

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
December 5, 2019
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for December 5, 2019 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:00PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Balistrieri, Fasolo, Fava, Ingui, Wechtler, and Council President Pellegrine were present. Also present were Mayor Golabek, 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:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, asked if the Mayor and Council will be having a Mayor and Council Special Meeting on December 9th. Additionally, he inquired, on behalf of the Planning Board, as to whether or not anyone will be looking at the sewer lines during the Tuella Avenue Water Improvement project as this is a suggestion they plan to make.

1 – ENGINEERS REPORT

- a. **Monthly Status Report** – Mr. Clemente reviewed the monthly status report.
- b. **Current Estimate #2 – Memorial High School Tennis Courts** – A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

2 – CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. **NJDOT Award Letter** – No discussion ensued.

3 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **OEM Coordinators** – A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. **Fire Applications** – A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- c. **Fire Department Clothing Allowances** – Councilwoman Fava inquired as to the verbiage of the current ordinance and why inactive/retired members would need a clothing allowance. She stated that the ordinance is from 1969 and the term “clothing allowance” should be reclassified. Additionally, it was suggested that the Department include member addresses on the list as it is a requirement to be a resident of the Borough. Borough Administrator Foligno made the suggestion of requiring proof of residency to be submitted on a yearly basis. It was agreed upon that the conversation should be continued on a committee level who would then make recommendations to the Governing Body.
- d. **Fire Stipends – 3rd Quarter** – A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **Fire Department – Turnout Gear** – Fire Official Steve Kochik informed the Mayor and Council that the Borough was not awarded the turnout gear grant so his request for 8 sets of turnout gear would be funded half by the Fire Department’s budget and half by his Fire Prevention funds. A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Community Options – CDBG Grant Application** – A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- g. **Liquor License Transfer** – A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- h. **Borough Hall Parking Lot** – A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- i. **Refund Overpayments – Tax Department** – A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- j. **Request for Title 159 – Finance Department** – A resolution will be placed on the December 19th, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

4 – ORDINANCES:

- a. **Sump Pump Ordinance** – The Mayor and Council were in favor of adopting said ordinance and approved of the draft provided.

5 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Fava stated that those residents who were assisted with their leaf pick-up spoke very highly of the RAP volunteers. Additionally, she pointed out that those residents who received gift cards through the RAP program were extremely appreciative. Councilwoman Fava then thanked the DPW for a job well done with their snow preparations and removal.

Councilman Fasolo commended the Board of Education on their most recent audit report as it was said to be one of the best in their history. He announced upcoming events that will benefit the district and its students. Councilman Fasolo, too, thanked the DPW for their hard work with the recent inclement weather. To conclude his report, he shared a written statement addressing the recent changes with the Borough's Ambulance report. In that statement, Councilman Fasolo noted that it was a hard decision but, ultimately, one that had to be made to protect our residents.

Councilwoman Wechtler provided an update on the status of the work being done at the library. For the Homeowner's Association, she announced that there is no meeting in December but there will be a Holiday party for anyone interested. They are always looking for members. Councilwoman Wechtler then echoed the sentiments of Councilman Fasolo in regards to the Ambulance Corps.

Councilwoman Ingui shared that she is proud of the volunteers that dedicated their time and service to the Ambulance Corps. over the years. She then commended the shared service with Little Falls as she personally experienced less than a 5-minute response time recently. Councilwoman Ingui thanked Council President Pellegrine for her work with the RAP program as she was able to hand out gift cards to residents in need as a result. She closed her remarks by discussing a beautiful moment that Rare Is Beautiful was able to share with the Police and Fire Departments and a young boy.

Council President Pellegrine on behalf of the Police Department announced their upcoming toy drive and that they recently received a grant to purchase body armor. For the RAP program, she thanked the volunteers that made the second lead pick-up a success and shared details on their upcoming toy drive that will benefit needy families of Elmwood Park. Lastly, she stated the next meeting date for the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilwoman Balistriero announced that there will be no Stigma Free meeting held in December. For her Recreation report she acknowledged that basketball season has commenced and the tree lighting is scheduled for December 6th. Continuing on with her DPW report, she provided updates on leaf pick-up, the planting of trees at the Borough Hall parking, the numbering of spots at the Borough Hall parking lot, and installation of "Children at Play" signs.

Mayor Golabek shared similar sentiments of his fellow Councilmembers regarding the Ambulance Corps. and announced that the responsibility of the Governing Body is to provide the Borough with the best emergency services possible. Mayor Golabek discuss the recent Hall of Fame award ceremony where he was honored to accept an award on behalf of the 1916 Mayor and Council.

6 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, said that he felt the decision regarding the Ambulance Corps. was made very quickly and was not discussed with the public. He then inquired as to what would happen with the building and equipment of the Ambulance Corps. On the same topic, he had further questions regarding billing and payment to employees. To conclude his remarks, Mr. Freitag questioned if the proposed salary ordinance was written correctly.

Carl Roberts, Washington Avenue, questioned the location of where Little Falls will be stationed as a result of the new ambulance agreement.

Jeanne Freitag, Hillman Drive, asked the Mayor and Council about the proposed Council salary increases and why regular increases were not given regularly over the years as opposed to all at one time. She also stated that after hearing the Mayor and Council's explanation for their decision regarding emergency services it now makes more sense.

7 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Borough Administrator – Personnel**
- b. **Court Department – Personnel**
- c. **Salary Ordinance – Personnel**
- d. **Police Department – Personnel**

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:

Borough Administrator – Personnel

Court Department – Personnel

Salary Ordinance – Personnel

Police Department – Personnel

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 Fasolo and seconded by Council President Pellegrine to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

Borough Administrator – Personnel

Court Department – Personnel

Salary Ordinance – Personnel

Police Department – Personnel

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the January 2, 2020 Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council.