

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein
(in person)

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole,
Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch, and Amy Wilczynski
(via teleconference)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
Acting Municipal Clerk Michelle Ryan

A Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale was held in the Municipal Building at 500 West Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ on March 11, 2021. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the public was provided via GoToMeeting video and teleconferencing only, with adequate notice of same posted for public viewing. The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Mayor Bernstein who reminded the public to mute their devices so as not to distract from the business of the meeting. Mayor Bernstein advised the public that they would have an opportunity at an appropriate time during the meeting to be heard.

Mayor Bernstein asked that the Acting Municipal Clerk read the open public meetings statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. The meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting, are posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building, published in The Record within the first 10 days of the New Year, and copies are sent to The Ridgewood News and Star-Ledger."

Public Comment:

Kristen Tsarnas, 74 Heights Rd, informed the Governing Body about a community group that is working to raise awareness of the LGBTQ plus community. She noted that last year their request to fly the Rainbow Flag was denied but expressed appreciation that the Borough continued to name June as Pride Month. She asked if the Borough would again be proclaiming June as Pride Month, to which Mayor Bernstein said yes. Ms. Tsarnas then mentioned that the group was planning events in June and asked if the Council would be supportive. Mayor Bernstein said that in general the council would be supportive and recommended they contact the Clerk's Office once dates and details have been determined.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein along with Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss thoroughly reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of Resolutions 21-97 to 21-104.

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B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell gave the latest update on the OEM COVID-19 meeting held every Tuesday. The Public Safety meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday. He reported 2,056 calls to dispatch, 316 "911", 14 fire, and 77 ambulance calls to date. Two officers completed firearms instructor training as well as two receiving active shooter training.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso gave an update on the Land Use Committee that met yesterday at 8 am. The focus of the meeting was on tents used at town restaurants as well as review of the construction code in relation to the Universal Construction Code in New Jersey and the Borough's ordinances. He complimented the work of the Borough's Construction Code Official Anthony Hackett.

Councilman Strauch complimented the work that Councilman Sasso has done on the Land Use Committee commenting that Allendale has benefited. Councilman Sasso expressed his thanks to Councilman Strauch for his work on the Committee as well and the vast knowledge and experience he brings.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan reported on the 3rd virtual water meeting she held last night, the recording of which will be available on the Borough's website. The Councilwoman thanked Ron Kistner and Layne Simon for their work on water meters issues. She reported that they are still looking at the request from Saddle River to add more volume to our sewer system due to some developments being constructed there.

Mayor Bernstein complimented Councilwoman Homan on her work on the virtual water meetings she has held.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski gave an update on the 220/230 project, stating that the remediation portion would be wrapping up. She then reported that the Borough was awarded a NJ DEP grant for \$88,000. Next, she provided updates with Crestwood, including that the demo would be starting soon on the playground. The Facilities Committee hopefully will meet next week. She concluded by congratulating Mayor-Emeritus Vince Barra on being on the cover of this month's Autumn Years magazine.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole reported that the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee met earlier this evening to discuss the budget and announced that they would be assembling the Finance Advisory Committee to review the current iteration of the budget. He explained the role of the Finance Advisory Committee plays in the budget process. The Administration Committee is addressing some personnel matters. Next, Councilman O'Toole updated the Council about a Zoom meeting hosted by Congressman Gotthierner regarding the recently passed rescue plan by Congress and the impacts to the Borough.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

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Councilman Strauch spoke about the benefits of the Borough's recently purchased street sweeper. He then gave an update on the work that is being done by DPW on Crestwood Lake. Goose Patrol will be doing another COVID-compliant registration this year. Mr. Savistano will be giving more of an update on the Green Team during public comments. He then thanked Councilwoman Wilczynski for her work in obtaining the NJDEP grant.

Councilwoman Homan inquired how residents can sign up for the Goose Patrol to which Councilman Strauch answered with the various methods of signing up. She and Councilman Strauch then discussed the new street sweeper.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bernstein gave the following address to the public:

One year ago, little did we know that in just two days COVID-19 would make major changes to the way that we lived our lives. None of us could imagine the difficult choices we would be forced to make, the sacrifices that would face us and our families. I want to take a moment to remember those whose lives were lost to this awful virus and during the Regular Session, we will be having a moment of silence.

The balance of the Mayor's report was given in the Regular Session.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilwoman Wilczynski, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk