

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

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for March 14, 2019 was called to order by Acting Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:05PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Balistreri, Ingui, Pellegrine, Wechtler, and Council President Golabek were present. Also present were Mayor Francesco A. Caramagna, Acting Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney, Borough Administrator Michael Foligno, and Borough Attorney Salvatore A. Ingraffia.

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 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:

Dominick Scalcione, E. 54th Street, inquired about markings on the pavement of E. 54th street and asked if the Borough or Public Service intend on replacing the lines in those areas.

1 – Max Spann & Frank Santora Discussion

Max Spann from Max Spann Real Estate Auction Company and Frank Santora, Tax Collector gave a presentation regarding the auctioneering process and potentially utilizing this service for certain properties within the Borough that have tax liens and/or environmental issues. It was noted that a sale can occur in as little as six weeks if said services are retained, promotion is handled directly through the company, and the company does not get any compensation from the Borough unless there is a sale.

At this time, Borough Attorney Ingraffia requested that the Governing Body enter into closed session as the discussion about a specific piece of real property ensued. 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.

A motion was made by Council President Golabek and seconded by Councilwoman Pellegrine to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

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

To conclude this discussion, Mr. Spann was asked to package all eligible properties for auction at once. A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

2 – CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **BCUA Recycling Enhancement Grant** – Acting Municipal Clerk Delaney informed the Mayor and Council about the Borough being awarded a BCUA Recycling Enhancement Grant. She stated that she would comply with it's reporting deadline of November 2019.
- b. **PSE&G Public Hearing** – No discussion ensued.
- c. **Garden State Parkway bridge** – No discussion ensued.
- d. **Market Street and Mola Boulevard Time Extension** – The Mayor and Council reviewed the given correspondence. Borough Administrator Foligno informed them that he responded back to said individuals strongly opposing the extension and requesting that the project be sped up due to the time that's already been expended. The Borough Attorney and Borough Administrator also discussed the Diner sign at this time as the Borough will be responsible for its movement.
- e. **Great Falls Hydroelectric Project** – No discussion ensued.
- f. **PSE&G Upcoming Projects** – Acting Municipal Clerk Delaney informed the Mayor and Council that a meeting will be scheduled with Public Service, the Borough Administration, and Borough Engineer to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding the upcoming projects.

3 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Volunteer Fire Timesheets – Marcal Fire** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. **RAP Retro** – This item was moved to Executive Session for discussion.
- c. **Vacation Buyback** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **ASP New Hire** – Acting Municipal Clerk and Borough Administrator Foligno shared that there were 3 requests submitted by the Recreation Director. However, only 1 request was included on the agenda as it was the only request with fingerprint back-up. The Recreation Director was instructed to submit back-up prior to approval at a council meeting. A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **Education Incentive – White/Blue Collar** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Fire Department Application – Erick Vidal** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- g. **Boswell – Engineer's Estimate No. 1 Emergency Generator at Recreation Building** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

- h. **Finance Transfers** – A resolution will be placed on the March 21st, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

4 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Balistrieri shared that the schools will be hosting a dress down day will the proceeds will be benefiting Elmwood Park Takes Action. The next EPTA meeting will take place prior to the public meeting on March 21st. She then announced that the Recreation Egg Hunt will be held on April 13th.

Councilwoman Pellegrine updated everyone on the March Board of Health Meeting, she was happy to announce that the two problem establishments have been remedied. She concluded her health report by announcing the May rabies clinic and April meeting date. Through the Police Department, they were awarded funding for new street signs and a safety fence will be installed by the NJDOT along Route 4. Councilwoman Pellegrine then announce the tax preparation class for March 16th.

Councilwoman Wechtler, on behalf of the Homeowners Association, discussed the February meeting in which Gemini Insurance Company spoke. She announced that Police Chief Foligno is the guest speaker for the upcoming meeting and that there will be a fundraiser on March 22nd at Bethlehem Casino.

Councilwoman Ingui expressed her disappointment in finding out about the Assistant Chief of the Ambulance Corps.' resignation via social media. She also announced that they have not met.

Council President Golabek stated that the garbage from Route 80, on the hill across from Borough Hall, was cleaned up today in collaboration with the Sherriff's Department. Three other dates for clean-up are currently booked as the Borough is susceptible to this waste on NJDOT property that does not get cleaned up because of its proximity to highways. Moving on, he shared that the Planning Board submitted a Letter of Support on behalf of the Marina Project Green Acres Grant Application that the Borough is applying for. The Council President gave a brief Topology update and informed members that they will be making a final presentation at the first work session meeting in April. Council President Golabek talked about a conversation that has occurred many times over the course of the years in regards to rent control as management companies allege that this stymies their ability to invest in their properties. He requested that this conversation carry over into a work session in April.

Mayor Caramagna announced his attendance at the most recent Mayors Breakfast where his attendance at the Governor's Address was publicized. He touched base on the additional aid the Elmwood Park School District will be receiving and that he would like to see some of that money used to offset taxes. Mayor Caramagna requested input on the final plaques for the Marcal first responders that will be ordering through his office in addition to requesting reflective street signs on Mola Boulevard. Lastly, he shared his excitement of the proposed marina project through the Green Acres grant.

5 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

George Nestory, Sabo Court, posed questions about the apartments, their improvements, and rent control. He stated that individuals are parking on the street and garages need to be installed/upgraded. Lastly, Mr. Nestory requested that the Fleischer’s Brook culvert be cleaned as soon as possible.

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, stated that the Board of Education state aid budget number shared by the Mayor was incorrect and that there is no vote on the Board of Education budget as there is a 2% cap.

6 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. White Collar Negotiations**
- b. Personnel – Mayors Office**
- c. Personnel – Blue Collar**
- d. 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:

Negotiations – White Collar
Personnel – Mayor’s Office
Personnel – Blue Collar
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 Balistrieri to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

Negotiations – White Collar
Personnel – Mayor’s Office
Personnel – Blue Collar
Personnel – Police Department

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Wechtler 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