

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein
(in person)

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

ABSENT: Councilman Ed O'Connell

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 June 24, 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

Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Regular Session agenda starting with consideration for approval of minutes from the March 25, 2021 Work and Regular Sessions, March 25, 2021 Closed Session, April 15, 2021 Work and Regular Sessions, and April 29, 2021 Work and Regular Sessions along with Resolutions 21-166 through 21-180 on the Consent Agenda and Resolution 21-181 under New Business. Of note, he welcomed Jared Chichizola and Kevin Montanye who are being hired as part-time dispatchers via Resolution 21-167 as well as new full-time Police Administrative Assistant Lisa Crescente via 21-174 and returning intern Miles Mortimer via 21-180. He thanked Diana Bradley, who resigned employment, for her service to the Borough. 21-169 authorizes submission of an application to NJ DOT for Phase 5 of the West Allendale Streetscape project, 21-170 authorizes an emergency budget appropriation for firetruck repairs and 21-177 authorizes submission of an application to the US Treasury for coronavirus recovery funds through the American Rescue Plan.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2021

B. Mayor's Report

On Saturday, Councilwoman Wilczynski and I joined with the VFW at Red Barn to retire flags in honor of Flag Day. A huge thanks to Former Commander Joe Chinnici for organizing the wonderful event and to all the veterans for their sacrifices on our country's behalf.

It's graduation time for our students here in Allendale. Yesterday, students at Brookside School celebrated their graduation, and tonight our Seniors at Northern Highlands will be graduating. A huge congratulations from all of us on your achievement! I also want to send congratulations to the parents of our graduates. This is a special time in your childrens' lives as they move onto their futures. Know that you play such an important hand in helping them achieve all their goals. Again, congratulations to all.

The Borough was recently notified that Ms. Susan Clauss, the Ecology Center Coordinator at Hillside School, was awarded an Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant from the Bergen County Utilities Authority in the amount of \$999.95 to enhance the education of students about the importance of environmental stewardship. Great job Ms. Clauss and keep up the good work!

I want to thank the Holiday Observers for their hard work in planning this year's 4th of July Celebration here in Allendale. As we return to a bit more of normalcy from COVID, the Observers have planned a full day's worth of events ending with a concert by The Community Band of Waldwick and fireworks at 9pm. For a full rundown of events and details please visit, holidayobservers.org/4th-of-july. I can't wait to see you there.

The Borough will be launching our new website by mid-July. The goal of this upgraded website is to create a user-friendly site that is easy to navigate for our residents. Our website is host to a wealth of information about our town and can be a huge time saver when interacting with our Borough. We are looking forward to this launch. I want to thank our Communications Director John Gil and Webmaster Tyler Yaccarino for spearheading this effort.

The Rotary Club's Installation Dinner will be held on June 30th at Bob Klingen's house in Mahwah starting at 6pm. Tickets are \$35 with RSVP's to Tyler Yaccarino.

I want to recognize the Allendale Garden Club for their efforts in placing a "Remembrance Stone" in honor of Bob Paterson in Veterans Park. Mr. Paterson was a former Councilman, a former member of the Planning Board, and a longtime volunteer in town. Thank you to the Garden Club for helping us all remember Mr. Paterson and his legacy.

Sadly, Kenny Kunisch passed away last week. The Kunisch family is as close as it gets to the first family of Allendale and their contributions and what they mean to the community are immeasurable. The town grieves with the Kunisch's and we send our thoughts and prayers to them at this difficult time.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2021

Councilwoman Wilczynski extended her condolences to the family and added that she spoke to Chris Kunisch about placing a memorial bench near Kunisch Field.

Councilman O'Toole went to school with Kenny and shared fond memories of him.

C. Council Reports

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso reported that the next committee meeting would be on June 30th. He praised Councilman Strauch for his invaluable wealth of knowledge, which is so helpful to the committee. He shared that the councilmen are reviewing the noise ordinance for possible updates as well as discussing ways to mitigate the impact of poison rat traps on wildlife.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Due to technical difficulties, Councilwoman Homan was unable to give her report.

Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that work continues to close on 220 West Crescent, which will house the new borough hall and seventy residential units. The developer's application hopefully will be heard by the Bergen County Planning Board next month and they are looking to demo around the end of summer/early fall. Unfortunately, there are steel shortages that are being contended with at this time. Crestwood is going strong. The first band night had to be cancelled due to inclement weather, however Allendale's own, Midlife Crisis, will be performing on July 10th. She had a meeting with the contractor today to discuss Phase 2 of the playground renovation project. Grandstand was recently spruced up by the Holiday Observers. She is working on getting a speaker for the 9/11 Ceremony, the commemorative paver program is underway, and flags from the VFW's flag retirement have been secured and will be displayed at the 9/11 Ceremony.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole reported that estimated tax bills were mailed out yesterday and are due by August 1st. Tomorrow, the application for the American Rescue Plan funds, for which Allendale has been allotted \$704,838 over two years, will be submitted with a portion being used for COVID-related revenue losses with the remainder used for water or sewer infrastructure. Holiday Observers are planning festive events for 4th of July and are out distributing tickets for the fireworks display. He thanked Ron Kistner and the DPW for all their assistance to make the event successful.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch reported that the DPW is busy with 4th of July preparations as well as with Crestwood Lake. He extolled the wealth of information that can be found on the website and especially in the monthly newsletter and recommended residents sign up for Constant Contact to receive it. He informed the public of Bergen County Utilities Authority's Household Hazardous Waste Collection at Campgaw on July 10th and their papershredding, tire and electronics recycling event at Bergen Community College in August. He encouraged residents to sign up for the RecycleCoach app, which contains all information on garbage and recycling dates.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2021

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk