

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
March 12, 2015
8:00 p.m.

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for March 12, 2015 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Keith Kazmark at 8:06 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 Colletti, Dombrowski, Martino, Pettigano, Vuoncino and Caramagna were present. Also present were Mayor Mola, Borough Clerk Keith Kazmark, Borough Attorney Giuseppe Randazzo and Borough Engineer Nordan Murphy.

Public Hearing: Steve Conte, Market St., spoke in regard to the ownership of Terrace Street.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

1 – Discussion with Paul Lerch RMA regarding the 2015 Municipal Budget – Mr. Lerch discussed the proposed budget which includes a zero tax increase. He further discussed the \$2 million surplus. He suggested the Borough clean up some of the old financial issues by properly funding some of the monies that have already been paid out. Mr. Lerch further discussed the forecast for future budgets. Mr. Lerch finalized his report by stating that we are in good financial shape. The introduction of the 2015 budget will be at the March 19, 2015 Regular Meeting with the adoption scheduled for the April 2, 2015 Regular Meeting.

2 – Elected Officials Training and Annual Report – Frank Covelli – Discussion was held over to the Executive portion of the March 19, 2015 Regular Meeting.

3 – ENGINEERING REPORT:

a. Engineering Status Report – Mr. Murphy stated he issued a letter to David Martin of the NJDOT regarding the striping at the intersection of Route 46 and Boulevard. He has not received a response to his letter. He stated he issued a letter to the Turnpike Authority stating the Borough does not have an objection to them taking formal action regarding the right-of-way encroachment. He discussed the 2015 Road Program and the coordination of the streets to be included in the road program with streets that are to be resurfaced by PSE&G in connection with the Energy Strong Project. Mr. Murphy stated the application has been filed in connection with the electrical service needed for the proposed traffic light by the Broadway train station. He stated there has been no change pertaining to the River Drive and Linwood Avenue culvert since the last report. He stated he has not received an invoice pertaining to the emergency repairs completed at the Market Street and Boulevard intersection. Discussion ensued to the grant opportunity for recreational trails. Further discussion of the application deadline and maximum grant amount of \$24,000 ensued. Mr. Murphy discussed the reasons why there are some revisions to the Pump Station #6 Improvements to eliminate the access manholes from the previous plans.

b. Letter regarding Supplemental Traffic Striping – Route 46 & Boulevard – Discussed during the monthly status report.

4 – Letter from Boswell Engineering regarding Improvements to the Van Riper Culvert – Borough Clerk, Keith Kazmark, discussed a letter received from Boswell Engineering regarding the property along the Van Riper culvert which Bergen County is going to turn over ownership to the Borough of Elmwood Park.

5 – **Email from Chief Foligno regarding Outside Service Fees** – Police Chief Foligno expressed his concerns with Ordinance 14-29 regarding the increase in administrative fees for outside services. The Chief explained that some businesses have stated the possibility of no longer utilizing the services due to the increase. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of maintaining Borough vehicles. Borough Clerk Kazmark proposed reducing both the officer and the administrative fees to the prior amounts. Borough Clerk Kazmark will reach out to the PBA regarding their concerns.

6 – **Request by Recreation Director Puglisi for replacement Teachers for Spring Break** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda.

7 – **ORDINANCES:**

- a. **Deck Constructions Regulations** – Councilman Caramagna went over some of the guidelines in the ordinance about deck construction. Discussion ensued regarding to how decks must be constructed. It was agreed that before any type of deck construction the Building Department should be contacted for permits and official guidelines
- b. **Draft Zoning and Site Plan Review – CCO Ordinance** – Borough Attorney Randazzo discussed some changes made to the ordinance. The ordinance will be placed on the March 19, 2015 Regular Meeting agenda for introduction.

8 – **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

- a. **Police Department Report – February 2015** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Municipal Court Report – February 2015** – Accepted without discussion.

9 – **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Pettigano discussed a meeting with Bergen County planning and zoning officials regarding the proposed plans for the bike and walking trail. The plans will be available in early April for review and a meeting will be held in soon thereafter to go over the plans. The Council discussed how dangerous some of the county sidewalks are for walking. The Council will look into grant money to help with the repairs.

Councilman Vuoncino reported he received the contract for the gas commodity. Councilman Vuoncino stated he asked the Police Chief for changes in the reporting of incidents in their monthly report. Councilman Vuoncino reminded everyone of the upcoming Ambulance Corps. beefsteak dinner.

Councilman Dombrowski reminded everyone the Goddard School was opening on Saturday and hopes all can attend the grand opening. He discussed an upcoming bowling event which is being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. He stated the Health Department transition is going smooth and that the County Health Department is being very helpful.

Councilman Caramagna discussed a meeting between the Board of Education and the Finance Committee regarding the district budget. He stated some streets in town are very dark and investigating what can be done to improve the lighting. He discussed reaching out to the Police Department to see if there are any opportunities for high school students to fulfill their community service requirements for graduation.

Councilman Martino reported progress.

Councilman Colletti asked about the progress of the tank. Borough Clerk Kazmark stated he has been communicating with ValTek to begin the work.

Mayor Mola spoke regarding the public meetings being broadcasted on FIOS. Mayor Mola discussed being approached regarding fixing up the tennis courts. He suggested the Borough may be able to use Open Space money to repair the courts. He announced the scheduling of a Centennial Committee meeting on April 7, 2015 for those interested.

10 – **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. **Potential Litigation – Approval of Police Towers**
- b. **Personnel – Interview of Police Officer Candidates**

- c. Personnel – Building Department/Fire Prevention
- d. Personnel – All Departments

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:

Potential Litigation – Approval of Police Towers
Personnel – Interview of Police Officer Candidates
Personnel – Building Department/Fire Prevention
Personnel – All Departments

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 unanimously.

Potential Litigation – Approval of Police Towers
Personnel – Interview of Police Officer Candidates
Personnel – Building Department/Fire Prevention
Personnel – All Departments

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

A motion was made by Councilman Colletti and seconded by Councilman Martino to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith Kazmark, RMC/CMC/MMC
Borough Clerk

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