

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
August 6, 2020
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for August 6, 2020 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:00PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Fasolo, Golabek, Ingui, Pellegrine, 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. Ingraffia.

**Please note that Councilwoman Ingui 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:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, inquired about the tennis court project status and whether or not it would be addressed in the Engineer's report.

Strangers Helping Strangers Recognition

The Mayor and Council recognized Mr. Chris Braitsch from Strangers Helping Strangers for the free services and goods the group has been working to give Elmwood Park residents. The Mayor presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

Topology Presentation

Chris Colley from Topology presented the latest Redevelopment Plan to the Governing Body. He then detailed next steps should they wish to move forward with the plan which would include an introduction of an ordinance accepting the plan, review by the Planning Board, and then a Public Hearing and adoption of said ordinance. The Borough Attorney agreed to work with Mr. Colley to draft such an ordinance as the Mayor and Council were in favor of moving forward with the plan presented.

1 – ENGINEERS REPORT

- a. **Proposal for Design Services – Marina Improvements** – Mayor Colletti requested that Alaimo Engineering revisit the proposal being that he felt their fees were quite high. John Clemente said he would look into Mayor Colletti’s concerns.
- b. **Monthly Status Report** – John Clemente from Alaimo Group reviewed the monthly status report and answered questions/concerns raised by the Governing Body.

2 – CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **River Drive Resident Letter** – Chief Foligno stated that the Traffic Division reviewed the resident letter in regards to a request for a sidewalk extension. The Traffic Division advised that it would be a very expensive undertaking, aside from it being a County road. The Mayor and Council agreed that ,while the request is not feasible at the moment, they would reconsider the request in the future should the County have plans to pave that area.

3 – RESOLUTIONS:

- a. **Used Car Dealerships** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- b. **On-Site Inspection Agency** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- c. **Release of Performance Bond** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- d. **Sewer Repairs** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- e. **Refund Overpayments** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- f. **School Security Officers** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- g. **School Crossing Guards** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- h. **Vacation Buybacks** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- i. **Building Department Reimbursement** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- j. **Relocation of Bus Stop** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Pellegrine requested that the Borough ensures a bus shelter is incorporated for the new bus stop location.
- k. **Bergen County Shared Services** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- l. **Retirement Compensation** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.
- m. **Fire Department Standby Compensation** – A resolution will be placed on the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Mayor and Council.

4 – ORDINANCES:

- a. **Prohibited Noises Ordinance** – The Mayor and Council revisited the Prohibited Noises Ordinance to make a final decision for Sunday restrictions. The Borough Administrator shared that both he and the Construction Official feel that no construction should take place on Sundays with the exception of emergency matters. The Council vote was split, with 3 members agreeing with the Borough Administrator and Construction Official and 3 members feeling that construction, strictly by the homeowner, should be permitted between the hours of 10AM-2PM. Mayor Colletti broke the tie by agreeing to permit construction by the homeowner between the hours of 10AM-2PM. Borough Attorney Ingraffia stated he would make said change to the ordinance for its introduction at the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting.
- b. **Police Penalties Ordinance** – Chief Foligno stated that due to the increase in use of Fireworks this year, he recommends that the Borough increase the fine amount. The Governing Body agreed to said suggestion. The ordinance will be introduced at the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting.
- c. **Drug-Free School Zones** – The ordinance adopting the new drug-free school zone map will be introduced at the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting.
- d. **Capital Requests** – Borough Administrator Foligno reviewed Capital requests which are typically bonded for once per year. He noted that the Borough, in the past, has bonded anywhere from \$1M-\$1.5M whereas this year the Borough is only looking to bond approximately \$500K. The bond ordinance will be introduced at the August 13th, 2020 Regular Meeting.

5 – DISCUSSION

- a. **LOSAP Referendum** – Borough Clerk Erin Delaney advised the Mayor and Council that it is the recommendation of the Borough CFO to add a referendum to eliminate the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) from the Borough on the November 2020 ballot. Borough Clerk Delaney stated that there would need to be an adopted resolution to be sent to the County Clerk. Discussion ensued in regards to whether or not the Governing Body should reach out to the Fire Department for input before deciding whether or not to move forward with the CFO's recommendation. Councilman Golabek, however, noted that there are already numerous items on the ballot for November and felt that adding an additional item would be irresponsible. The Mayor and Council agreed with Councilman Golabek, therefore, they decided it would not be appropriate to place this on the 2020 General Election Ballot.
- b. **Community Service Recognition** – The Mayor and Council agreed to revisit this once meetings become open to the public.
- c. **Residential Request** – Councilman Fasolo shared that a resident submitted a letter to the Mayor and Council & Building Department requesting permission to extend their landscaping on the Borough's sidewalk, where it would not interfere with any right of way. The Borough Attorney advised as to the proper procedure that would need to take place in order to approve this, as it would then affect the owner's deed. Attorney Ingraffia stated that he would get more information and update the council in September.

6 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. **Millennium Strategies Report through June 2020** – Accepted without discussion.

- b. **Municipal Court Report – July 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Finance Report through July 31, 2020** – Accepted without discussion.
- d. **Library Board Minutes – February, May, June 2020** – Accepted without discussion.

7 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Fasolo thanked Chris from Strangers Helping Strangers. Additionally, he referred to Bergenfield closing down their main street for a night to encourage businesses and restaurants to be able to host customers more conveniently. He requested that, if possible, Elmwood Park consider doing the same for one evening. Borough Administrator Foligno stated that he, too, was interested in doing something similar. Mayor Colletti suggested that the businesses and restaurants first be polled to see if they would be interested and willing to participate. Borough Administrator Foligno agreed to poll the businesses.

Councilwoman Wechtler thanked Chris from Strangers Helping Strangers and reported progress.

Council President Balistrieri thanked Chris from Strangers Helping Strangers and reported progress.

Councilman Golabek reported progress.

Councilwoman Ingui reported progress.

Councilwoman Pellegrine shared details on the upcoming Junior Police Academy which is set to start on August 10th and reported progress.

Mayor Colletti informed residents that he understands their frustrations with the Municipal Building not being open to the public but he reiterated that the Borough has been lucky enough to not have one employee test positive for COVID-19 and he would like to keep it that way. He then went on to discuss the recent storm that hit and resulted in damaged areas. Mayor Colletti noted that the responding Borough Departments are moving rapidly to repair these areas. Continuing on, Mayor Colletti announced that the Borough's Recreation Director has moved on to a new position and thanked her for doing a remarkable job while serving Elmwood Park. He concluded his comments by sharing his support for the Blue.

8 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeanne Freitag, Hillman Drive, asked for clarification as to the discussion involving landscaping under 4C in addition to which day would be limited from 10AM-3PM under the new Prohibited Noises ordinance. Ms. Freitag then advised that the area of Molnar and Linden has missing fencing and is currently a mess. She questioned when construction would resume.

9 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Legal Reports/Litigation**

- b. **Personnel – Fire Department**
- c. **Personnel – Fire Prevention**
- d. **Personnel – Recreation 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
Personnel – Fire Department
Personnel Fire Prevention
Personnel – Recreation 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 Councilman Fasolo to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

Legal Reports/Litigation
Personnel – Fire Department
Personnel Fire Prevention
Personnel – Recreation Department

A motion was made by Council President Balistrieri and seconded by Councilman Fasolo 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,

Erin Delaney, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes approved at the August 27, 2020 Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council.