

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Liz Homan

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 September 9, 2021 and livestreamed via Zoom Webinar. 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. He 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."

Presentation:

Mayor Bernstein announced that Saturday is the 20th anniversary of the September 11th attacks on our great nation. It is hard to believe that 20 years have passed. In Allendale and around the country, we will pause to remember those innocent and brave men and women who lost their lives that day, and honor the heroes that provided selfless service. We are ever mindful of their sacrifices. We will "Never Forget". And to the families and friends of those who perished, especially Donald A. Delapenha of Allendale, we grieve with you. Mayor Bernstein read a proclamation, attached and made part of the record.

Public Comment:

None.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein noted that there is a fairly light Regular Session agenda with four resolutions. He asked if any member had questions; no member replied.

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B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety

Councilman O'Connell thanked all emergency services for their actions during the recent storm. He reported 10,586 calls into headquarters, 1,552 to "911", 143 to fire, and 312 to ambulance. Public Safety will meet September 21st and is still working on getting public safety's interviews done with those who took the Chief's test.

Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski gave an update on the 220/230 project noting a good meeting with Hampshire. A contractor has been narrowed down though the name won't be announced until a contract has been signed. There are still a lot of documents that have to be worked on between the lawyers before it closes. She is looking forward to building a new, beautiful Borough Hall. She announced that Crestwood Lake had to unfortunately close for the season due to the severe damage incurred from the storm. Despite that, it was a very strong year, with record revenues. On behalf of Councilwoman Homan, she gave a presentation on the water sale to the Allendale Woman's Club. She thanked the emergency responders and everyone involved for their work in the last two storms. The 9/11 ceremony is scheduled for this Saturday at 7pm, which was mentioned in USA Today.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole reported the Committee had met prior to tonight's meeting to put the finishing touches on the capital budget, which will be introduced shortly, and discuss the Borough audit.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use

Councilman Sasso reported on the Committee's adjunct meeting on 5G technology for mobile phones with a consultant/attorney who specializes in managing cell carriers looking to install facilities in towns. Mayor Bernstein thanked the Councilman for inviting Mr. Lupo to discuss this issue, which he found very informative. Councilman Sasso noted that use of Mr. Lupo's services would be at no cost to the Borough.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch stated that DPW rose to the occasion during the last two storms, highlighting the work of John Pasquino. He informed the Council that Mahwah's Boy Scout Troop 50, along with their environmental commission and DPW, are hosting a Styrofoam collection on Saturday October 30th with more information on the Borough's website, which he encouraged residents to utilize. He concluded by informing residents to ensure their garbage can lids are secure, and dumpster lids closed.

C. Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein gave the following report:

Over the last two weeks, Allendale has experienced two tropical storms, Henri and Ida. In total, we have accumulated close to 12 inches of rain here between these two historic weather events. As always, our Emergency Services and Borough employees have stepped up to the challenge. As I said in our video update with OEM Director

