

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
March 7, 2019
7:00PM**

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for March 7, 2019 was called to order by Acting Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:06PM. 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 – SCOTT KARCZ & ROBERT DEBLOCK – WATER

Acting Borough Clerk Erin Delaney announced that Robert DeBlock had a scheduling conflict and could not attend the meeting this evening. She shared that DPW Superintendent Scott Karcz, the Borough Engineer, and Mr. DeBlock will be working in tandem with each other on the Asset Management Plan and water mains so a separate meeting will be scheduled to discuss said plans.

2 – ENGINEERING REPORT:

- a. **Monthly Status Report** – Ms. Delaney recognized John Clemente to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Clemente reviewed the monthly status report.
- b. **Water Tank Replacement Current Estimate and Change Order** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- c. **Veterans Memorial** – The project is moving forward and will be going out to bid. Once the bid timeline has commenced a separate meeting will be held to award the bid.
- d. **Green Acres Marina Project** – An overview was given of the plans for the Marina Project that will be a part of the 2019 Green Acres grant application. The Mayor and Council will be approving the submission of the grant at the March 21st, 2019 meeting where there will be a Public Hearing on the project.

3 – CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **Marcal DEP Letter** – The letter was accepted and filed.
- b. **Marcal Attendance and Accommodations** – The Mayor and Council agreed that there should be special recognition for those first responders that assisted in the Marcal fire. It was agreed upon that rather than recognizing each individual the departments as a whole would be recognized.
- c. **Tennis Court Improvements Letter** – The letter was accepted and filed.

- d. **Councilmembers Dombrowski & Balistrieri – RescueMania** – Councilman Dombrowski and Councilwoman Balistrieri proposed a joint effort fundraiser between the Borough and PTO called RescueMania. The Borough would be responsible for the \$3,900.00 fee and the following groups would benefit from the fundraiser: DPW, Police Department, Fire Department, and Ambulance Corps. The Mayor and Council approved this cost to come out of the special events line of the budget. A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **Acacia Financial Group** – A draft contract and letter outlining the potential services of Acacia Financial Group was reviewed. This agency would be used on an as needed basis and entering into a contract would result in no cost to the Borough unless utilized. A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Verizon broadcasting of Council Meetings** – Acting Borough Clerk informed the Mayor and Council that she had reached out to Verizon as Councilwoman Pellegrine informed her that the Mayor and Council meetings have not been broadcasting. Verizon stated that in order to broadcast meeting, the Borough would need their own dedicated channel which would be provided free of charge after the purchase of a \$500.00 piece of equipment. The Mayor and Council agreed that the Borough should move forward with doing so.

4 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Elmwood Park Recreation Softball and Football** – Councilman Dombrowski inquired as to why the Little League was not included. Acting Borough Clerk stated that nothing has yet to be submitted. A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. Fire Department Quick Attack Mini Pumper
- c. **Fire Department 4th Quarter Stipends** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **Snap-Tite Hose Correction** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **Rogut Contract** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Police Towers** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda and the Council will be made aware of the towers beforehand.
- g. **Fire Department Expulsions** – Councilman Dombrowski noted that one letter is a resignation letter and the second a notice of expulsion. He continued to say that the decision to expel is internal as the Fire Department is a separate entity that has full discretion with these matters. Borough Administrator questioned as to why the Mayor and Council is the appointing authority but does not have any input on expulsions and suspensions. It was suggested that the Borough Administrator work with the Borough Attorney meet and potentially develop a policy to ensure a correct and fair process is being implemented. As the conversation ensued, Borough Attorney Ingrassia interjected as it was digressing to matters that should be in closed session
- h. **Opposition of Vegetative Management Response Act** – It was suggested that the Borough Attorney give an overview of the proposed bill and that the Insurance & Ordinances Committee meet to make a determination.

5 – ORDINANCES:

- a. **Council voting** – Acting Borough Clerk and Borough Administrator Foligno requested that the Borough Attorney give clarification on councilmember voting and when it is necessary to abstain or recuse on resolutions or ordinances.

6 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- a. **Municipal Court** – Councilman Dombrowski raised concerns regarding the numbers from 2015-2019 as the amount coming into the Borough is decreasing. Borough Administrator/Police Chief Foligno stated that this could be as a result of less snow storms and the fact that the fines are acting as deterrents. Councilman Dombrowski asked for an explanation in writing and Borough Administrator/Police Chief Foligno stated that he does not feel comfortable making such a request.
- b. **Millennium Strategies** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Mayor and Council – Work Session – January 10, 2019** – Accepted without discussion.

