

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK

WORK MEETING

April 9, 2020

7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for April 9, 2020 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:01PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Fasolo, Golabek (joined at 7:09PM), Ingui, Wechtler 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.

**Please note that Councilmembers Fasolo, Golabek, and Wechtler and Council President Balistrieri participated by way of teleconference.*

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.

Due to the Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, precautionary measures were taken in an attempt to prevent further spread of the virus and to protect the health and public safety of the Governing Body, Borough Professionals, and members of the public. As a result, the public was unable to physically attend the meeting. In order to participate in the meeting, the public was required to use the free access number which was provided and advertised in advance.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Borough Clerk Delaney read the following into the record which was submitted via e-mail by Maureen Rahman:

Good Afternoon Ms. Delaney: Due to the financial hardships that people are incurring (laid off from work, furloughed and/or sick) will the Borough be offering any sort of relief plan at this time? Will look to your response from the meeting tonight.

I hope you all stay well.

Borough Clerk Delaney read the following into the record which was submitted via e-mail by Dominick Scalcione, E. 54th Street:

Dear Ms. Delaney and Mayor Colletti,

According to the Bergen County website, as of Monday Elmwood Park had 201 COVID-19 cases. That means for every 1,000 residents, there are 20 cases. Is there anything more the Borough can do to get word out of the importance of social distancing and using a face mask when we have to go out in public, for example, to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities?

Thank you, Mayor Colletti, Council Members, Chief Foligno and Secretary Delaney for the extraordinary efforts you are making on behalf of Elmwood Park residents.

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, corrected numbers read during Mr. Scalcione's statement. Additionally, he inquired as to the library construction.

Rose Sheehan, Kipp Avenue, requested information on the Borough's gift card program and it's screening.

1 – CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Letter from Resident** – No discussion ensued.

2 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Memorial Pool Interlocal Agreement** – Borough Clerk Delaney advised the Mayor and Council that a letter of interest was submitted to Fair Lawn. However, a resolution should be held until further clarification in light of COVID-19.
- b. **Mini Pumper Change Order – Fire Department** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- c. **Mini Pumper Equipment Request – Fire Department** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council. Councilman Golabek requested that Departments provide a brief explanation with their requests moving forward.
- d. **First Quarter Stipends – Fire Department** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- e. **ServPro Payment** – Mayor Colletti inquired as to whether or not the quote encompasses every visit to municipal buildings by ServPro. Councilman Golabek inquired as to whether or not expenses such as this are fully reimbursable through FEMA. Borough Administrator Foligno advised that the quote is, in fact, all-encompassing and that FEMA will be reimbursing the Borough 100% of its expenses during the state of emergency. A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- f. **Community Use of Municipal Building** – This item was held as a result of the Municipal Building being closed to the public.
- g. **Handicap Parking Spaces** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- h. **Sick/Vacation Buyback** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- i. **Release of Performance/Cash Bonds** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- j. **Resolution to Refund Overpayment – Tax Department** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- k. **Cleaning Services – Recreation Department** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council for cleaning once a week at this time, which will be re-examined once the Recreation Building re-opens.
- l. **Police Department Surveillance Quote** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- m. **Police Department Truck Scales** – A resolution will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.

3 – DISCUSSION

- a. **Rosemont Park Basketball Court** – Discussion ensued as to the upgrades at Rosemont Park, specifically the basketball court. The Councilmembers present were in favor of a half basketball court and prefer that it be relocated in the park from the current basketball location. Mayor Colletti stated that he is not in favor of a half court and prefers that a full court be kept.
- b. **Board of Health Appointment** – After an investigation, the Borough's Special Legal Counsel advised that once a member resigns from a board, that resignation stands. As a result, discussion took place regarding a recent resignation's replacement. All members present were in favor of appointing Jeanne Freitag at the advice of Mayor Colletti.
- c. **Zoning Board** – The issue of the Zoning Board of Adjustment not having a Chairman was discussed. Jim Golembiski has stated that would be ready and willing to serve as the Chairman but, as an alternate, is unable to do so. Therefore, it was advised that Deborah Alvarez would be willing to give up her seat under the contingency that Mr. Golembiski replace her and, interchangeably, she would take over the alternate seat. The Governing Body was in favor of doing so after receiving the same in writing from both individuals.
- d. **Council Meeting Times** – Mayor Colletti requested that the Governing Body consider changing the Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to 7PM so that all meetings would now begin at said time. The Councilmembers supported doing so.

4 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- a. **Board of Health Minutes – February 10, 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Building Department Tracker Report – March 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Municipal Court Report – March 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- d. **Millennium Strategies Report through March 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- e. **EMS Calls – March 2020** – Accepted without discussion.

5 – APPLICATION:

- a. **Our Lady of Mount Virgin RC Church – Bingo** – Accepted without discussion and will be placed on the April 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.

6 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Given the circumstances of the meeting, no committee reports were shared by the Governing Body.

7 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Dominick Scalcione, E. 54th Street, acknowledged his typo in his letter read earlier in the meeting. However, he did note that Elmwood Park cases are high.

Jeanne Freitag, Hillman Drive, wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Joseph Dombrowski, Lincoln Avenue, stated that he agrees with the Mayor on the issue of Rosemont Park’s basketball court. He, too, feels that a full court should remain there. Additionally, he thanked Councilwoman Ingui for retrieving the Recreation’s bunny outfit for the Fire Department to use.

8 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Legal Reports/Litigation**
- b. **Special Legal Counsel**
- c. **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:

Legal Reports/Litigation
Special Legal Counsel
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 Ingui and seconded by Councilwoman Wechtler to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

Legal Reports/Litigation
Special Legal Counsel
Personnel – Police Department

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the May 21, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.