up process at the property. The owner then came forward and gave a background on the property and his plans moving forward. Councilman Golabek stated the letter would need to be clear of what the Mayor and Council are in support of. The Mayor and Council agree to the letter of support.

### **2 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Daniel Hauben from DMR Architects came before the Mayor and Council to review task from COAH requirements and discuss previously approved redevelopment plans. He reviews the two resolutions that are listed for discussion (Items 6C & 6D) and what CPGH would assist the Borough with.

### **3 – C.F.O ROY RIGGITANO**

- a. **Budget Report – CFO Roy Riggitano** informed the Mayor and Council that transfers will need to be made at the end of the year and the resolutions will list the reasons and cost. He informed the Mayor and Council of the offsets that the Borough has. The Mayor and Council then discuss with him a possible tax increase.

### **4 – ENGINEERS REPORT**

- a. **Monthly Status Report** – Thomas Lemanowisz from Alaimo Engineering went through his monthly report. Mayor and Council ask about the turf project and the changes.
- b. **Current Estimate #2 – 2023 Borough Road Program** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.

### **5 – CORRESPONDANCE**

- a. **Bergen County Utilities Authority Public Notice** – No discussion ensued.
- b. **Bergen County Utilities Authority Solid Waste Amendment** – No discussion ensued.
- c. **Proposed Holiday Schedule** – No discussion ensued.
- d. **Proposed Meeting Schedule** – No discussion ensued.

### **6 – RESOLUTIONS**

- a. **Resolution to Redeem Third Party Tax Lien** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- b. **Resolution to Refund Overpayment (2)** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- c. **Affordable Housing Rehabilitation Services** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- d. **Affordable Housing Administration Services** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- e. **Towing Applications** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- f. **Items of Revenue and Appropriation** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- g. **Handicap Parking Request** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- h. **Cannabis Approval Recommendation – Culture Craft Cannabis** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- i. **Cannabis Approval Recommendation – Treehouse Dispensary LLC** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- j. **Bergen County Utilities Authority Service Agreement** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- k. **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Fire Department Stipend** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- l. **Vacation Buyback** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.

- m. **Building Department Refund Request** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- n. **Endorsement Resolution** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- o. **Fire Department Clothing Allowance** – A resolution will be placed on the December 21, 2023 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.

## **7 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

- a. **Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – September 18, 2023** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Library Board Meeting Minutes – October 16, 2023** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Monthly Court Report – October, 2023 & November 2023** – Accepted without discussion.
- d. **Millennium Strategies Monthly Report – Through November, 2023** – Accepted without discussion.
- e. **Building Department Monthly Report – November, 2023** – Accepted without discussion.

## **8 – APPLICATIONS**

- f. **American Legion – Instant Raffle – January 2, 2024 – December 17, 2024** – Accepted without discussion.
- g. **American Legion – Bingo – January 2, 2024 – December 17, 2024** – Accepted without discussion.

## **9 – DISCUSSION**

- a. **Fire Department** – The Mayor and Council discussed an incident that occurred in November with the Fire Department. Labor Attorney Arthur Thibault reviewed the investigation that was done within the Department. He then asked the Mayor and Council if they would like to have an outside investigator look into this situation. The Mayor and Council agree to move forward and discuss adding to the policy and procedures to try and prevent another incident.

## **10 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The Mayor and Council agreed not to share reports.

## **11 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pellegrine and seconded by Councilwoman Sheridan to open to the public. Motion carried unanimously.

Kenneth Pressler, Hamilton Avenue asked what happened in the incident that was discussed. He then shared a video with the Mayor and Council. He proceeded to read an email from the Fire Chief and requested an attorney.

Ron Pressler, Second Street discussed how he has missed the engine before during a call and disagrees that the member was in danger. He further stated he feels there's a vendetta against him and he's afraid to approach the Chief. Lastly, he informs the Mayor and Council that he was missed on the stiped list.

Justin Lewinski read a letter from Fire Company 1 in reference to Company 1's Chief being put on leave.

Michael Colon, Orchard Street spoke on his experience as Fire Chief and doesn't feel an attorney is necessary.

Samantha Chevasta the Captain of Company 4 stated a target may be put on her back for speaking out. She reviewed the findings from the fire investigation and then proceeded to share her personal experience with missing the truck.

Mike Jones, Boulevard speaks on application he has submitted and stated he feels the Fire Chief is trying to force him out.

Tyler Lewinski read a statement to the Mayor and Council about everything that has been occurring in the Fire Department.

Steve Kochik stated he reached out to the Council to address issues in the Department. He then read a portion of a letter he wrote to the Mayor and Council.

Mike Pressler, Godwin Avenue spoke on things that are happening in the Department and how the dynamic has changed.

Nicolas Fredorsin also mentions things that are happening in the Department because of the Chief and the worry of retaliation.

Tyler's Attorney Tim came forward and spoke on how things are being handled.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pellegrine and seconded by Council President Balistrieri to enter into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**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:

#### **Litigation/Legal Reports**

#### **Negotiations**

#### **Personnel**

#### **Personnel – Clerks Office**

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 Councilman Fasolo and seconded by Councilwoman Dennis to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

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Shanee Morris, CMR  
Acting Borough Clerk

*Minutes Approved at the February 15, 2024 Regular Meeting*