

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein

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

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 November 18, 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. Mayor Bernstein advised the public 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 – 2021 Best Practices Checklist

Mayor Bernstein stated that each year, the State of New Jersey requires municipalities to answer a series of questions, known as the Best Practices Checklist, which evaluate municipal operations and encourage critical thinking about management and planning. The amount of State Aid each municipality receives is directly tied to their score on this checklist. He thanked CFO Alissa Mayer for spearheading this task and for working with department heads to, once again, achieve 100% funding.

CFO Alissa Mayer reviewed the Borough's Best Practices Checklist noting that of the 27 scored questions we answered 'yes' to 20, 'not applicable' to 6, and only 'no' to one question – not having electric car charging stations. She stated that we would be getting our full assessment of state aid and that we were very compliant.

Public Comment:

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Pl, thanked Councilwoman Homan on her hard work and passage of the water referendum.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein conducted a thorough overview of the agenda consisting of the Minutes of the May 27, 2021 Work and Regular Sessions for consideration along with

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12 resolutions on the Consent Agenda and a pending litigation matter for closed session. Mayor Bernstein stated that a summary was now being put out of the consent agenda that gives background of where and who has made the requests. He highlighted Resolution 21-262, that authorizes the hiring of Nicholas Messina as a full-time dispatcher. The mayor welcomed Nicholas to the Borough, and explained that Nicholas will be replacing Shafeq Zarif, one of our longtime police dispatchers, who has resigned for a different career opportunity. On behalf of the Borough, the Mayor thank Shafeq for his service and dedication to Allendale and wished him all the best on his new path. The mayor asked if any member had questions, no one replied.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell reported that, as of yesterday, there have been 14,051 calls to dispatch, 1907 "911", 157 fire, and 430 ambulance calls. The next public safety meeting will be on December 7th.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso reported that the Land Use Committee has not met since the last meeting due to the League of Municipalities Conference. He will be scheduling one shortly. He then highlighted a book called "Small Town, Big Sacrifice" that is about those who served in the military from Allendale and Ramsey who made the ultimate sacrifice, a copy of which he donated to the Lee Memorial Library. He discussed the Borough's regulations regarding drones and reminded everyone to drive carefully, especially at night and early morning, as it is deer mating season. He gave a summary of the seminars that he attended during the NJ League of Municipalities convention including the implementation of 5G cell service. He concluded by reminding residents that the Council passed a resolution calling for a voluntary prohibition of the use of poison bait traps due to the impact of wildlife.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan stated that she was pleased with the overwhelming approval of the water sale referendum. She then discussed the next steps of the process of the sale to SUEZ with the goal of a final closing of the sale occurring in May or June of 2022. She noted that Allendale and SUEZ are continuing to work together to implement the temporary PFAS treatment at our New Street facility and are compliant with all NJDEP water quality standards. We are waiting for approval from the NJDEP for the temporary treatment. Regarding Allendale's Senior Housing, she informed the Council that she met with Shari DePalma and discussed the Borough's role with the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Allendale currently has 16 units of senior housing on Cebak Ct. and will bring their list of needed items to the Council in the near future. She concluded by discussing her time at the NJ League of Municipalities.

Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski gave an update on the 220/230 project stating that they are waiting to close on the front building (220). She noted that the Borough has received a grant for \$85,000 towards the remediation. Two bid awards that appeared on tonight's agenda, one for Crestwood and one for the Downtown Streetscape.

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December 3rd will be the Holiday Walk sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The playground will be closed Monday for renovations as the new equipment's been delivered. She concluded by discussing her time at the NJ League of Municipalities.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole stated that the Committee's meeting is scheduled for Monday. He thanked CFO Alissa Mayer for her work on the best practices checklist and thanked Councilwoman Homan for her work on the sale of the Allendale water system. He discussed his trip to the NJ League of Municipalities.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch reported that the DPW is working to prepare for winter with holiday decorations being displayed. He then updated the council that the Firehouse has had new ductwork installed for the HVAC system and the HVAC control panel was inspected at the Police Department. He then reminded residents that the curbside leaf collection program is still in operation and the last day for the compost site is December 12th. Regarding the Green Team, he stated that at their next meeting on December 7th, there would be a guest speaker discussing a Styrofoam compactor machine. Waldwick is hosting a Styrofoam collection on November 20th.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk