

**WORK SESSION
OF THE
ELMWOOD PARK MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ACTION ITEMS
February 1, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for February 1, 2024 was called to order by Borough Clerk Shanee Morris at 7:00PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

Councilmembers Dennis, Fasolo, Golabek, Pellegrine, Troisi and Council President Sheridan were present. Also present were Mayor Colletti, Borough Clerk Shanee Morris, Borough Administrator Michael Foligno and Borough Attorney Kyle Trent.

2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE:

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 a special meeting notice in The Record and Herald News 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. Said notice was posted and transmitted on January 6, 2024 and published on January 10, 2024.

3. RESOLUTIONS:

R-82-24	Revision to Appointment of Verita, LLC to Conduct Personnel Investigations in the Fire Department
---------	---

4. WORK SESSION: NON-ACTION ITEMS

5. ADJOURNMENT:

**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION R-82-24**

**RESOLUTION BY: COUNCILWOMAN PELLEGRINE
SECONDED BY: COUNCILMAN GOLABEK**

**REVISION TO APPOINTMENT OF VERITA, LLC TO
CONDUCT PERSONNEL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council retained Verita, LLC to conduct fact-finding investigations and provide reports to the Borough on allegations of harassment and/or retaliation in the Fire Department, with a sum not to exceed \$15,000.00 pursuant to Resolution R-79-24; and

WHEREAS, the investigator has identified the need to complete additional work to complete these investigations exceeding the previously approved amount; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council hereby revise the appointment of Verita, LLC for its investigations of allegations of harassment and/or retaliation in the Fire Department, to an additional sum not to exceed \$7,500.00 in aggregate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and Council do hereby authorize the Business Administrator and Borough personnel to take any action necessary to effectuate the terms of this resolution on behalf of the Borough of Elmwood Park.

I, Roy Riggitano, Chief Financial Officer for the Borough of Elmwood Park do hereby confirm that there are sufficient funds available for this resolution.

Roy Riggitano, Chief Financial Officer

January 31, 2024
Dated

APPROVED: February 1, 2024

Robert Colletti, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Shanee Morris, RMC, CMR
Acting Borough Clerk

Record of Council Vote on Passage

	AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent		AYE	NAY	Abstain	Absent
Dennis	X				Pellegrine	X			
Fasolo			X		Troisi			X	
Golabek	X				Sheridan	X			

This resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Elmwood Park at a regular scheduled meeting held on the 1st day of February 2024. Signed and sealed before me.

Shanee Morris, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk

Dated

Work Meeting Agenda Items:

PUBLIC HEARING:

Jefferey Freitag, Hillman Drive asked if the lights on Market Street on a timer or do they stay on all day.

1 – ENGINEERS REPORT

- a. **Monthly Status Report** – Matthew Basile filled in for Michael Kobylarz from Alaimo Group to go over his monthly report. Mayor and Council asked a few questions about the turf project.

2 – RESOLUTIONS

- a. **Resolution for Lien Attachment** – A resolution will be placed on the February 15, 2024 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting.
- b. **Leave of Absence** – A resolution will be placed on the February 15, 2024 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting.
- c. **Vacation Buyback** – A resolution will be placed on the February 15, 2024 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting.
- d. **Holiday Buyback** – A resolution will be placed on the February 15, 2024 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting.
- e. **Clothing Allowance Amendment** - Mayor and Council discuss the amount of the amendment and would like to have further details from the Fire Chief. This item will be revisited once clarification is received.
- f. **99 Main Avenue Resolution** – Mayor and Council reviewed the resolution and would like the Borough Attorney to review and redraft a new resolution that reflects what the Mayor and Council agree to.
- g. **Recreation Hire** – A resolution will be placed on the February 15, 2024 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting.
- h. **Firefighter Resignation** – A resolution will be placed on the February 15, 2024 Mayor & Council Regular Meeting.

3 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. **Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2023** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Library Board Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2023** – Councilwoman Dennis asked about the design solution and job postings. No further discussion ensued.

4 – DISCUSSION

- a. **DCA Financial Disclosure** – Borough Clerk Shanee Morris informed the Mayor and Council of the letter that was received from the Department of Community Affairs in reference to Financial Disclosures not being filed. Borough Attorney Kyle Trent discussed letters being sent to those individuals that did not file. Ms. Morris stated she will reach out to them.
- b. **Budget Shortfall** – Mayor Colletti informed the Mayor and Council of the meeting he had with the Borough Administrator and Chief Financial Officer in reference to the budget. C.F.O Roy Riggitano then went through each item and explained the shortfalls. The Mayor and Council then asked questions about certain items and how this will affect the Borough.

5 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Dennis reported progress.

Councilman Fasolo reported the Cannabis Board met with new members and went over what to expect for the year.

Councilman Golabek reported progress.

Councilwoman Pellegrine gave her Police update and stated the Coffee with a Cop event was wonderful. She thanked Dunkin Donuts and the Police Department.

Councilwoman Troisi gave her Board of Education update and announced upcoming events. She then mentioned a request made for a crossing guard at specific location. She

announced the Elks read across America event. For her Recreation update she announced the Spring Mini Camp. Lastly, she made the Mayor and Council aware of a request made by Softball for a snack shack and bathrooms.

Council President Sheridan announced upcoming events for the Elks.

Mayor Colletti shared with the Council that St. Leos had Catholic week and it was a nice event. He then made a Zoning Board member recommendation, everyone agreed.

6 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

Jefferey Freitag, Hillman Drive asked about the Financial Disclosures. He then wanted to clarify the amount of Cannabis approvals by the Planning Board.

Doug DeMatteo asked about pictures of new fields and the completion date. He then mentions that zero percent increase was campaigned. Lastly, he states the differences in the Council and how he would like things to be better.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pellegrine and seconded by Council President Sheridan to enter into executive. Motion carried unanimously.

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/Legal Reports

White Collar Negotiations

Personnel – Recreation

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 Pellegrine and seconded by Council President Sheridan to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanee Morris, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved at the April 18,2024 Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council