

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein
(in person)

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole,
Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch (7:10pm), and Amy Wilczynski
(via teleconference)

ABSENT: None

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

A Special 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 25, 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 7:00 pm 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."

Closed Session:

21-105/Authorize Closed Session under:

1. Attorney Client Privilege – Discuss Update on Water Department Matters

Motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilwoman Wilczynski that Resolution 21-105 be and is hereby approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------------------------|--------|
| Councilwoman Homan: | aye | Councilman Sasso: | aye |
| Councilman O'Connell: | aye | Councilman Strauch: | absent |
| Councilman O'Toole: | aye | Councilwoman Wilczynski: | aye |

The Mayor and Council went into Closed Executive Session at 7:04 p.m and exited at 7:26 p.m.

Minutes of this meeting were taken and will be released to the public at the time the matter is resolved.

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The Work Session meeting resumed at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Bernstein welcomed everyone back to the Work Session and asked that the record reflect that Councilman Strauch joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Public Comment:

None

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Regular Session agenda starting with Ordinances 21-02 and 21-03, both scheduled for second reading and public hearing. Next, he reviewed Ordinances 21-04, 21-05, and 21-06, which are on for introduction at the Regular Session. Finally, he reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of Resolutions 21-106 through 21-118. Of note, 21-106 appoints a new Tax Collector and Tax Search Officer – Colleen Ennis. CFO Alissa Mayer complimented the work of Harold Laufeld, who is retiring, stating that he is a legend in the tax and finance world. Both Mayor Bernstein and Mrs. Mayer welcomed Ms. Ennis. Other resolutions of note were 21-110 authorizing a request for bids to sell Allendale’s water system. Councilwoman Homan explained the purpose of this resolution as well as the bidding process. Councilman Strauch gave an update on the Green Team’s efforts to apply for a Sustainable Jersey Grant being authorized on Resolution 21-114.

B. Council Reports

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso reported that the Land Use Committee’s next meeting is scheduled for April 14th, with the agenda focusing on tents at restaurants and the impacts of COVID on Allendale’s businesses. The other item that will be discussed is the recent legalization of marijuana and a review of our local ordinances.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan reported that she has been regularly meeting to discuss the valuation of the water system and the RFP for the sale of the water system as well as an RFP for a PFAS treatment facility. She also reported that Mayor Bernstein and Councilman Sasso had recently joined with her at a meeting with Ridgewood Water to explore shared service options. She reminded the public that the third public water meeting, which was held on March 3rd, along with the two prior meetings are available to view on the Borough’s website under the water tab. She concluded by complimenting Ron Kistner and Layne Simon for their efforts to keep the water system up and running effectively.

Councilman O’Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O’Connell updated the council on the COVID OEM meetings and thanked the entire team for their work. There have been 3,059 calls to dispatch, 360 “911”, 19

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fire, and 90 ambulance calls to date. The police department has been busy with various training. Junior Police Academy sign-ups begin in April.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski gave an update on the 220/230 project including the second reading for the PILOT agreement and thanked the team for their work on it. She then gave an overview of how the back warehouse would be structured and an update on the remediation, which is almost complete. Next, she gave an update on the various spring sports and their compliance with COVID guidelines. Crestwood Lake will be opening with similar protocols as last year. The playground renovation project should start soon and another Bergen County Open Space Grant has been awarded for creation and renovation of trails around the fields. Finally, she reviewed the progress of the downtown streetscape project.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole reported that the committee continues to work on the budget. They are preparing to present the current iteration of the budget to the Finance Advisory Committee and then gave an overview of the committee's purpose. He thanked Harold Laufeld for his work with the Borough and wished him well in retirement. He concluded by stating that the committee has taken care of a few personnel issues, some housekeeping items, budget transfers, and contract finalization, which appear on this evening's agenda.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch gave an update on the work that the DPW has done at Crestwood Lake in preparation for its opening. Demolition of the playground will be starting tomorrow. He complimented Dan Davis on his work with the Borough's new street sweeper. He concluded with an update on the goose patrol.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bernstein gave the following address to the public:

Spring is finally here! With the mild weather that we have been having recently, it has been very nice to see our residents taking advantage of it and enjoying outdoor activities. I caution you, COVID-19 is very much still here in Allendale so please remember to continue wearing your masks, practicing social distancing, and washing your hands. Every week OEM meets, and the numbers in Bergen County are not good. I don't want to be a downer but we are seeing the B117 variant from the UK. You still have to be safe, so enjoy the weather but do the right thing.

This Saturday from 10am to 12noon near Red Barn at Crestwood, the Holiday Observers will be having their annual Egg Hunt, as a drive-through event. It promises to be an exciting, fun time as the Easter Bunny will be joining them to oversee the distribution of treat bags for children. As always, thank you to the Holiday Observers for helping to make this holiday special for our community. They are always doing the right thing and are a fundamental part of our town.

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Compost Permits are on sale now. Applications can be filled out online on the Borough's website www.allendalenj.gov. The price remains the same as it was last year, \$30. The facility will be open beginning on Saturday, April 10th on Saturdays from 9:00am to 3:00pm and Sundays from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Councilman O'Toole mentioned this in the last meeting. The Borough of Allendale has received some good news in the last two weeks. Under the recently passed federal stimulus program, we are eligible to receive approximately \$661,496 in federal assistance. Though we are awaiting more information on this, we are encouraged and welcome this funding for the benefit of our taxpayers.

To all our residents who will be celebrating, we wish you and your families a Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

Staff Report:

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney stated that most of what he has worked on has been discussed in the reports and is reflected on the agenda.

Acting Clerk Ryan and Mr. Kistner had no reports

Alissa Mayer, Borough CFO stated that many of her items are reflected on the agenda.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk

**RESOLUTION
BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ**

DATE: 03/25/2021

RESOLUTION# 21-105

| Council | Motion | Second | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|------------------------|--------|--------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| Homan | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| O'Connell | | | ✓ | | | |
| O'Toole | | | ✓ | | | |
| Sasso | | | ✓ | | | |
| Strauch | | | | | | ✓ |
| Wilczynski | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Mayor Bernstein | --- | --- | | | | |

Carried Defeated Tabled

Approved on Consent Agenda

AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale entered into Closed Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

- A. Attorney-Client Privilege/Negotiations: Update on Discussions - Water Department

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Allendale on March 25, 2021.

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk