

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK

WORK MEETING

March 27, 2014

8:00 p.m.

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council was called to order by Deputy Municipal Clerk Barbara Dispoto at 7:55 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 on January 1, 2013.

Governing Body members Caramagna, Colletti, Pettigano and Martino were present. Councilmen Dombrowski and Vuoncino were absent. Also present were Mayor Mola, Deputy Municipal Clerk Barbara Dispoto and Borough Attorney Guiseppe Randazzo.

Public Hearing: No one wished to be heard.

Mayor Mola discussed the expiration of the 2% cap approaching. He further discussed the importance of the cap being extended or made permanent. He stated the importance to reach out to State Representatives regarding the extension of the cap. He further stated it would be unfair to the collective bargaining units for the Department of Public Works and the White Collar Association whom received 2% in their recent contracts.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

1 – Discussion with Donna Puglisi regarding purchase of a new vehicle – Ms. Puglisi thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing her to address them tonight. She stated that she is requesting to purchase a new van under her capital budget. She stated the van that the Recreation Department would like to purchase is not under the state contract. After speaking with CFO Roy Riggitano she was advised to obtain three quotes for the vehicle. She further stated that to be able to purchase a 2014 vehicle she is suggesting the vehicle be bought utilizing the Recreation Trust Fund to be later reimbursed from the Capital Budget. Councilman Colletti inquired about the urgency. Ms. Puglisi stated regarding the 2014 leftovers they are bound by the inventory on the dealership lots. She also stated the lowest quote she received would cease if the vehicle was sold to another party. Councilman Caramagna inquired about the need for a van. Ms. Puglisi stated the reasons needed for the van is sometimes they need to transport children. Councilman Caramagna asked if they were allowed to transport children. She stated that according to Frank Covelli from the Borough's insurance company that they are permitted to do so. She further stated that the bus is used to transport large numbers of children, however when they need to transport a small group of children such as those attending summer school they utilize the van. The other reason she stated is to go to Costco to make purchases for Recreation programs. Councilman Martino discussed his experience working in automobile sales and he stated car dealerships still have 2013 models in stock. Councilman Martino discussed his concerns as to the urgency and why a transfer from another fleet is not being considered. Mayor Mola stated that the Council approved the Building Department to purchase 2 new vehicles because the Police stated there were not any vehicles in there fleet available to a transfer to another department. Councilman Caramagna inquired about the possibly of leasing a vehicle. Mayor Mola suggested that Ms. Puglisi go back to the Recreation Commission and ask them to purchase the vehicle using their trust fund. Mayor Mola stated the Borough has never leased a vehicle. Discussion then ensued to the pros and cons of leasing a vehicle. Councilman Martino agreed with the Mayor regarding the vehicle be purchased using trust fund monies. It was the decision of the Mayor and the Council members present that the vehicle should be purchased utilizing the Recreation Trust Fund without being reimbursed from the Capital budget. On a different topic, Councilman Colletti stated that the bi-partisan Council is in agreement to have the Hut turned back over to the Bombers and the baseball league and that he will take up this conversation with the Recreation Commission when they come to the April 10, 2014 Council meeting. Councilman Pettigano stated the Hut could still be used for Borough wide use. Councilman Martino stated the Bombers are willing to pay for the work that is needed for the building. Councilman Colletti directed Ms. Puglisi to make the Commission aware so they do not feel blindsided at the meeting.

2 – ENGINEERING REPORT:

- a. **Email regarding supplemental traffic striping – Boulevard & Route 46** – Mr. Murphy reached out to the Department of Transportation regarding the continued striping through the intersection of Route 46 and Boulevard. Mr. Murphy will follow up with the Department of Transportation.
- b. **Letter from Department of Transportation regarding 2014 Safe Routes to School Program** – Mayor Mola discussed the application from the prior year which was rejected. He suggested the Council Members visit the area surrounding 16th Avenue School as well as Roosevelt Avenue near Gantner Avenue School in regards to this grant. Mr. Murphy stated the deadline is May 15, 2014 for the submission of this grant. The Council requested to revisit this discussion after they have had time to access the areas around the schools.
- c. **Letter from Department of Transportation regarding 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program** – Mr. Murphy stated this grant is similar to the grant being used for the Market Street streetscape and asked the Council to decide if the streetscape project to go beyond Phase II is a desire. The Council directed Mr. Murphy to move forward seeking no more than \$500,000.

- d. **River Road Widening Project** – Mr. Murphy stated that he will have a proposal ready for discussion at the next work session scheduled for April 10, 2014.
- e. **Pumping Station #6 Rehabilitation** – Mr. Murphy discussed a concern regarding the capacity of the pump station and the possibility of having a problem down system. He stated Alaimo is going to have two proposals for the Council. One for the rehabilitation of Pump Station #6 and a second which will be for a study for the possibility of problems arising further down the system due to capacity issues.
- f. **Potholes under Route 80 overpasses** – Mayor Mola discussed pothole issues under the Route 80 overpasses. He discussed the overpass over River Drive, stating that even though the road is a County road, underneath the overpasses the roadways become the responsibility of the State. The same goes for all other roadways that are located under a state highway overpass. He stated that the State has filled some of the potholes, but other still need attention. He further stated the State will be coming out to assess the remaining potholes.

