

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
October 28, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Ed O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole,  
Steve Sasso, Amy Wilczynski, and Jim Strauch (*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 October 28, 2021 and livestreamed via Zoom Webinar. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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."

***Public Comment:***

Walter Widmer, 38 Hamilton, stated that he recently visited the Allendale Police Station and commented on the layout of the front desk.

Samantha Yaccarino, 108 Hillside, stated that she is attending a Rutgers law class and is present, excited to be here and learn.

***Administration:***

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein conducted a thorough overview of the agenda consisting of the introduction of Ordinance 21-12, which replaces Ordinance 21-01. After review by Bergen County, they have requested additional language be added to this stormwater ordinance to make all ordinances and 13 resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Minutes will not be approved tonight. The Mayor asked if any member had questions, no one replied.

B. Council Reports

**Councilman O'Connell** – Public Safety Committee

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Councilman O'Connell announced an upcoming Public Safety meeting on November 5<sup>th</sup> and that they meet with a resident today about their concerns on Chestnut Street. He then reported that there have been 13,157 calls to dispatch, 1472 "911", 180 fire, and 406 ambulance calls to date.

**Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code**

Councilman Sasso reported that the Land Use Committee met last Wednesday. He gave an overview of the meeting, complimented Mike Limatola for his work on property maintenance, and noted that this year was the highest revenue year since 2015. Land Use will be tabling the review of noise in town for now, but if any residents have concerns, comments or suggestions on this issue, specifically related to commercial landscapers and contractors, please email him.

Mayor Bernstein, Councilman Sasso and O'Connell then discussed enforcement of noise violations. Mayor Bernstein polled the Land Use Board and it was decided that the rules and regulations in the current ordinance are appropriate.

**Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities**

Councilwoman Homan gave an update on the temporary treatment at the New Street facility and gave an overview of the different wells. She then alerted the Council that should the water sale referendum not pass November election, the water committee is leaning to having a rate increase and explained why that would be needed. She then complimented Jim Fahey, our water operator, for his work on keeping our bulk water purchase to our agreement. She concluded by reviewing her meetings with residents answering questions on the water sale.

**Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation**

Councilwoman Wilczynski gave an update on 220 West Crescent project. Hampshire has selected a contractor and provided estimated numbers, which our construction management consultant will be reviewing. Numbers are expectedly higher due to COVID and other factors so when the time is right, she will present options to the Governing Body. Next, she gave an update on the playgroup upgrades which are going along as planned. The Councilwoman shared her experience attending the Water Sale presentations stating that it has been a pleasure working with Councilwoman Homan on this issue.

**Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources**

Councilman O'Toole gave an update on the last Administration and Finance meeting held last Monday. At the meeting they discussed the hiring of new staff members to assist in the day-to-day operations in the Clerk's Office as well as quite a few housekeeping items such as the personnel manual and retirement plans. He reviewed the status of revenue from various departments – Court is down, but Engineering, Construction and Crestwood fees are up. He reminded residents that taxes are due on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilman O'Toole concluded by complimenting Mr. Kistner and OEM Director Dillon on their work on securing \$35,000 reimbursement from FEMA on expenses from Tropical Storm Isaias.

Mayor Bernstein welcomed Amanda Bartoloma who will be hired tonight to assist in the Clerk's Office.

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**Councilman Strauch – Public Works**

Councilman Strauch thanked Mr. Kistner and OEM Director Dillion for their work on securing reimbursement from FEMA on expenses from Tropical Storm Isaias. He then reviewed the street sweeping operations and the benefits of owning our own sweeper. He complimented Rich McDowell and Danny Davis for their work in the most recent rain events. Next, he reported that Rich McDowell received his pesticide application re-certification from the NJ DEP and the benefits of that to the Borough. He advised of a Styrofoam collection this Saturday in Mahwah. He concluded by notifying residents of the 'Report a Concern' module on the Allendale website.

***Adjournment:***

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan  
Acting Municipal Clerk