

BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK
WORK MEETING
April 3, 2025
7:00PM

The Work Meeting of the Elmwood Park Mayor and Council for March 6, 2025 was called to order by Borough Clerk Shanee Morris at 7:00PM. The Statement of Compliance was read.

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

**Councilman Fasolo arrived at 7:02pm*

**Councilman Golabek 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 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 3, 2025 and published on January 8, 2025.

Work Meeting Agenda Items:
PUBLIC HEARING:

1A – BUDGET DISCUSSION: C.F.O ROY RIGGITANO

C.F.O Riggitano went through the budget and explained the increases in taxes per household as well as the causes. The Mayor and Council asked for further clarification. They also asked about the reserve and using more surplus to decrease the amount per household. They went over the assets value and health benefits as well as having sewer usage fees being charged to the residents instead of the Borough. With further discussion the Mayor and Council requested Mr. Riggitano to find a way to decrease the tax increase.

1 – ENGINEERS REPORT

- a. **Monthly Status Report**– Matthew Basile from Alaimo Engineering went through the monthly report. The Mayor and Council then asked a few questions.
- b. **2024 Road Program** – The Mayor & Council discussed the project and weather to use top soil or hydroseeding.

2 – PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

- a. **Fire Department Consultant** – The Mayor and Council asked what is currently being handled and what else still needs to be done. At the request of the Council, tis item was moved to executive under Attorney-Client privilege.
- b. **Resolution to Refund Tax Exempt Veteran** – A resolution will be added to the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- c. **Tax Exemption for Disabled Veteran** – A resolution will be added to the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- d. **Pump Station Emergency** – A resolution will be added to the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.

- e. **Handicap Parking Space** – Orchard St. & Palsa Ave. – Mayor and Council discussed if this handicap parking space was necessary. They read the report and agreed to move forward. A resolution will be added to the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- f. **Continued Maintenance – Cole Street** – Borough Administrator Michael Foligno explained the purpose of the resolution is to reaffirm that the Borough can clean the property again if needed. The Mayor and Council agree to move forward. – A resolution will be added to the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- g. **Revised Participation at Public Meetings** – Councilman Fasolo thanked the Borough Attorney for making adjustments to the resolutions. – A resolution will be added to the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- h. **Hold Harmless Agreement – Market Street** – A resolution will be added to the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- i. **Resolution to Redeem Third Party Tax Lien** – A resolution will be added to the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.

3 – PROPOSED ORDINANCES

- a. **Stop Signs on Grove Street and Viviney Street** – An ordinance will be introduced at the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- b. **Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance** – An ordinance will be introduced at the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.

4– DISCUSSION

- a. **Somerset County Co-Op** – Mayor and Council asked if there will be a cost to the Borough and how much would it be. They then asked if sign making equipment was ever purchased by the Borough. A resolution will be added to the April 17, 2025 Mayor and Council Regular Meeting.
- b. **Cannabis Licenses** – Mayor Colletti stated he would like the Council to consider rescinding the last micro license for Cannabis. He also asked them to consider rescinding Class 3 and Class 4 Licenses to 1 each. The Mayor and Council agree to move forward.
- c. **Municipal Mobile App** – Councilman Fasolo proposed the Borough using an app called “GOGO”. It’s a free app for residents. The Mayor and Council discuss and agreed to have the company make a presentation.
- d. **Building Department – Seasonal Property Maintenance** – Mayor and Council discuss and agree to move forward.

5 – DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

- a. **Library Board Meeting Minutes – January 27, 2025 & February 24, 2025** – Accepted without discussion.
- b. **Board of Health Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2025** – Accepted without discussion.
- c. **Building Department Monthly Report – March, 2025** – Accepted without discussion.
- d. **Millennium Strategies Report – March, 2025** – Accepted without discussion.
- e. **Department of Public Works Monthly Report – March, 2025** – Accepted without discussion.

6 – COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Fasolo reported progress.

Councilman Golabek asked the Borough Attorney to look into sewer usage fees.

Councilman Saimson gave a planning board update and announced businesses that are looking to open up in town.

Councilwoman Sheridan reported progress.

Councilwoman Troisi gave her Recreation updated and announced upcoming events as well as the rain date for opening day. She then stated the Elks are requesting a proclamation for youth week and announced some scholarships. Lastly, she briefly spoke about the anticipated community garden.

Council President Pellegrine shared donations that were received by the pantry. She then announced the next meeting dates for the Board of Health and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Colletti stated he is very proud of what is being done in town. He commended the Council and organizations for their efforts toward the community.

7 – 2nd PUBLIC HEARING:

A motion was made by Councilman Fasolo and seconded by Councilman Saimson to open to the public. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeanette Randazzo asked for clarification in reference to the tax increase. She then asked about Borough employees healthcare.

8 – EXECUTIVE:

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

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:

Attorney Client – Reserved Street Parking

Personnel – Police

Litigation/Legal Reports – Fire 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 Pellegrine and seconded by Councilman Saimson to adjourn. Motion carried by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Shanee Morris, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk