

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Ed O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole, Jim Strauch, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilman Steve Sasso

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 July 8, 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.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Councilwoman Homan thanked Jeff Piccinich for his great work as Allendale's Water Operator and wished him well in his retirement. She introduced new water operator, James Fahey of Suez, who shared his professional background and expressed his eagerness to work with the Borough.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein provided the following report:

Allendale was back at it again this past weekend celebrating the 4th of July. It was a truly amazing day capped off by a spectacular fireworks display overlooking beautiful Crestwood Lake. The Holidays Observers didn't miss a detail and we are so thankful for their efforts to continue this special tradition. A huge thank you to Ron Kistner and the DPW, headed by Dan Richards, for all of their work to prepare the town for the

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holiday weekend – everything looked great! I also want to thank the PD, FD, OEM, AVAC and CERT for lending their resources and keeping everyone safe during the weekend's events. I am happy to report that Borough Hall is scheduled to re-open to the public on Monday, July 12th. The safety and health of our staff has been of the utmost importance to myself and the Council. It was appropriate then to close and now it is appropriate to re-open. We are grateful to our employees for their steadfast dedication to Allendale and for making sure that services were being provided without disruption. The public can call Borough Hall to speak with each department and many applications are available online through GovPilot, making a visit to Borough Hall possibly unnecessary. Hours continue to be 9am to 4:30pm. The Borough is also in the final stages of launching our new website. Thank you to Communications Director John Gil and Webmaster Tyler Yaccarino for undertaking this after much discussion to move to a new platform. Thank you to Ron Kistner for hosting the Northwest Bergen County Administrator's luncheon at Red Barn earlier today. Ron started this tradition a few years ago and it has become a much-anticipated event for local Mayors and Administrators. A special thank you to Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco and County Commissioner Steve Tanelli for providing updates on the county. On Saturday, I will be attending the Northwest Bergen Mayor's meeting where the topic of 5G will be discussed. I will keep everyone apprised of developments.

C. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety

Councilman O'Connell thanked the Holiday Observers, DPW, and first responders for a safe and memorable 4th of July. He reported that there were 7,546 calls into headquarters, 857 to "911", 83 to fire, and 204 to ambulance. The next public safety meeting will be this coming Tuesday.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan reported that the team, including attorneys Ray Wiss and Ryan Scerbo, continues to move forward with the process for the potential sale of the water system. They have been working to translate the terms of the bid response into a purchase agreement with Suez. Tonight, an ordinance to authorize the referendum question for public vote at November's General Election, which is another step in the process, will be introduced. There will be a presentation on the ordinance at the July 22nd meeting prior to the second reading and vote to adopt. Ray Wiss concurred.

Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that the developer's application for 220 West Crescent will be on Bergen County's agenda next week. Crestwood Lake is financially healthy with strong registration. She implored parents to keep a watchful eye as there have been two missing children at the lake already this season. Midlife Crisis will be performing at a soft-opening of the bandshell this Saturday. She thanked the Holiday Observers and President Len Van Orden for a great 4th of July. She also attended the administrator's luncheon today, which was very informative and gave a reminder that the 9/11 memorial paver program has been extended to the end of July.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

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Councilman O'Toole reported that the Borough received \$350,000 as a first round of sewer and infrastructure shortfalls. A letter regarding the reassessment program will be going out next week with 25% of the homes being reassessed in the fall.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch shared that a nice note was received from Len Van Orden, President of the Holiday Observers, thanking everyone, but especially Ray Frazier, Dan Davis and Dan Richards, for their work on the 4th of July celebration. Mark Savastano will be giving an update later on the Green Team's efforts to expand the recycling program in Allendale especially with public events and education programs.

Staff Reports:

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, reported his work drafting the contract with Suez and the ordinance being introduced tonight. He commended Ryan Scerbo for all of his work as well. In addition, he has been working with Ron on contract and personnel matters, Tom Bouregy with the 220 committee and TJ Wiss on OPRA's.

Michelle Ryan, Acting Clerk, reported that Judy Collins is busy completing a records retention process resulting in twenty-five boxes being brought to archives by the DPW so far. Summer Intern Miles Mortimer recently uploaded 2,000 building department files and linked them to the corresponding property in GovPilot, which will help the Clerk's Office and Building Department access records instantly. Tatiana Marquis continues to process OPRA requests and John Gil is working on launching the new website. She thanked everyone for their hard work.

Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer, advised that he was looking into getting a kiosk at Borough Hall for the public to use when applying for permits. He thanked Sgt Mattiace, the Allendale Fire Dept., Dan Richards, Dan Davis and especially Ray Frazier for their work on the 4th of July festivities. New signs will be posted in response to swimming and wading when the lake is closed, which is prohibited. He thanked Sgt Griffith for addressing and monitoring this matter.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk