

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING**

May 14, 2015

8:00 p.m.

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for May 14, 2015 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Keith Kazmark at 8:02 p.m. The 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, 2015.

Council Members Caramagna, Colletti, Dombrowski, Pettigano, were present. Councilman Martino and Vuoncino were absent due to travel. Also present were Mayor Mola, Borough Clerk Keith Kazmark, Borough Attorney Giuseppe Randazzo and Borough Engineer Nordan Murphy.

Public Hearing: No one wished to be heard.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

1 – ENGINEERING REPORT:

- a. **Monthly Status Report** – Mr. Murphy stated the stripping at the intersection of Route 46 and Boulevard has not yet been completed. He further stated that was advised in writing that the stripping would be done by NJDOT. Mr. Murphy discussed the revision of the 2015 Community Development Grant. Mr. Murphy stated he reached out to PSE&G regarding the schedule pertaining to the Energy Strong project. He discussed the soliciting of proposals for an inspection on the water tank and the proposals that were received. Alaimo is recommending Tank Industries to conduct the inspection. Tank Industries will directly invoice the Borough for said services. Mr. Murphy stated bids will be received on June 4, 2015 for the Market Street Force Main. The Pump Station #6 design plan is 80% completed. He plans to schedule a meeting with Mr. Karcz to review the plans. Mr. Murphy discussed the streetscape meeting which he attended with Boswell Engineering. Discussion ensued as to brick crosswalks and their durability. Mr. Murphy discussed a letter sent to AJM containing the punch list for the 2014 Road Program. He anticipates receiving bids for Boulevard improvements on May 27, 2015.
- b. **Proposal for Design Services – 2015 Road Program** – Mr. Murphy discussed the proposal for 2015 Road Program. A resolution will be placed on the May 21, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda to award services to Alaimo Engineering.
- c. **Engineer's Estimate – English Avenue Park Improvements** – Mr. Murphy discussed the engineer estimate pertaining to English Avenue Park. The clearing out of trees, brush and overgrowth ensued. Discussion then ensued as the fence separating the park from the brook. Mr. Murphy stated fencing is not included in the plans. Council Caramagna discussed replacing the fence and Council President Dombrowski discussed repairing the fence for the safety of the children who utilize the park. Discussion ensued regarding fencing at the park. Discussion then ensued to the proposed soccer field size and how it affects the size of the parking lot. Ms. Puglisi stated the field would accommodate all ages for the Recreation Soccer program and the Bombers football practices. Discussion ensued regarding the parking and the possible overflow of cars parking onto the street. Mr. Murphy discussed the other improvements to the park. The Council agreed to allow Alaimo to move forward with the project.

2 – Discussion with Recreation Director Puglisi:

- a. **Park Proposals** – Ms. Puglisi discussed the formation of a Parks Committee within the Recreation Advisory Board that will review the parks and the repairs and improvements needed. The committee is scheduled to meet prior to the regular meeting. Any recommendations which are made by the committee will be forwarded to the Council for their review.
- b. **Possible Purchase of New Recreation Bus** – Ms. Puglisi discussed a letter received from the NJ Division of Motor Vehicles that states the Recreation bus must come out of commission due to its age. State law prohibits the use of a bus older than 15 years to transport children. By request of the Recreation Advisory Board, Ms. Puglisi received a quote pertaining to contracting a bus company for transportation services. She stated it would cost \$45,000 a year to contract said services. She further stated to purchase a new bus costs approximately \$90,000. Council President Dombrowski inquired as to the costs for a driver, insurance, maintenance and cost of gas which the Borough would not be responsible for if the services were contracted. Discussion ensued as to the School District owned buses. Ms. Puglisi discussed the continuity of the Recreation bus driver with the children in the program. Council President inquired as to when the

bus needs to be decommissioned and asked to revisit this discussion at a later time. Discussion then ensued as to purchase of the bus utilizing the Trust Fund. Ms. Puglisi will present to the Recreation Advisory Board possibility of purchasing the bus through the trust fund and bring a letter of recommendation back to the Council.

