

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
February 14, 2013
8:00 pm

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council was called to order by Municipal Clerk Keith Kazmark at 8:04 p.m. Statement of Compliance was read.

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 the publishing an annual notice in The Record of Hackensack 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. Said notice was posted of January 1, 2012.

Governing Body members Caramagna, Castiglia, Conboy, Pettigano, Vuoncino were present. Councilman Colletti was absent. Also present were Mayor Mola, Borough Clerk Keith Kazmark, Borough Attorney Brian Giblin and Borough Engineer Pete Ten Kate.

Public Hearing:

Peter Marcalus, Boulevard, discussed the Chamber of Commerce's desire to hold a Street Fair on Memorial Day. The area requested for use starts at the Boulevard and extends to Church Street. He stated that upon the completion of the Ceremony at the Memorial that the Street Fair will begin. He further discussed the set up time for the vendors. Mr. Marcalus stated that he reached out to Mr. Mulligan from the Veterans of Foreign Wars to discuss the Chambers desire to conduct a Street Fair. Councilman Caramagna expressed his concerns pertaining to the Street Fair. Councilman Vuoncino stated his concerns and asked for some clarifications. Councilman Castiglia stated that Memorial Day is a somber day for families who have lost friends and family in the Armed Services and questioned the desire to have a Street Fair on that day.

James Moore, American Legion, inquired as to why his organization was not told of the Chamber of Commerce's desire to hold a Street Fair on Memorial Day. He further stated that there are approximately 150 members in his group and further discussed the steps that are taken each year by the Veterans Association to execute the parade.

Councilman Conboy discussed the residents that gather by the grandstand for the memorial services. He further stated that a Street Fair might attract more people to watch the memorial services. Discussion ensued as to the conclusion of the ceremony and the exiting of the busses for the musical parade participants. Councilman Conboy discussed the operational aspect of Community Day. Councilman Conboy asked Mr. Moore if the Chamber of Commerce moved the beginning of the Street Fair to begin after Pine Street would that be acceptable. Mr. Moore stated that sometimes the ceremony by the memorial does not end until 3:00 p.m. Mr. Marcalus stated that he feels the promotional company would not get enough vendors to show up at the time to make it worth their while. Discussion ensued to possibly scheduling the Street Fair to another date.

Richard Trawinski, Walnut Street, inquired if there was a preference as to when the Street Fair was to be held. Mr. Moore stated that anytime except Memorial Day would be acceptable.

Keith Work, Gilbert Avenue, discussed the workings of the Little League and the financial transparencies. Mr. Work further discussed the history of the Junior Baseball League prior to the start of the Little League and followed up with the history and creation of the Little League. Mayor Mola stated that he is waiting until the upcoming Recreation Commission meeting to see if progress has been made between the two leagues. If no progress is made Mayor Mola intends, with the approval of the Council, to schedule a meeting with the two leagues. Councilman Vuoncino inquired what the purpose of the meeting would be. Mayor Mola stated he believes that there is miscommunication between the two leagues and possibly if a meeting was held together something could be worked out. Mr. Work stated that the Little League has tried to schedule meetings with the Junior Baseball League in the past.

Joe Mulligan, Third Street, stated that he does not agree with some of what Mr. Work has stated. He then discussed the number of Commissioners that are on the Recreation Commission that have ties to the Little League and feels that the Junior Baseball League would not have a fair chance with the Recreation Commission. Mr. Mulligan stated to Mr. Work that the Junior Baseball League does have their coaches fingerprinted unlike what Mr. Work stated. Mayor Mola stated this was the reason why he would like to

set up a meeting for the two leagues to meet. Mr. Mulligan stated that Mr. Work was allowed to speak and he would like to speak also. Mayor Mola attempted to explain the reasoning for scheduling a meeting when Mr. Trawinski repeatedly cried out that Mr. Mulligan had the floor. Mayor Mola stated he will let him speak. Mr. Trawinski further became confrontational with Mayor Mola. Mr. Trawinski stated that the Mayor does not run the meeting, the Council President does and he is not present. The confrontation continued. Mayor Mola asked if Mr. Trawinski would like the Police to come up and remove him. Mayor Mola then stated that he would like to have more than just a one-on-one meeting, due to some items not being reported back as accurately as when everyone is there to hear it firsthand. Mr. Mulligan acknowledged the hard work that Mr. Work, Mr. Calabro and Mr. Conboy put into the Junior Baseball League. He further stated that he would be in favor with the two leagues meeting and further discussed the commitment and hard work the gentlemen mentioned previously performed.

