

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein
(In Person)

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Ed O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole
(In Person) Steve Sasso, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilman Steve Sasso & Councilman Jim Strauch

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
(In Person) 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 August 26, 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. 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."

Presentation:

Mayor Bernstein announced that September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. In recognition of this, each year the Allendale Woman's Club ties teal ribbons around trees throughout the Borough to help raise awareness in memory of Linda Fleischauer, a member and dynamic person who bravely battled this disease. On behalf of our community, Mayor Bernstein thank them for all their efforts. The mayor read the proclamation, attached, declaring September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in the Borough of Allendale and presented it to Marie Caliendo, 138 Arcadia Rd., representing the Allendale Women's Club, who expressed appreciation.

Public Comment:

None.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein gave a comprehensive review of the agenda stating that they will have a public hearing, led by Councilwoman Wilczynski, to repurpose our 2020 Bergen County Open Space Grant for the playground as well as 20 resolutions and some closed session items. He noted that Resolution 21-198 has been pulled from the agenda. Councilwoman Homan asked about the Class III SLEOs, Mayor Bernstein confirmed that every year they must be reappointed. Next, Councilwoman Homan

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2021

asked about the Local Emergency Planning Committee discussed in resolution 21-209. Mayor Bernstein responded that the State OEM requires local OEMs to put together a committee. Operations Director Kistner clarified that this committee is under Officer Dillon, who is the OEM Director.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety

Councilman O'Connell announced Public Safety will meet within a week or two. He reported that there were 9,780 calls into headquarters, 1,109 to "911", 118 to fire, and 282 to ambulance. Several closed session items that will be discussed later.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan gave an update on the water purchasing agreement process. She noted that testing continues for PFAS chemicals, and while we are in compliance the levels are creeping up. The Borough will be looking at putting in some temporary treatments to prevent heading into violation. SUEZ has been a great partner. She then gave an overview on the referendum question that was submitted to Bergen County for the November 2nd General Election and the Borough's process on informing the public on how important this referendum is.

Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that as seen on the Consent Agenda, the Borough is repurposing the Bergen County Open Space grant from trails to playground renovations. She thanked the group of Allendale residents who helped pick out equipment. She then updated the Council on the status of the 220/230 project that is progressing. Next, Councilwoman Wilczynski shared that that Crestwood Lake is financially healthy. She stated that Labor Day is around the corner and the Holiday Observers are planning their annual family water festival. She concluded by giving a detailed overview of what is being planned for the 20-year anniversary of 9/11.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole reported that the Finance Committee has been busy with meetings concerning the capital budget, which will be introduced in the next month or so. Discussions are ongoing on the Senior Housing's rent moratorium that Councilwoman Homan brought to the committee's attention. He noted that on tonight's agenda is a salary adjustment for Gina Wittmaack who successfully completed courses for Municipal Tax Collector. She will be replacing Lawfield who retired and will be working with Colleen Ennis who has been acting as out temporary tax collector for the rest of the year. The Council congratulated Gina on getting her certification.

C. Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein gave the following report:

Last Sunday, Allendale felt the impacts of Hurricane Henri (Onri) experiencing close to 6.2 inches of rain from this storm! As always, the Borough was up to the task. I want to thank our OEM Director Mike Dillion, our DPW crew Rich McDowell, Layne Simon, John Pasquino, and Dan Richards and all of our emergency services who

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2021

worked together to ensure our residents' safety. A special thank you to Dan Richards who despite having his usual responsibilities, volunteered to sweep the town in the Borough's street sweeper. More thank you's are needed for the post-storm clean-up. Tom Viscardi, Rich McDowell, and the entire Crestwood staff who worked to make sure the Lake was open for business on Tuesday. Great job by all! I want to congratulate a few members of our hard-working staff here in Allendale as well. Congratulations to Gina Wittmaack our Tax Clerk on earning her Tax Collection Certification. I know a lot of hard work went into receiving that. Sam Wright will be retiring tomorrow after 15 years of service to the Lee Memorial Library. I know that he does not want a lot of fanfare for his retirement, but on behalf of the Mayor and Council, we thank you, Sam, for all your dedication to the Library and its patrons. Thank you to our OEM Director Mike Dillion and CFO Alissa Mayer for their efforts in submitting reimbursements to FEMA for 2020's Tropical Storm Isaias. They submitted \$92,316.70 in expenses to the Borough for that storm and we were just notified that we have been awarded the usual 75% so we will be receiving approx. \$70,000. Thanks to both of you! On Saturday the 11th, the BCUA will be holding its Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Campgaw from 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. rain or shine. Household Hazardous Waste Events offer Bergen County residents a location for the safe and proper disposal of household-generated hazardous waste. Visit www.bcu.org for more details. The Library is holding its Fall Mum Sale. The order deadline is September 21st. You can find more information and order links in the August edition of the Allendale Happenings. This time of year marks the start of the new school year. I want to wish everyone, the kids, parents, and teachers a very successful school year!

Staff Reports:

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, reported that 220/230 was quiet and that he has worked with Mr. Kistner on contract and property maintenance issues.

Michelle Ryan, Acting Clerk, reported that she has been focused on this agenda.

Ron Kistner, Operations Manager, added to that the Fire Department deserves a thank you as well as OEM Director Mike Dillon for their work during and after the storm. He also complimented Officer Dillons work of the FEMA grant applications, noting they have been very difficult with funding. He also complimented Chaz Johnson, Dan Davis and Johnny who worked on the football scrimmaged and getting the fields ready. He then gave an overview of the cleanup operation around Crestwood Lake.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk



Proclamation in Honor of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer continues to have one of the highest mortality rates of any cancer, and it is a leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, each September especially, we remember the mothers, sisters, and daughters we have lost to ovarian cancer, and we extend our support to those living with this disease; and

WHEREAS, each year, thousands of women are diagnosed with, and go on to battle valiantly against this disease. Yet, ovarian cancer remains difficult to detect, and women are often not diagnosed until the disease has reached an advanced stage. Because early detection is the best defense against ovarian cancer, it is essential that women know the risk factors associated with the disease; and

WHEREAS, during National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and throughout the year, we commend all the brave women fighting this disease and recognize their families and friends' compassion and encouragement. And in memory of all the brave women who have lost their lives to ovarian cancer, and in support of generations of women to come, let us recommit to reaching a safer, healthier future for all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Allendale Woman's Club will be placing teal ribbons around trees throughout the Borough of Allendale as part of "Turn the Towns Teal", a campaign to raise awareness of ovarian cancer, in memory of Linda Fleischauer, a member and dynamic person who bravely battled this disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ari Bernstein, on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, do hereby proclaim **September 2021 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month** in the Borough of Allendale and thank the Allendale Woman's Club for all their efforts to raise awareness of this disease. I call upon citizens, government agencies, organizations, health-care providers, and research institutions to raise ovarian cancer awareness and continue helping Americans live longer, healthier lives. And I urge women across the country to talk to their health-care providers and learn more about this disease.

Mayor Ari Bernstein

August 26, 2021