

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
July 9, 2020
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for June 4, 2020 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:01PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

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

**Please note that Councilman Fasolo 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.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Borough Clerk Delaney read the following into the record which was submitted via e-mail by Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, and asked to be read into the record:

The following questions/comments I would like read into the above subject meeting record:

1. Progress of the HS Tennis Court Project?
2. Progress of the Tuella Ave. Water Main Project and the expected date of completion?
3. Why is the spray park not in operation?
4. Regarding the current and former Memorial HS students who made statements/claims at the June 4, 2020 meeting has the appointed committee met? Have allegations been referred to the EPPD and/or the EPBOE?
5. At the 6/18/20 Mayor and Council meeting I asked questions regarding the disposal of the EP Ambulance Corp "Bubble Top Vehicle" and it was unclear as to what happened to the vehicle. Mayor Colletti seemed to be unsure and Borough Attorney Ingrassia intervened and said he thought it was given to the Saddle Brook Ambulance Corp. as it was promised to them. I questioned the authority of an individual to do this as it was purchased with tax dollars and may be utilized by one the departments or entities of the borough. As far as I understand when property like this is deemed as no longer of use to the Borough a formal action must be taken by the Mayor and Council and disposed of as 40A;12-13 states. Please advise.
6. Progress and status of Library ?

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey J. Freitag

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

Good Evening Mayor Colletti,

I would like to thank Mayor Colletti and the council for their exemplary service to our community during these challenging and difficult times.

I am questioning why the All-Purpose Room was selected as the location for Tuesday's primary election when that location appears to have been in violation of the Governor's executive order which stated that in-person voting was to be carried out observing rules for social distancing.

Unaffiliated voters who did not file for an absentee ballot by June 30 had to vote in person.

As anyone could have anticipated, voters queued-up in the room entrance and voters leaving would pass within 1-2 feet of each other.

I visited the location at around 7 pm and that is exactly what I observed. A half-dozen voters were queued-up in the room entrance. Voters leaving through the narrow passageway came within feet of those waiting in line.

When planning for the Primary Election, did Elmwood Park receive an exemption from the Governor's order on social distancing? Were no other locations available (IE. the Council Chambers)?

Sincerely,
Dominick Scalcione

Dominick Scalcione, E. 54th Street, suggested that the Borough post information on their website regarding the CARES program that is available to small businesses. He also inquired as to the upcoming food distribution event.

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, thanked those that answered his questions and advised that there would be a Facebook Live event to detail the upcoming food distribution event.

Topology Presentation

Borough Clerk Delaney announced that the presentation would have to be rescheduled.

1 – ENGINEERS REPORT

- a. **2018 CDBG – Change Order #1 and Current Estimate #2** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- b. **2019 Road Program Change Order #1 and Current Estimate #2** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- c. **Monthly Memo** – John Clemente of Alaimo Group, the Borough's Engineer, reviewed the Monthly Status report and answered all questions posed by the Governing Body.

At this time, Mayor Colletti asked for a motion to enter into a brief Executive Session.

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:

Litigation

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.

Litigation

**Councilwoman Wechtler unexpectedly had to leave the meeting at 8:14PM.*

A motion was made by Council President Balistrieri and seconded by Councilman Golabek to return to the public portion. Motion carried by the members present. A quorum was reestablished at 8:36PM.

2 – CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Thank-you Letter** – No discussion ensued.
- b. **Resignation Letter** – Councilman Golabek began a conversation focused around if a replacement for Mr. Natale, Board Stenographer, was needed. He posed the question of whether or not these boards can function similarly to the Mayor and Council by recording the meetings and sending the recordings out for transcripts when needed/requested. Ultimately, the Governing Body felt this would be a good idea and result in a cost savings.

3– RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Green Acres Marina Project Agreement Authorization** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- b. **Redeem Third Party Tax Lien** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- c. **Refund Stop Payment Fees** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- d. **Retirement Compensation** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- e. **QPA Bid Threshold** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- f. **Vacation Buybacks** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- g. **FY2021 Municipal Aid Grant Application** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- h. **Block Party Request** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- i. **Handicap Parking Requests** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- j. **Recycling Bid** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council. Borough Clerk Delaney will be sending a comparison of numbers from when the last recycling bid was awarded.
- k. **Fire Department 2nd Quarter Stipends** – A resolution will be placed on the July 16th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.

4 – ORDINANCES:

- a. **Bond Ordinance – Marina Project** – Borough Clerk Delaney informed the Mayor and Council that the Borough needs to begin the bonding process for the marina project now that they have been awarded the Green Acres grant and recently applied for additional funding under the Bergen County Open Space grant. She stated that they would need to bond for the full amount initially but that it doesn't guarantee the Borough will have to use all of the bonded funds. Ms. Delaney advised that she would coordinate the drafting of the ordinance with the Borough's CFO and Bond Counsel.
- b. **Prohibited Noises (3-1.2 (h))** – Conversation ensued regarding the current prohibited noises ordinance as it currently does not have a firm ending time for construction and start times may be too early for residents. After much debate, the Governing Body agreed to the following changes: no construction to take place on Federal holidays, Monday-Friday from May-August start time of 7AM and end time of 7PM, Monday-Friday from September-April start time of 7:30AM and end time of 7PM, and Saturday start time of 8AM and end time of 2PM year-round. It was noted that construction on Sundays would be revisited at a later time.

5 – DISCUSSION

- a. **Borough Newsletter** – Councilman Golabek informed the Governing Body that he would be willing to draft and work on this year's Borough's newsletter again. He requested that any member wishing to include something in the newsletter send him their submission by July 16th.

6 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. **May 2020 – Municipal Court** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **June 2020 – Municipal Court** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Millennium Strategies Memo through June 30, 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- d. **Finance Department through June 30, 2020** – Accepted without discussion.

7 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Pellegrine announced that the Board of Health will be meeting on July 20th and that Junior Police Academy applications are now available. Additionally, she went on to share information regarding the upcoming food distribution event and non-perishable food collections.

Councilwoman Ingui apologized for her recent absences due to family obligations. She thanked everyone for their support during difficult times.

Council President Balistreri commended the Borough Administrator for keeping the building safe during the pandemic.

Councilman Fasolo thanked the organizations involved in the upcoming food distribution event. Mr. Fasolo then shared that he has been receiving complaints about the traffic light at the Route 80 exit ramp and River Drive being too dim for motorists.

Mayor Colletti shared sentiments regarding the Police Department

8 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, raised concerns in not being able to hear the Borough Attorney when he speaks at meetings. Additionally, he shared his displeasure finding out about the resignation of the Board Stenographer simply by participating in tonight’s council meeting.

9 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Legal Reports/Litigation**
- b. **Recreation Department – Personnel**
- c. **Fire Department – Personnel**
- d. **Police Department – Personnel**

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WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

- Legal Reports/Litigation**
- Recreation Department – Personnel**
- Fire Department – 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 Councilwoman Ingui and seconded by Councilwoman Pellegrine to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

- Legal Reports/Litigation**
- Recreation Department – Personnel**
- Fire Department – Personnel**
- Police Department – Personnel**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pellegrine 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 Pellegrine to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the July 16, 2020 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council.