Councilman Conboy discussed the history at the beginning of the Little League and the members who were on the Recreation Board at that time. Councilman Conboy stated that he has documentation including testimonies and forensic audits pertaining to the operations dating back to approximately 10 years ago. He further discussed the \$200 fine that was imposed on the Junior Baseball League. He stated that it was not for a hot dog but was the costs incurred for a cleaning company to clean the Hut after numerous requests were made by the Recreation Department to clean up the Hut after use. He further discussed the accusation that the Junior Baseball League was denied the use for a tournament.

Councilman Pettigano stated he is concerned with a monopoly of the Hut. He feels that the Hut should be used by all organizations.

Councilman Vuoncino discussed his thoughts regarding a meeting between the two baseball leagues.

Councilman Conboy stated that Councilman Pettigano reaching out to Ms. Puglisi is overstepping his boundaries. Councilman Pettigano stated that he may talk to whomever he wishes.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

1 – Municipal Engineer’s Report

- a. **Monthly Status** - Mr. Ten Kate discussed the concerns in the County regarding the area where River Drive and River Road meet. The County is asking for the Borough to pick up the survey costs for that area. Mayor Mola stated it would cost \$4,500 for the survey and further discussed the accidents that happen at that location. Mr. Ten Kate discussed a conversation he had with Mr. Karcz pertaining to County OEM grants. Items discussed were cleanup of Fleischer’s Brook, upgrade to pump station number 6 and a backhoe to be used for brook cleanup. Mr. Ten Kate discussed the bids that were received by Garfield for Kipp Avenue Pump Station. Further details will be discussed pertaining to additional funding at the Work Session of February 28, 2013. Mr. Ten Kate discussed change orders for the 2011 and the 2012 Road Resurfacing Program. The change orders will be placed on the February 21, 2013 Regular Meeting.
- b. **2013 Road Resurfacing Program** – Mr. Ten Kate discussed the base bid and the Alternate A and Alternate B. Mr. Ten Kate inquired if the Council would like to decide on an amount to be bonded tonight or wait until the next work meeting. After some discussion the Council agreed for Mr. Ten Kate to go out for bid for the base and both Alternate A & B, the Council can always decide on a later date what will be awarded.
- c. **Scope of Work – Installation of Emergency Generators** – Mr. Ten Kate asked for verification as to whether the generators will operate by diesel or natural gas. Mayor Mola discussed if the generator at the Recreation Complex is a necessity. The cost for the generator at the Recreation Complex will cost approximately \$250,000. The criteria for the Recreation Complex to be designated as a during an emergency shelter was discussed. Discussion will be held until the work session of February 28, 2013. Councilman Vuoncino discussed have an alternate A and B to the bid.

2 – Letter from New Jersey State Forestry Service regarding Shade Tree Commission – Mr. Kazmark discussed the letter from the Forestry Service. After some discussion the Council decided to forego preparing a new management plan.

3 – Letter from Chamber of Commerce regarding Memorial Day Street Fair – The Council will await for further recommendation from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the Street Fair.

4 – Letter from Jean Candiano regarding intent to retire – Mr. Kazmark stated that Mrs. Candiano intends to retire on March 29, 2013. He further stated that resolutions will be prepared for the both Mrs. Candiano and Ms. Reich’s final payout for a Regular Meeting in March 2013.

5 – Letter from Bergen County Department of Public Works regarding Midland Avenue & Erie Street Railroad Crossing – Mr. Kazmark discussed Chief Johnson reaching out to the Department of Transportation regarding the intersection of Midland Avenue and Industrial Road. Industrial Road is a privately owned road. Discussion ensued to the ability to prevent trucks from making certain turns in an effort to decrease the danger of accidents involving trains on the nearby tracks. Mr. Kazmark recommends that the Council does not move forward with the ordinance as currently written until Chief Johnson receives word from the County on how to proceed.

6 – Letter from Scott Karcz regarding Swift Reach 911 notifications – Mr. Kazmark discussed the letter from the Bergen County OEM regarding the Borough's use of the 911 notification system to notify the residents of the emergency snow parking ordinance for the recent snow storm. The County did not approve of the use for the system, stating it was not a state of emergency. Mr. Karcz received quotes for the Borough to have their own emergency notification system. After some discussion the Council agreed to move forward with the Borough having a reverse 911 notification that can be used at their discretion.

