

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein
(in person)

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Jim Strauch

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 May 27, 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 7:30 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."

Presentations:

Mayor Bernstein shared that he was going to read a proclamation in recognition LGBTQ Pride Month, which is a longstanding tradition in the Borough of Allendale. The Democratic Club of Allendale will also be tying ribbons around the light posts downtown as well. This is one of the many reasons why Allendale is such a special community - making sure that all our residents are recognized and celebrated. Mayor Bernstein then read the proclamation, attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Public Comment:

Linda Fisher, 102 West Crescent Ave, thanked the Governing Body for allowing the Democratic Club to tie ribbons downtown and for reading the proclamation, which she feels sends a message to those that may be struggling that Allendale cares.

Natalie Cutone Saadi, 16 Heights Road, requested an update on the timeline to clean up and remove the obscene graffiti at the Grandstand. Mr. Kistner confirmed that a crew has been over there, and it is on the list to be addressed soon. She also brought to everyone's attention that there are wasps' nests currently there as well. Mayor Bernstein thanked her and assured her that it will all be addressed.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2021

Ben Peare, 477 Hillside Avenue, advised the Governing Body that this is his 2nd meeting that he is attending as part of attaining his "Citizen in the Community" merit badge. He currently is at the Life Scout rank, but is working towards Eagle Scout. Mayor Bernstein expressed his admiration for scouting and encouraged Ben to reach out to the Borough if he needed project ideas.

Mike O'Reilly, 85 Elmwood Avenue, thanked the Governing Body for its support with the reading of the proclamation as well as the permission to put ribbons up in town. Mayor Bernstein thanked him for the Democratic Club's efforts as well.

Natalie Saadi, 16 Heights Road, congratulated Ben on his achievements with scouts. She followed up on two emails she sent to Michelle Ryan inquiring as to who the manufacturer of the voting machines are which have not been responded to. Ms. Ryan stated that she has not seen the emails and invited Ms. Saadi to forward them to MichelleRyan@AllendaleNJ.gov for follow up. Councilwoman Wilczynski also provided her email, AmyWilczynski@AllendaleNJ.gov, to Ms. Saadi and asked that she send her an email as well regarding the Grandstand.

Mr. O'Keefe was experiencing technical difficulties and was unable to be heard.

No one else from the public came forward.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Regular Session's agenda starting with consideration of the February 11, 2021 Work (as amended) and Regular Session, March 3, 2021 Special Session, and March 11, 2021 Work and Regular Session Minutes for approval. Borough Attorney Wiss advised that Ordinance 21-08, which is listed for second reading and public hearing tonight, was circulated by the New Jersey League of Municipalities urging all municipalities to rescind any prior adopted regulations concerning cannabis, pending the seating of the newly formed commission, impeded by the Governor, which will adopt new cannabis regulations based on recent legislation. Mayor Bernstein then reviewed the items on the Consent Agenda. Of note, Resolution 21-153 approves free family memberships for eligible borough employees in appreciation of their hard work, especially during the pandemic. Resolution 21-154 re-appoints Brian O'Connor as a seasonal DPW worker, and 21-157 authorizes the Democratic Club of Allendale to hang ribbons downtown in recognition of Pride Month.

B. Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bernstein gave the following address to the public:

As the beginning of summer approaches, I am very excited to share some positive news. As you all know, Crestwood Lake opens on Saturday, May 29th. Thank you to the entire team, Councilwomen Wilczynski, Homan, and our facilities committee, Ron

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2021

Kistner and the DPW, Manager Tom Viscardi and the lake staff, the Board of Health, OEM and Public Safety, the Construction Department, Tatiana Marquis and John Gil for your collaboration and tireless efforts to get the lake ready. I know that summer 2021 will be a great one and Councilwoman Wilczynski will be speaking to this later.

I want to invite everyone to Allendale's Memorial Day Ceremony being held on Monday, May 31st at 11am at Memorial Park. In consultation with OEM, this will be an in-person ceremony, although we will be live streaming it on our Facebook page and will post a video of the ceremony for viewing later. This year, there will not be a parade. Thank you to the committee, led by our OEM Director, Officer Mike Dillion, for their hard work in organizing this opportunity for our community to remember and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms. After the pledge of allegiance, we will take a moment of silence in their memory.