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Mike Dillon after the storm, our response to these storms does not happen on a whim, our Emergency Services lead by our OEM Team plan and train for these emergencies year-round. I want to thank our OEM Director Mike Dillon, our Police Department, our volunteer Fire Department, Ambulance Corps, & CERT members, Lake Manager Tom Viscardi and his staff, Director of Operations Ron Kistner, and his DPW team for all their hard work during the storms and now as they address the clean-up. Please understand that it takes time but everything that needs to get done will get done. Everyone in the Borough is working hard to bring Allendale back after these storms. Thank you to the residents for your patience and understanding as this work is completed. President Biden has declared Bergen County a major disaster area so we will be applying to FEMA for storm-related funding reimbursement. Residents and business owners who sustained losses in any of the designated counties can now apply for funding by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov, or visit our social media pages and borough website where we have put up all the information. Mayor Bernstein then read a letter received from Dr. Barcadepone. (Attached and made a part of the record.) I also want to take a moment to honor the memory of Patricia "Patti" Webb Wardell whose hard work and passion for documenting the history of our town should be remembered. Patti served as an advisor on the Centennial Mural, she was also the advisor on The Bicentennial Quilt that hangs in the Quilt Room. She was instrumental in forming the Allendale Historical Society in 1974 and for 20 years she edited and contributed to the Allendale History and Heritage newsletter. Her crowning achievement was authoring the book Allendale: Background of a Borough which details the historic events and families of Allendale. You can read this very interesting book right in our Library. In 2013 the Mayor and Council recognized her with a proclamation establishing her as Historian Emerita of the Borough of Allendale. We thank Patti for documenting and preserving the history of our wonderful town. We have some events coming up over the next few weeks that I want to make sure everyone knows about. As Amy mentioned this Saturday, is our September 11th Memorial at 7pm in Crestwood Park. Also, on Saturday the 11th, the BCUA will be holding its Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Campgaw from 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. rain or shine. Household Hazardous Waste Events offer Bergen County residents a location for the safe and proper disposal of household-generated hazardous waste. I hope everyone can join us on Tuesday, September 14th for the great presentation that Council President Liz Homan has put together to discuss the sale of Allendale's water system. She is not here tonight, but I want to acknowledge all her outstanding efforts along with the Water Committee's. Autumn Years Living Magazine will be having their first outdoor expo of services and opportunities for those sixty plus. It is rain or shine on Wednesday, September 15th at Red Barn from 9:30am to 2pm. More information can be found in our monthly newsletter. On September 18th, the Allendale Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Allendale Day in our beautiful downtown from 1pm to 5pm. That evening Guardian Angel Church will be holding its carnival as well. The 18th will be action packed. The library is holding its Fall Mum Sale. The order deadline is September 21st. You can find more information and order links in the August edition of the Allendale Happenings. September is "Hunger Action Month". Hunger and food insecurity are unfortunately a reality in all 70 towns in Bergen County. September is "Hunger Action Month" and in support of that the Allendale/Saddle River Rotary Club will be collecting non-perishable food items at their booth on Allendale Day. Please be as generous as you can.

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Staff Reports:

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, reported that 220/230 has been quiet while the water utility will keep everyone busy the in the upcoming weeks. He further reported working with Mr. Kistner on property maintenance and land use issues as well as police chief promotional matters, which is in a formative stage, with the Governing Body getting ready to schedule interviews. The Clerk's office has also kept him busy with OPRA requests.

The balance of the reports were given in the Regular Session.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman O'Connell, second by Councilman Strauch, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk



Proclamation

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, the peace and security of our great nation was shattered by terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 innocent and brave people at the World Trade Center towers in New York City, at the United States Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and in the fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, although the terrorists' goal was to strike a powerful blow to the hearts of all Americans and tear at the fabric of our nation, arising from the very ashes of that tragedy came a remarkable spirit of unity, compassion and determination that will never be forgotten, just as we will never forget those who were lost and injured on that day and in the days and years that followed, and those who rose in service during the rescue and recovery effort and in defense of our nation both here at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the tragic events of that day instantly transformed lives, some through personal loss, and many others through an unfamiliar sense of individual and national vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, an unprecedented, historic bonding of Americans arose from the collective shock, unifying the country in an outpouring of national spirit, pride, selflessness, generosity, courage and service; and

WHEREAS, many brave people heroically, tirelessly, and courageously participated in an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous rescue and recovery effort, in some cases voluntarily putting their own well-being at risk; and

WHEREAS, September 11th will never, and should never be just another day in the hearts and minds of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, September 11, 2021 is the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America; and

WHEREAS, September 11th has been federally recognized as a National Day of Service and Remembrance and has been designated as Patriot Day to call upon all Americans to participate in this observance through moments of silence, the flying of the flag of the United States at half-staff, as well as community service and charitable activities in tribute and remembrance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Ari Bernstein, on behalf of the governing body and residents of the Borough of Allendale, proclaim September 11, 2021 as Patriot Day in the Borough of Allendale in tribute to all of the victims of the 9/11 attacks and the many who rose to service in response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that September 11, 2021 will also be observed as a voluntary Day of Service and Remembrance in the Borough of Allendale and call upon our citizens and organizations to consider joining in this observance by engaging in activities of tribute, solemn remembrance and charitable service.

Mayor Ari Bernstein

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