7 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- a. **Police Department – January 2013** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Elmwood Park Public Library Minutes – December 17, 2012** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Police Department Annual Report** – Accepted without discussion.

8 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

An Administrative Report was given by Mr. Kazmark. He stated all the letters have been received by the State from the 35th & 38th Legislative Districts regarding the crosswalk by the train station on Broadway. The process has now moved to the next stage. Mr. Kazmark further stated that a budget meeting has been scheduled for March 28, 2013. Mr. Kazmark stated that the Borough's Facebook page is now online. He discussed a meeting of the Rent Stabilization Board regarding a capital pass along from Elmwood Village. Mr. Kazmark discussed the employee evaluation forms that the personnel committee are reviewing. He further explained to the Council that a statute which requires salary increases for the Treasurer, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector and the Borough Clerk to be uniform. Mr. Kazmark stated he has a meeting at the County Board of Elections to move the district line between District 1 and District 10. By moving the district line it will include the entire building located at 400 Riverfront within District 1. Mr. Kazmark discussed the change in policy for employees calling in sick. He further stated that Sandie Olivola is now responsible for more of the Human Resources for the Borough. Mr. Kazmark discussed a conversation with Mr. Egan pertaining to field usage. He further stated that he will be meeting with Ms. Puglisi and prepare a document for the Recreation Commission. Councilman Conboy inquired as to the reasoning for Mr. Egan's request. He further inquired as to why Mr. Egan is to go through Mr. Kazmark. Mr. Kazmark stated that he has made it policy that all communications between Mr. Egan and any Department Heads will go through him. Councilman Conboy asked what gave him the authority. Mr. Kazmark stated that his Administrative authority allows him to make that decision. Mr. Kazmark stated that what Mr. Egan is requesting is already the practice, it just needs to be codified. Mr. Kazmark also stated that Mr. Egan is trying to make the fractured relationship between the Borough and the School District better. Mr. Kazmark stated that if the Recreation Commission chooses not to codify the field usage, he can then go back to Mr. Egan and let him know that he did his due diligence.

9 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Personnel – DPW Chain of Command**
- b. **Pending Litigation – Occidental Chemical**
- c. **Negotiations – Shared Services Saddle Brook (Health Department)**
- d. **Potential Litigation – Synkote Paint & Boulevard/Fensack property**
- e. **Negotiations – Proposed Lease Agreement – Elmwood Park Little League & Borough of Elmwood Park**

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:

Personnel – DPW Chain of Command
Pending Litigation – Occidental Chemical
Negotiations – Shared Services Saddle Brook (Health Department)
Potential Litigation – Synkote Paint & Boulevard/Fensack property

**Negotiations – Proposed Lease Agreement – Elmwood Park Little League & Borough of
Elmwood Park**

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 Vuoncino and seconded by Councilman Castiglia to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

**Personnel – DPW Chain of Command
Pending Litigation – Occidental Chemical
Negotiations – Shared Services Saddle Brook (Health Department)
Potential Litigation – Synkote Paint & Boulevard/Fensack property
Negotiations – Proposed Lease Agreement – Elmwood Park Little League & Borough of
Elmwood Park**

A motion was made by Councilman Conboy and seconded by Councilman Vuoncino to return to the public session. Motion carried unanimously.

The Council returned to the public session at 11:05 p.m., all members were present.

Councilman Caramagna expressed his feelings regarding the request for a Street Fair on Memorial Day. He further discussed a conversation with a resident who has concerns as to the handicap accessibility at the Cherry Hill Park. Councilman Caramagna stated that there will be a Meet-the-Monitor meeting in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, February 20, 2013. Councilman Caramagna discussed parking issues on Gilbert Avenue since the snow storm.

Councilman Vuoncino expressed his thoughts on the Street Fair being on Memorial Day. Councilman Vuoncino inquired as to when the parking signs will be installed in the Rosemont Section. He further stated that the Ambulance Corps Car Show is scheduled for June 2, 2013 with a rain date of June 9, 2013. Councilman Vuoncino inquired about discrepancies in the standby pay for during the hurricane.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Keith Kazmark, RMC/CMC/MMC
Borough Clerk

Minute were approved at the March 7, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.