- c. **Tennis Courts** – Ms. Puglisi discussed a meeting with the Acting Superintendent relative to the high school tennis courts. She stated that there is an interest among Recreation with helping with the tennis courts, but the number of courts cannot be reduced. The school currently has 5 courts and if the tennis program is established in the school again, the five courts would be needed for tennis events. Councilman Colletti inquired as to how court time would be determined between the school program and the Recreation program. Ms. Puglisi will inquire regarding the District's engineer's professional opinion of the tennis courts. Discussion ensued as to available funds through Open Space grants to fund the improvements to the tennis courts. The directed Ms. Puglisi to get cost estimates and report them back to the Council for further discussion.
- d. **After School Program** – Ms. Puglisi discussed the issues the School District is experiencing with the aftercare program. She stated the District wants the Recreation Department to take the program back. She further stated she expressed to the District the Recreation Department's inability to do the before care program and other items the Recreation Department cannot do. Ms. Puglisi stated there are approximately 190 children in the after school program, which the recreation building cannot house on a daily basis. Ms. Puglisi discussed taking the children from the Middle School to the Recreation Building and the elementary school children will stay at their schools. Ms. Puglisi would run the program and she further discussed the other employees that would be needed if the Recreation Department took over the program. Ms. Puglisi has estimated the Recreation can make approximately \$128,000 in additional revenue a year with the program. Borough Clerk Kazmark requested a meeting with Ms. Puglisi and Acting Superintendent Grieco regarding the program and a possible shared service agreement.
- e. **Summer Camp Employees** – Discussion ensued as to the hiring of Elmwood Park residents. A resolution will be placed on the May 21, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda.

3 – Request from Orchard Street residents to hold a Block Party on August 1, 2015 – A resolution will be placed on the May 21, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda.

4 – Discussion regarding angled parking on Market Street – Borough Clerk Kazmark will reach out to the County Engineers regarding angled parking on Market Street. Further discussion will take place at a future work session. Discussion ensued as to the 2 hour parking limit on Market Street. The Council directed Borough Clerk Kazmark to speak with the Police Chief regarding the 2 hour parking limit.

5 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- a. **Municipal Court Report – April 2015** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Recreation Department – May 2015** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Police Department Report – April 2015** – Accepted without discussion.

6 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Pettigano discussed the progress with the town welcome signs. Discussion ensued as to the sponsorship from businesses. Discussion regarding the number and sizes of the signs ensued. Council President Dombrowski stated he likes the idea of the welcome signs, but disagrees with the sponsorship and who would be responsible for the ongoing process of sponsorships with the signs. The Borough will procure the signs and the fee paid by the businesses will be for the advertisement.

Councilman Dombrowski stated in May the Board of Health meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum. He then discussed statistics from the Elmwood Park Library. He further discussed an OPRA request that he had filed regarding the Library. He then discussed the Library Board going above Civil Service guidelines. Council President stated the Library has a full time custodian and the Library's lack of cleanliness.

Councilman Caramagna stated the Library should not spend the money on expanding the facilities; instead the needed repairs should be addressed. He discussed the recent Planning Board meeting. He mentioned the upcoming Board of Education meeting.

Councilman Colletti stated he feels the need for Libraries will always be there. He discussed the Library Board and why there is no trust by the Council. Council President Dombrowski stated he has a problem in the four years which has elapsed without any progress by the Library Board with the capitol plan. Councilman Colletti discussed the Building Inspector's report and stated the report was not devastating considering the age of the building. Councilman Colletti inquired about the tank. Borough Clerk Kazmark gave an update as to the tank.

Mayor Mola discussed the stigma free program through the County.

7 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. Personnel – Finance Department
- b. NJ Supreme Court Decision regarding COAH
- c. Litigation – John Buonanno vs 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 – Finance Department
NJ Supreme Court Decision regarding COAH
Litigation – John Buonanno vs 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 Council President Dombrowski and seconded by Councilman Colletti to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

Personnel – Finance Department
NJ Supreme Court Decision regarding COAH
Litigation – John Buonanno vs Borough of Elmwood Park

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



Keith Kazmark, RMC/CMC/MMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the November 5, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.