

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
February 14, 2019
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for February 14, 2019 was called to order by Acting Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:01PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Now, therefore be advised, that the meeting requirements for this meeting have been met by publishing an annual notice in The Record 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. Notice was posted on January 7, 2019.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

PUBLIC HEARING:

No one from the public wished to be heard.

1 – CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **Accident and Sickness Renewal Policy – PIA** – Members reviewed the JIF policy that includes Borough volunteers which was clarified by the Mayor.
- b. **Certificates of Insurance – PIA** – Members reviewed the certificates of insurance provided by our JIF representative. Our JIF also recommended a minimum liability insurance policy of at least \$1,000,000 for all of our professionals.
- c. **Prospect Park Black History Month Invitation** – No conversation ensued.
- d. **Andrew Cimiluca Letter** – No conversation ensued.
- e. **Execution of Borough Attorney Contract** – Members reviewed and approved the execution of said contract via resolution to be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Richard Sabato Letter** – No conversation ensued.

2 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Borough Attorney and Property Tax Appeals Attorney** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. **EP&G Resolution** – Borough Administrator Foligno informed the Mayor and Council about the services of EP&G who will conduct a survey to attempt to get us lower energy rates. Councilman Dombrowski inquired about our current contractor NJSEM. Councilman Dombrowski asked that EP&G give a presentation following their study. Being that their services come at no cost until a contract is signed, a resolution will be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- c. **Proposal for Tennis Court Design Services – Alaimo Group** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **Appointment of Junior Firefighter – Matthew Ruglio, Engine 2** – It was noted that Mr. Ruglio has come up the ranks by first started as a Junior Firefighter A resolution will be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

- e. Emergency Hose Replacement** – It was noted that this cost will be submitted through the JIF for a reimbursement claim as a result of the Marcal fire. A resolution will be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. Emergency Pump Replacement** – It was noted that this cost will be submitted through the JIF for a reimbursement claim as a result of the Marcal fire. A resolution will be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- g. Expulsion of Firefighter – Robert Daubenberger, Engine 2** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- h. Vacation Buyback – John Stankiewicz** – The Mayor and Council asked that the amount of time and total cost always be listed in the request. A resolution will be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- i. Vacation Buyback – Scott Karcz** – A resolution will be placed on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
Additionally, the Mayor expressed concerns with the vacation buyback program in general.
- j. Replacement of ASP counselor – Recreation Department** – The Mayor raised concerns in regards to hiring individuals from out of town. However, the Council agreed to placing the resolution on the February 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
Councilmembers Ingui and Wechtler inquired about having to abstain from this vote.

3 – ORDINANCES:

- a. Sump Pump Ordinance – A potential ordinance to address sump pumps during the winter/cold months was presented to the Mayor and Council as it causes for frozen streets and other issues such as grading. Concerns were raised as to whether or not the Borough has the authority to limit this as it was discussed, in detail, that it is illegal to divert into the sewer system. The Borough Attorney suggested that the Borough Engineer look into what can be done. Additionally, Councilman Dombrowski asked that Rich Bolan be consulted from the Building Department.
- b. Borough Parking Lot – Borough Administrator Foligno presented alterations to the Borough Parking Lot where the back lot would be blocked off and used for Borough employees only via a key fab system to and the front lot would be used for Borough Hall visitors. Council President Golabek asked that, if approved, it be done in the most inexpensive way possible. Councilwoman Pellegrine suggested adding one additional handicap spot for visitors. Lastly, Mayor Caramagna asked that some of the Borough vehicles that are not used often be moved to a different Borough lot which, in turn, led to Councilman Dombrowski suggesting some vehicles be put out to auction.

7 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- a. Police Department – Accepted without discussion.
- b. Millennium Strategies – Accepted without discussion.

