

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
March 4, 2021
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for March 4, 2021 was called to order by Municipal Clerk Erin Delaney at 7:00PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

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

**Councilman Fasolo arrived at 7:02PM*

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, 2021 and published on January 13, 2021.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

PUBLIC HEARING:

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Special Presentation for Elmwood Park Crew Soccer Team

The Mayor and Council presented certificates of achievement to two Elmwood Park Crew Soccer teams and their coaches. Following the presentation, they shared congratulatory remarks.

1 – ENGINEERS REPORT

- a. **Proposal for Design Services – Town wide Drainage Improvements** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. **FY2020 NJDOT Municipal Aid – Gilbert Avenue – Current Estimate #2 & Change Order #2** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- c. **2019 CDBG – Donor & Echo – Current Estimate #2** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **Tuella Avenue Water Main Improvements – Current Estimate #3 & Change Order #1** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **Washington Curb Ramp – Current Estimate #1 & Final** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- f. **Monthly Status Report** – Michael Cristaldi from Alaimo Group reviewed the Monthly Status Report. Mayor Colletti asked questions regarding the Marina dock. Additionally, discussed ensued regarding PSE&G work and coordinating road paving trade-offs.

2 – CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Township of Saddle Brook Notice of Public Hearing** – No discussion ensued.

3 – RESOLUTIONS

- a. **Vacation Buyback** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- b. **Recreation Refunds** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- c. **Tax Exempt Status** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- d. **Transfer of Funds** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- e. **2021 Temporary Budget Appropriations #2** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

- f. **Refund Overpayment** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.
- g. **Emergency Sewer Repair** – A resolution will be placed on the March 18th, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council agenda.

4 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Balistreri advised that with the snow melting, Rosemont Park should be up and running soon. She shared that tables and an electric panel will be installed. Continuing on with Recreation announcements, Councilwoman Balistreri said that the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 27th and that the first minicamp took place with a special presentation by Tiger Schulman’s karate. The next minicamp will occur in April. Lastly, she shared that soccer and baseball registration is now open.

Councilman Fakhoury reported progress.

Councilman Fasolo requested an update on the new generator cover.

Councilman Golabek discussed the potential of making the clean-up of garbage along Route 80 a DPW function. He then went on to talk about the condition of Midland Avenue and suggested that the Borough team up with other municipalities affected by the conditions and address the County as it is a County road. Councilman Golabek then requested an update on Topology projects. He also discussed the state aid received by the school district and noted that the increase was one of the highest in the County. Councilman Golabek shared that a meeting took place with Costa Engineering to discuss the NJDOT grant lighting project and advised that a new grant should be coming out in June. He ended his report by requesting that the Borough Clerk look into the process of adding election districts in the Borough.

Councilwoman Pellegrine notified the Borough Administrator that the odor from Marcal has returned and worsened. She then provided her police update by sharing there will be a coffee with a cop event and that a dispatcher position is currently open. Councilwoman Pellegrine announced the dates of the next Board of Health meeting and People’s Pantry Food Drive through the RAP Program.

Council President Wechtler reported progress.

Mayor Colletti provided information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and how residents can register. He requested that the information be shared on the Borough website.

5 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeffrey Freitag, Hillman Drive, stated that the Borough flags are never in sync as to when they should be at full and/or half-staff. Additionally, he inquired as to vacation and sick time buybacks in the Borough due to a recent article that was written about another municipality. He shared his concerns as there were inconsistencies that occurred and were not picked up on by the CFO and/or auditor.

6 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a. **Legal Reports/Litigation**
- b. **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
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 Council President Wechtler and seconded by Councilwoman Pellegrine to enter into Executive Session. Motion carried by the members present.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Golabek 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 March 18, 2021 Regular Meeting.