7 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Wechtler reported progress.

Councilman Dombrowski started off his report by acknowledging the community update from 2018 which was well-received. He noted that we are approaching our next quarter and feels that we should put something out in the community before July for 2019. Councilman Dombrowski then shared that he saw something on Facebook related to drilling within the Borough and wanted to ensure that residents were properly notified. Borough Administrator Foligno clarified that it was for Fredericks Court and that letters were given to those that would be affected as opposed to the entire community. He concluded his report by requesting an update on the status of ShopRite.

Councilwoman Pellegrine for her police update announced that 5 more speed signs have been placed within the Borough. Additionally, Council Corner had it's first meeting which was very successful and the next meeting will be held on May 11th. As far as the Tax Preparation Classes, there was a low turnout but advertisement will begin in early January for 2020 so that more residents are aware of the free opportunity. Lastly for announcements, Councilwoman Pellegrine shared an upcoming bowling event being held through the Chamber of Commerce. For her Board of Health update, she announced that there will be a meeting on March 11th and also gave an update on the dumpster issue at Glenwood Plaza.

Councilwoman Balistrieri shared that the Recreation Egg Hunt will take place on April 13th. She then went on to say that Council Corner's first meeting in February was a successful one. Councilwoman Balistrieri concluded her report by inquiring about the ordinance that requires upholstered furniture and mattresses to be wrapped prior to pick-up as this ordinance was requested by the garbage company, however, they are not following it. Acting Borough Clerk Delaney stated that the Clerks Office will reach out to said company to ensure they abide by the ordinance.

Councilwoman Ingui requested that the Mayor and Council formally recognize those wrestlers that made it to the State competition in Atlantic City at the April Public Meeting of the Mayor and Council. All were in favor of doing so. She then requested more stigma-free stickers from Councilwoman Balistrieri as they are in demand. To end her report, Councilwoman Ingui stated that

she was unable to make the Ambulance Corps. meeting but that she would submit a list of names of those that aided in the Marcal fire for the recognition letters to the Mayor's secretary.

Council President Golabek suggested that, through the RAP program, the Borough look into offering citizenship classes to residents being that there is a high immigrant population in town. Additionally, he mentioned that he is continuing his work on the Fallen Heroes signs so that their installment coincides with the opening of the Veterans Memorial project. For the Board of Education report, Council President Golabek stated that he will have a more extensive report at the meeting on March 21st but did note that the school district is receiving a significant increase in the amount of state aid this year. The Council President ended by saying Topology has been meeting and having discussions with the owners of the ACME property to discuss concept plans and maintain an open, working relationship. He also noted that Topology will continue their work on Broadway and Market Street. This, in turn, led to him expressing his wish to appoint a permanent planner for 2019 for the Borough to keep the momentum that Topology has begun moving forward.

Mayor Caramagna debriefed on Governor Murphy's State of Address as he was invited to attend as a Special Guest on behalf of the Borough of Elmwood Park. Elmwood Park is receiving a significant increase in school aid this year. The Mayor went on to say that he would like to set up a meeting with the Board of Education to request that they make every effort to keep taxes low this year. He then announced that there was a fundraiser to assist in alleviate medical costs for a young child that has a brain tumor. Additionally, Mayor Caramagna requested that the Borough look into implementing a similar garbage pick-up/recycling system to that of the Borough of Rutherford.

9 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jean Freitag, Hillman Drive, inquired about the accommodations under correspondence and wanted to confirm that it was in reference to honoring the first responders at a public meeting.

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, raised concerns in regards to the process followed for road opening and paving within the Borough, such as through Public Service. He questioned whether or not the Borough Engineer goes back to inspect the work completed and who authorizes the permit to open the roads for digging. Secondly, Mr. Freitag questioned when the Doctrine of Necessity is invoked in Municipal Government and asked for further clarification as to the amount of people that are required to vote on certain topics where there may be conflicts.

10 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. Personnel – Clerks Office
- b. Personnel – Police Department

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 – Clerks Office
Personnel – Police Department

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 – Clerks Office
Personnel – Police Department

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

A motion was made by Councilman Dombrowski and seconded by Councilwoman Pellegrine to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA
Acting Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the June 20, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council