8 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Balistreri announced that the Elmwood Park Takes Action/Stigma Free meeting will take place on February 21st at 6PM. She commended the DPW for their hard work in taking care of the streets during the inclement weather. Councilwoman Balistreri then reported out on a meeting held to discuss some upcoming opportunities for parks and recreation held in tandem with the Borough Engineer and Garfield City Manager Tom Duch, due to his experience in attaining funding. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss the Green Acres grant in which the Borough could potentially receive \$1 million that has a deadline of March 30th. The area that was chosen to focus on

for this grant was the Marina which could possibly include a playground and address flooding issues. Moving on, she briefly informed members of plans for a dog park which has been a part of many discussions. An ideal location that was mentioned was at Kipp and Martha. Councilwoman Pellegrine inquired about the cost of such a project and Council President Golabek & Councilwoman Balistreri confirmed that nothing has been finalized but a goal amount would not exceed \$200,000.00. Lastly, the Bergen County Open Space grant was discussed where it was determined that Rosemont Park would be a good fit for this funding stream.

Councilman Dombrowski requested to add an issue related to Fire Prevention to the Executive Session. He discussed the unfortunate Marcal fire and the meeting that he joined in on with Fire Chief Sulick and Fire Official Kochik where they debriefed the fire for an estimated five hours. He requested an update on taking out a potential ad with The Record to thank those responders to the fire and Acting Clerk Delaney informed him that she had not heard back in regards to her inquiries to their advertising department. Councilman Dombrowski followed up on his request to get proposals to beautify the Market Street and Mola Boulevard corner streetscape. Councilmembers discussed options and asked that the Borough Engineer 3 designs as soon as possible. To conclude his committee report, Councilman Dombrowski expressed concerns regarding building safety as former employees are familiar with security codes. Borough Administrator Foligno commented that this would directly correlate with a new fab system.

Councilwoman Ingui reported that no members showed for the Ambulance Corps. meeting and it was therefore cancelled.

Councilwoman Pellegrine reported out on the monthly board of health meeting that was held. At the monthly meeting the Board of Health discussed establishments that Steve Salerno from the county deemed to have serious issues with the potential of possibly being shut down. On a positive note, she shared that Taco Bell will be opening up on the 18th and that the next Board of Health meeting will take place on March 11th at 7PM.

Councilwoman Wechtler had nothing to report.

Council President Golabek noted that the planner Topology will be making a follow-up presentation on at the work session meeting March 14th. As part of their work, Topology has been meeting with the landlord of the ACME property in hopes that they keep an open mind to the vision that both Topology and the Borough has for the Broadway area. He announced that the Planning Board had a meeting on February 13th. To end his report, Council President Golabek stated that he would be working, cohesively, on establishing a Green Team Committee and Access for All Committee within the Borough.

Mayor Caramagna requested that the Mayor and Council provide certificates to establishments that provided food during the Marcal fire. Additionally, He will be delivering a proclamation to a resident who will be turning 100 years. Mayor Caramagna then inquired about the length of time for the garbage contract as he is interested in incorporating the same system used in Rutherford here in the Borough of Elmwood Park. In conclusion, he went on to acknowledge all of the accomplishments of the council and the great job done by the DPW.

9 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, inquired about the potential sump pump ordinance and shared his own personal experiences with this issue at his son's residence. Additionally, his street was repaved a few years ago but, because there is no drainage or gradient, the street is in worse condition than it was prior to its new pavement. Mr. Freitag suggested that the engineer consider issues such as these when taking on new projects.

10 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. Personnel – Municipal Court
- b. Personnel – Water/Tax Department
- c. Personnel – Borough Administrator
- d. Personnel – Ambulance Corps
- e. Fire Prevention (*Add-on at the formal request of Councilman Dombrowski*).

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 – Municipal Court
Personnel – Water/Tax Department
Personnel – Borough Administrator
Personnel – Ambulance Corps.
Fire Prevention

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 Councilwoman Wechtler and seconded by Councilwoman Pellegrine to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

Personnel – Municipal Court
Personnel – Water/Tax Department
Personnel – Borough Administrator
Personnel – Ambulance Corps.
Fire Prevention

A motion was made by Council President Golabake and seconded by Councilwoman Ingui to return to the public portion. Motion carried by the members present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wechtler and seconded by Councilwoman Ingui to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA
Acting Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the May 16, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council