3 – **Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Stipend Increase Request** – Discussion is held over to the April 10, 2014 Work Session meeting when the Ambulance Corps liaison will be in attendance.

4 – **RESOLUTIONS:**

- a. **Request from EP Volunteer Ambulance Corps. for Coin Toss Events** – A resolution will be placed on the April 3, 2014 Regular Meeting.
- b. **Resolution Supporting Continuous Welded Rail** – A resolution will be placed on the April 3, 2014 Regular Meeting.

5 – **ORDINANCES:**

- a. **Snow Ordinance Draft** – Mr. Randazzo discussed some changes to the ordinance. He stated that he would like clarification to the hours listed for the Rosemont Section. The ordinance will be taken up at a later work session.
- b. **Revisit Pilot Program extending one-way on Gilbert Avenue** – After some discussion the Council decided to make the one-way permanent. The ordinance will be introduced at the April 3, 2014 Regular Meeting.
- c. **Revisit Zoning and Site Plan Review – Certificate of Occupancy** – Councilman Caramagna discussed some changes regarding the ordinance. Mayor Mola stated he would like to keep the ordinance as is. Councilman Pettigano stated he would like to extend this ordinance to include office buildings. Councilman Caramagna stated the Building Official making the decisions is working well. Mayor Mola stated he feels that the Planning Board reviewing the applications is beneficial due to more people reviewing the applications. Councilman Colletti stated that before there is any discussion to change the ordinance to have Mr. Bolen, a member of the Planning Board and a business owner meet with the Council to share their thoughts. Discussion ensued regarding the expanding beyond the 10,000 square feet. Councilman Colletti reiterated the opinions of persons from each of the affected entities would be beneficial. Councilman Pettigano he agrees with Councilman Colletti but feels that discussion with Mr. Bolen should be done prior to discussions with the Planning Board and a business owner. Discussion ensued to the sunset of the ordinance. Mr. Randazzo reviewed the ordinance and stated it is not stated within the ordinance about a sunset being a part of the ordinance.

6 – **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

- a. **Recreation Department Report – March 2014** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Library Minutes – February 24, 2014**– Councilman Caramagna asked Mayor Mola where the Library is in regards to the capital improvement plans. Mayor Mola stated they are reviewing the ADA requirements and will meet with the Council to discuss the plans.
- c. **Municipal Court Report – February 2014**– Accepted without discussion.

7 – **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Pettigano discussed an upcoming meeting with the Passaic Valley Sewer Commission and the Canoe and Kayaking group regarding the Marina on April 22, 2014. Discussion ensued regarding flooding and liability for the Borough. Councilman Pettigano discussed the Recreation hiring a consultant for ADA compliance. He then discussed the plans for English Avenue Park and his concerns regarding parking spaces and the placement of the rink.

Councilman Caramagna stated that along with Councilman Dombrowski he will be meeting with Dr. Tomko and Mr. Egan regarding the proposed school budget. He asked Councilman Colletti if he would like to attend the meeting, however he is not able to attend as he will be away on vacation. Councilman Caramagna stated that he will ask Councilman Vuoncino to attend the meeting. Councilman Caramagna discussed the JIF Safety breakfast and inquired why the Borough did not receive an award this year. Mrs. Dispoto stated it was due to the amount of injuries that occurred. Discussion then ensued as to safety training sessions for Borough employees. Mrs. Dispoto stated the prior week training sessions took place with the Manager/Supervisor and also for office employees. She further stated the First Quarter Safety meeting is scheduled for all Department Heads.

Councilman Martino discussed grand opening of the new Good Will store.

Councilman Colletti inquired as to when Mr. Kauker will meet with the Council. Mrs. Dispoto stated that Mr. Kauker is unable to attend the April 10, 2014 Work Session due to a scheduling conflict but will attend the April 24, 2014 Work Session. Councilman Colletti inquired about the hawk light on Broadway. Mayor Mola discussed the safety issues that still exist at the crossing. Councilman Colletti suggested the Council put pressure on the legislators to see some progress.

Mayor Mola spoke with Mr. Karcz to reach out to Chief Muttell to assist the Borough in cleaning up under the overpasses by spraying down underneath.

8 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

a. Personnel – Crossing Guards

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 – Crossing Guards

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 Martino and seconded by Councilman Pettigano to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

Personnel – Crossing Guards

A motion was made by Councilman Colletti and seconded by Councilman Caramagna to return to the public session. Motion carried by the members present.

A motion was made by Councilman Colletti and seconded by Councilman Caramagna to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Barbara L. DiSpoto
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Minutes approved at the May 1, 2014 Meeting of the Mayor and Council.