

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein  
(in person)

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

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 May 13, 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."

**Public Comment:**

None.

**Presentations:**

Mayor Bernstein read and presented a proclamation, a copy of which is attached hereto, to Eleanor Sorensen, President of the Allendale Garden Club, in honor of their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Councilwoman Wilczynski shared her involvement with the group and congratulated the Garden Club on all their work at various places in town. Mayor Bernstein thanked the Garden Club for contributions over the last hundred years and making Allendale a beautiful place to live.

Next, Mayor Bernstein read and presented a proclamation, a copy of which is attached hereto, to Dr. Tim Giancarlo, President and CEO of the Allendale Community for Senior Living in honor of National Skilled Nursing Care Week. Mayor Bernstein expressed his gratitude to Dr. Tim Giancarlo and his family as well as the staff for their commitment to the community and for providing putstanding care, especially during the pandemic. Councilman Sasso expressed his appreciation for the great care given to his loved one while at the facility. Dr. Tim Giancarlo thanked the Mayor and and the entire team, police, fire and ambulance corps, for a good working relationship.

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***Administration:***

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Regular Session agenda starting with the second reading and public hearing for Ordinance 21-07, which approves a financial agreement with Hampshire Allendale MF Urban Renewal, LLC. Next, he informed the public that some COVID-19 Special Emergency Authorization funding will be cancelled via Resolution 21-144. Ordinance 21-09, which allows the Borough to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation and establishes a CAP Bank, will be introduced and six Resolutions will be approved on the Consent Agenda. Of note on the Consent Agenda is Resolution 21-148 to which Library Director Patty Durso and Trustee Jackie McSwiggan spoke. A library construction 1:1 matching grant is available for the first time in 20 years. Through proper planning, prudent fiscal management of the Lee Trust, and outstanding fundraising by the Friends of the Lee Memorial Library, they have \$900,000 in their coffers to match the grant, bringing the potential total to \$1.8 million if awarded. They are working with Bruno Associates, grantwriter, and Acaria Architects to put forth a strong plan and grant application to offer better space and programming for the community. They thanked the Governing Body for its support. Finally, under New Business, Mayor Bernstein discussed the introduction of the 2021 Municipal Budget via Resolution 21-151. He thanked all those who worked to put this budget together.

B. Council Reports

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

Councilman Sasso reported that things are going smoothly and complimented the work of the employees in the Building Dept., Engineer's Office and Property Maintenance. At yesterday's committee meeting, they discussed the impact of the use of anticoagulant rodent bait traps on wildlife as well as reviewing the noise ordinance for updates. He invited the public to contact him with any quality of life concerns or suggestions.

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

Councilman O'Connell reported that there have been 5,031 calls to dispatch, 522 "911", 54 fire, and 141 ambulance calls to date. All police officers have completed their Spring qualifications. OEM and Public Safety have met to discuss COVID and are working with the Holiday Observers on Memorial Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations.

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

***Mayor's Report:***

Mayor Bernstein gave the following address to the public:

We are encouraged by the continuing decline in COVID cases both here in Allendale and Bergen County. Vaccines are readily available; Governor Murphy has continued to loosen restrictions and today the CDC announced that those who have been

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vaccinated do not need to wear a mask. Everything is pointing in the right direction. Keep up to date on COVID-19 information at [www.allendalenj.gov](http://www.allendalenj.gov).

This Saturday, May 15th, the BCUA will be having their Household Hazardous Waste Collection event at Campgaw. Visit [bcua.org](http://bcua.org) for all the details.

On May 22nd, we will be having our annual Free Paper Shredding Day, which is sponsored by the BCUA. This year, it will be taking place at Crestwood Park from 9am to 1pm. Details of this event can soon be found on our website [allendalenj.gov](http://allendalenj.gov). The Clerk's Office will also be onsite from 9am to 11am to process compost permits, pet licenses and Crestwood Lake registrations.

Additionally, since our last meeting, on May 5th, I had the pleasure to meet with the Allendale Superintendent of Schools Michael Barcadepone, Business Administrator Maria Engeleit and Board of Education members Amy Gunderson and Kim Rosner. Each year they are kind enough to give us an advanced viewing of their budget presentation to the public. Once again, I was very impressed with the Board of Ed and Superintendent Barcadepone's efforts and I'm truly thankful that they're at the helm. Additionally, it was no small feat keeping the schools open for our children during this past year and on behalf of the Borough, our deepest appreciation and admiration, to everyone involved in the school system for all of their efforts.

***Adjournment:***

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Wilczynski, second by Councilman Sasso, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan  
Acting Municipal Clerk



## **Proclamation in Honor of the Centennial Anniversary of The Allendale Garden Club**

**WHEREAS**, on May 12, 1921, at the Borough Hall, a small but very enthusiastic group of residents met to discuss the formation of a Garden Club; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 26, 1921, the first organization meeting of the Allendale Garden Club was held with charter members in attendance and officers elected; and

**WHEREAS**, for 100 years, the Allendale Garden Club has been a respected part of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Allendale Garden Club continues to beautify the Borough by maintaining garden plantings at the Municipal Building, Lee Memorial Library, Fell House and the Clock Island in downtown Allendale; and

**WHEREAS**, their members also perform community service at nursing homes and were instrumental in planting the flowering trees that line DeMercurio Drive for all residents and visitors to enjoy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale wish to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the Allendale Garden Club as well as express appreciation for all their contributions to the community over the past 100 years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, along with its citizens, hereby honor the Allendale Garden Club for their outstanding commitment to our community and celebrate their Centennial Anniversary by proclaiming May 26, 2021 as Allendale Garden Club Day in the Borough of Allendale.

*Mayor Ari Bernstein*

May 13, 2021

***Proclamation in Honor of  
National Skilled Nursing Care Week***

*Whereas, we honor and respect our elders and citizens of any age with physical or intellectual disabilities who reside in the Allendale Community for Senior Living, a skilled nursing care center located in the Borough of Allendale; and*

*Whereas, skilled nursing care centers throughout our area are holding events in observance of National Skilled Nursing Week, May 9<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup>, using this year's theme of "Together Through the Seasons;" and*

*Whereas, all citizens are urged to contact a loved one, family member or friend residing in any care setting to offer a kind word, a personal touch, or spend time participating in various activities as a way to help in uniting all walks of life in need of our continuing love and support; and*

*Whereas, as the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale are committed to quality health care, we take this moment to embrace the spirit of the theme "Together Through the Seasons" and join all residents, clients, caregivers, nurses, other staff, and visitors in celebrating their special week.*

***Now Therefore Be It Resolved,*** that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale do hereby proclaim the week of May 9, 2021 to May 15, 2021 as National Skilled Nursing Care Week, a week to honor our vulnerable citizens who receive care and the dedicated ones giving care.

***Mayor Ari Bernstein***

**May 13, 2021**