I am very happy to report that our COVID numbers are on the decline here in Allendale and all over Bergen County. This is due to the vigilance of everyone over the last year. By wearing masks, washing hands, and getting vaccinated you have to lead us here today. We have been talking about a light at the end of the tunnel and we are very close. As announced by the Governor, effective tomorrow, Friday, May 28, the indoor mask mandate in public spaces will be lifted, as well as the six-foot social distancing requirement in both indoor and outdoor spaces, the prohibition on dance floors at bars and restaurants, and the prohibition on ordering and eating/drinking while standing at bars and restaurants. Additionally, effective Friday, June 4, indoor gathering and capacity limits will be lifted. This is all very good news. A lot is changing and will continue to change so please stay up to date with information by visiting covid19.nj.gov or the Borough's COVID Information hub at Allendalenj.gov.

Last weekend was a very busy one here in Allendale. I want to recognize the hard work of the Allendale Garden Club on its annual plant sale. It was great to see everyone when I stopped by, and I thank them for their continued efforts to keep our Borough looking green and beautiful! We also held our annual shredding day which was a huge success at Red Barn. There was a steady stream of cars the entire four hours dropping off paper to be recycled. Thank you to John Gil for assisting the residents. Quite a number of residents also stopped by the Mobile Clerk's Office down by Crestwood Lake on Saturday to take the opportunity to license their pets, purchase compost permits and register for the lake. It's a part of our continuing effort to deliver services to our residents and we hope to continue to offer this going forward.

Stay safe this holiday weekend and I hope to see you all at our Memorial Day ceremony!

C. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell reported that there have been 5,607 calls to dispatch, 746 "911", 69 fire, and 119 ambulance calls to date. He thanked everyone involved with putting together the Memorial Day ceremony. Regular OEM meetings have been suspended after sixteen straight months, but will be held as needed. The Committee

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2021

continues to work with the Holiday Observers on 4th of July celebrations. The next Public Safety meeting will be June 1st.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso reported that although the Committee has not met since the last Council meeting, he and Councilman Strauch have been in contact regarding noise pollution and rat poison bait traps, which has become an issue and is on the next Board of Health agenda for discussion.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan started her report by thanking Councilwoman Wilczynski for her leadership and tireless work, surmounting several challenges, on the 220/230 project. The fourth Virtual Allendale Water Meeting was held to provide an update on the Request For Bids (RFB) for sale of the water system. This installment will be posted to the website soon, but the prior three are all available. The first two provide background and the third has the most up to date information on the system. She thanked the team of professionals and employees, especially Mike Vreeland, Layne Simon, Ron Kistner and Alissa Mayer, for pulling all the data and information together for the RFB, which will be opening tomorrow at 10am at Borough Hall. After thorough review, should the Governing Body determine that the sale is worth pursuing, the decision will be then be made by the voters at the General Election.

Mayor Bernstein thanked the Councilmembers for their work on their committees.

Due to time constraints, the balance of the Council Reports were given during the Regular Session.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk



Borough of Allendale

A CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATION FOR LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, a courageous group of citizens resisted harassment and maltreatment, setting in motion a series of demonstrations which became known as the Stonewall Uprising and are widely considered to constitute the most important events leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for LGBTQ rights in America; and

WHEREAS, while the LGBTQ rights movement has realized much progress, there is more work to be done. As long as the promise of equality for all remains unfulfilled, all Americans are affected. If we can work together to advance the principles upon which our Nation was founded, every American will benefit; and

WHEREAS, all people deserve to live with dignity and respect, free from fear and violence, and be protected against discrimination, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. During LGBTQ Pride Month, we celebrate the proud legacy LGBTQ individuals have woven into the fabric of our Nation, we honor those who have fought to perfect our Union, and we continue our work to build a society where every child grows up knowing that their country supports them, is proud of them, and has a place for them exactly as they are; and

WHEREAS, Allendale promotes a proud Stigma Free community, accepting people from all walks of life,

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, NJ, do hereby proclaim June 2021 as LGBTQ Pride Month in the Borough of Allendale.

Mayor Ari Bernstein

May 27, 2021