

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK**  
**WORK MEETING**  
**March 12, 2020**  
**7:00PM**

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for March 12, 2020 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:01PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Fasolo, Golabek, Ingui, Pellegrine, and Council President Balistrieri were present. Also present were Mayor Colletti, Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney, Borough Administrator Michael Foligno and Borough Attorney Salvatore A. Ingrassia.

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 8, 2020.

**Work Meeting Agenda Items:**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, commended the Governing Body for having the meeting in the all-purpose to allow for more space. He wondered if they also considered a live streaming method. Mr. Freitag then updated the Mayor and Council on the Lidl Planning Board application as a minor adjustment had to be made.

**1 – CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a. **New Jersey Assembly Resolution** – It was noted that a meeting to discuss Elmwood Park’s Complete Count Committee was scheduled.
- b. **PVSC Rebate Incentive Program** – No discussion ensued.
- c. **PVSC Pending Resolutions** – No discussion ensued.
- d. **PVSC Public Hearing** – No discussion ensued.
- e. **BCUA Public Hearing** – No discussion ensued.
- f. **County Community Energy Aggregation Presentation** – No discussion ensued.

**2 – RESOLUTIONS:**

- a. **Summer Concert Proposal** – This item was pulled from the agenda as the vendor is still working to complete the details of the proposal.
- b. **Property Tax Appeals** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- c. **Temporary Emergency Budget Appropriations** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- d. **Recreation Director Educational Stipend** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- e. **Frank Santora Retirement Payout** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- f. **Albert Ruth Retirement Payout** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- g. **David Meyers Retirement Payout** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- h. **Fire Department Regular Member** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- i. **Fire Department Radio Purchase** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- j. **Fire Department Equipment Change Order** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- k. **ASP Teacher Substitute** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- l. **Recreation Refunds** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- m. **Fire Prevention Hourly Rate** – A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- n. **Current Estimate #1 – 2019 Road Program** – Mayor Colletti asked the Borough Administrator to request a weekly update memo from the Borough’s Engineer. A resolution will be placed on the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.

### **3 – ORDINANCES:**

- a. **Curb Ordinance** – Borough Attorney Ingraffia drafted an ordinance with the Borough Engineer’s input for the Mayor and Council’s review. The ordinance will be on the agenda for introduction at the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.
- b. **Elected Official Restriction** – Mayor Colletti proposed that the Mayor and Council consider adopting an ordinance that imposes a distance in time between when and if an elected official, who is no longer in office, wishes to work for the Borough. He stated that the optics are not crystal clear when the Governing Body chooses to hire someone who just completed a term, as was recently the case, no matter how good of a job they did and will do. Mayor Colletti referenced the City of Garfield as they just implemented an 18-month waiting period. He noted that he feels a 12-month waiting period would be sufficient. Ultimately, the majority of the Councilmembers were not in support of such an ordinance. Councilwoman Pellegrine stated that there was never one in place in the past and both she and Councilwoman Ingui felt it may result in a missed opportunity if someone is qualified for a position. Mayor Colletti reiterated his stance as he would like to put a limitation on nepotism.
- c. **Stormwater Control Ordinance** – Borough Clerk Delaney advised the Mayor and Council, in addition to the Borough Attorney, that the Borough will need to review and revise their Stormwater Control ordinance by March 31, 2021.

### **4 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

- a. **Building Department Tracking – February 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Library Board Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2019** – Accepted without discussion.
- d. **EMS Call Log – February 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- e. **Finance Department – Budget thru February 29, 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- f. **Municipal Court Report – February 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- g. **DPW Report** – Accepted without discussion.
- h. **Police Department Report – February 2020** – Accepted without discussion.

### **5 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Fasolo advised the public that the new program Recycle Coach will be going live on March 13<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of his Board of Education report he stated that the Project Graduation Tricky Tray was a success, the School District received the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest increase in the state for State Aid, March 13<sup>th</sup> will be a half-session day in order to prepare for remote learning as a result of the Coronavirus, and that all Bergen County schools will be shut down as of March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Golabek reported progress.

Councilwoman Ingui reported progress. She also thanked County Executive Tedesco for taking charge and making a decision to close Bergen County schools given the current circumstances related to the Coronavirus.

Councilwoman Pellegrine provided an update on the success of the RAP Appreciation Breakfast. She then notified the public of the Rabies Clinic date for May. Councilwoman Pellegrine commended the Chief on all of his hard work and deferred to him to share the latest police report.

Council President Balistrieri also commended the Chief on all of his hard work. She provided dates for the Easter Egg Hunt, Community Day, and Food Truck Festival. Additionally, Council President Balistrieri stated the DPW is currently preparing Borough fields for Spring sports and working on installing new stop signs.

Mayor Colletti invited the Council and Department Heads to attend this year’s JIF Safety Breakfast as the Borough will be receiving an incentive. The Mayor provided a brief update on the meeting held with the County to discuss Artesian Fields and on the library construction as a lot of hurdles have been jumped. Continuing on with his report, Mayor Colletti noted that a meeting took place with Paterson official to address the noise emissions from Eastside Park. It was agreed upon that the Borough would once again fund a police officer for that area as it was proven to be effective in the past. However, Paterson agreed to fund a second officer out of their own budget. Lastly, Mayor Colletti stated that a discussion took place with the Ambulance Corps. in regards to their transition.

**6 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:**

Doug DeMatteo, Lincoln Avenue, stated that the company hired to clean the Municipal Building is known to be costly. He asked for more detail as to what exactly they were hired for, if they disinfected the building, and how much their services cost. Additionally, in regards to the elected official restriction ordinance that was discussed, Mr. DeMatteo informed the Governing Body that there is a limit of 6 months for the Board of Education and the fact that they are opposed to implementing one of their own is not a good perception. He encouraged them to reconsider and put something in place.

Joseph Dombrowski, Lincoln Avenue, advised the Mayor and Council that he feels there is a state statute that limits a former elected official from working for the municipality in which they served for a period of 12 months. He encouraged that they look into the statute being that a former Councilperson was just hired as an employee.

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, expressed that he feels there should be a time limit on the books for any former elected official seeking a paid position. He further went on to ask for more information on the Fire Department change order request. Lastly, he raised two more concerns about PSE&G performance and the length of time it has taken thus far in regards to the library renovations.

Kenneth Arabia, Locust Street, raised concerns about the lack of police presence on Locust Street and traffic that takes place. Additionally, he noted that he feels Mulberry Street should have been paved at the same time as the Borough Hall parking lot as there is a sink hole forming.

Christine Grezlak, Linwood Avenue, asked for the start date of the police presence at Eastside Park to address the noise.

**7 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. **Legal Reports/Litigation**
- b. **Rent Leveling Board – Personnel**
- c. **Tax Department – Personnel**
- d. **Planning Board – 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:

- Legal Reports/Litigation**
- Rent Leveling Board – Personnel**
- Tax Department – Personnel**
- Planning Board – 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 Council President Balistriero and seconded by Councilman Fasolo to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

- Legal Reports/Litigation**
- Rent Leveling Board – Personnel**
- Tax Department – Personnel**
- Planning Board – Personnel**

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC  
Borough Clerk

*Minutes approved at the April 2, 2020 Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council.*