

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
July 22, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Ed O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole, and Steve Sasso

ABSENT: Councilmembers Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski

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 and livestreamed via Zoom Webinar on July 22, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 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."

***Public Comment:***

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, held his comments until the Regular Session. No one else from the public came forward.

***Administration:***

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda, which consists of a presentation by the Allendale Water Committee led by Councilwoman Homan, second reading and public hearing of Ordinance 21-10, as well as four Consent Agenda Resolutions, including 21-196 authorizing solicitations for storm drain inlet repairs as-needed, which was inadvertently left off the public's copy of the agenda.

B. Council Reports

**Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety**

Councilman O'Connell reported that there were 8,191 calls into police headquarters, 929 to "911", 98 to fire, and 233 to ambulance. The Junior Police Academy graduated 60 cadets this year, a video of which Officer Azevedo will forward to the Governing Body. This year's class experienced helicopter and SWAT Team demonstrations as well as taking a visit to Met Life Stadium. This program has become so popular that 40 children were on the waiting list. One officer is out on disability, temporary parking signs for quick pickup are being placed downtown and there is discussion to

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possibly bring back “dine out” nights in August and September. Mayor Bernstein shared that he viewed the Junior Police Academy video and gave kudos to all involved.

**Councilman Sasso – Land Use**

Councilman Sasso reported that the Land Use Committee met this morning and will be offering agenda items for future Mayor and Council meetings.

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

Councilwoman Homan reported that this committee continues to be busy. She expressed her appreciation for the team’s work on the potential sale of the water system thus far. Tonight, there will be a presentation as well as the second reading and public hearing of Ordinance 21-10. James Fahey of Suez is working out well as Allendale’s new water operator.

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

Councilwoman Homan gave Councilwoman Wilczynski’s report in her absence. The site plan for 220 West Crescent, the front building that will be the location of the new borough hall, was approved by the Bergen County Planning Board on July 12<sup>th</sup>. There is a forty-five day waiting period and then the process to close can proceed. Development should begin in 2022. Thank you to the managers and staff for a smooth lake season so far. “Jaws” will be shown at sundown tonight and the Tim Gysin Band will perform under the pavilion on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Planning for a bandfest to officially open the bandshell is in the planning stages for early October. Another phase of the playground renovation is being finalized. Finally, the paver program in memory of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 has been extended until the end of July. Plans for a special ceremony to commemorate the day are going well.

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

Councilman O’Toole reported the committee has been discussing capital budgets as well as housekeeping items. He will have more to report after their meeting Monday.

**C. Mayor’s Report**

Mayor Bernstein provided the following report:

Welcome back in-person everyone! It is so nice to have everyone back together, minus a few of our colleagues tonight, for the first time in almost 16 months! For the convenience of those that prefer to watch from home, we are also going to be livestreaming our Mayor and Council meetings going forward. Those from the public wishing to make comments will need to attend our meetings in person, but the livestream option allows those not in attendance to follow along. As always, we will also be posting the links on our website. Speaking of our website, it launched last week. We feel that it is a more updated and interactive platform, which will be more user-friendly. A special thanks to Director of Communications John Gil and Webmaster Tyler Yaccarino for all their work to get it up and running. It has also been a little over two weeks since Borough Hall re-opened to the public as well. We

are happy to see our residents again, but I wanted to remind everyone that business such as applying for permits and licenses, paying taxes, and registering for Crestwood Lake can all be done through our website. This will save time and trips to Borough

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Hall. Property taxes are due August 1<sup>st</sup> with a grace period to pay without interest until August 10<sup>th</sup>. And finally, as everyone can see, we have a very light agenda tonight and we expect that will be the case for our next meeting as well so therefore we are cancelling the August 12<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Council meeting. We will be holding our August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting in-person at Borough Hall.

**Staff Reports:**

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, commended the Governing Body's hard work and dedication to the borough. He revealed to the public that there are regularly two to three meetings per week, this week was four, most starting early in the morning, that various members attend in addition to all public meetings. He reported that substantial progress on legal and business details has been made on the potential water sale. He recognized Ryan Scerbo and Councilwoman Homan for their efforts to put together good information to convey to the community. He has also been working on property maintenance and property-related issues with Ron Kistner and OPRA requests that have come into the Clerk's Office, which are less and less from the public seeking information and more and more from businesses using it as a tool to advertise their companies.

Michelle Ryan, Acting Clerk, reported that the Clerk's Office continues to organize old records and thanked John Gil and Tyler Yaccarino for putting together the livestream.

Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer, thanked the Governing Body for their support of the storm inlets resolution. Since 2019, Northwest Bergen Utilities Authority has cleaned our drains and advised us which need to be replaced. This resolution will allow him to solicit proposals to replace those in need. Six tons of patching will be done next week bringing the total this season to twenty tons. West Orchard has been flooding recently so both Ron and OEM Director Dillon reached out to Bergen County to jetted and flush the drains on West Orchard and West Crescent. Both roadways are now in good shape. Steve Jocks from Bergen County has shade trees located on county roadways on his list for removal within the next few weeks. He praised John Gil and Tyler Yaccarino for setting up the livestreams at a substantial cost savings over what other towns are paying for this service. Mayor Bernstein expressed his appreciation for everything Ron does.

Alissa Mayer, CFO, did not have a report.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilman O'Connell, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michelle Ryan  
Acting Municipal Clerk