

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan Susanne
Lovisollo, Ed O'Connell, Steve Sasso, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilmember Matthew O'Toole

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
Acting Municipal Clerk Michelle Ryan
Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer
Michael Dillon, Chief of Police
John Gil, Director of Communications
Tyler Yaccarino, Webmaster and IT

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 March 10, 2022. 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. Notice of this meeting by the March 8, 2022 Sunshine Notice was sent to The Record, Ridgewood News and Star Ledger and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and Borough website."

Public Comment:

None.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda, consisting of the September 9, 2021 Work and Regular Sessions minutes, Ordinance 22-01 setting the 2022 salary ranges for our employees, and 9 Resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda. No Councilmembers had questions.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Works

Councilman O'Connell reported that Crestwood Lake preparation has begun with ballfields next week weather-permitting.

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He then reported for Councilman O'Toole, the Chair of Public Safety, that they have met with AVAC regarding daytime staffing. He then gave updates on the Fire Department and Police Department activities. There have been 3,297 calls to dispatch, 52 fire, and 165 ambulance calls to date.

Councilman Sasso – *Facilities, Parks and Recreation*

Councilman Sasso stated that the DPW is gearing up on Crestwood Lake and the fields. There will be a meeting soon with sports leaders. He reported that the Committee members are busy talking about Crestwood and that the playground is due to reopen Memorial Day. He concluded by sharing that Jim Wright has reported that the Red Shoulder Hawk was spotted at the Celery Farm.

Councilwoman Homan – *Water, Sewer and Public Utilities*

Councilwoman Homan congratulated the Northern Highlands Board of Ed and Administration on their successful referendum. She thanked CFO Alissa Mayer and Ron Kistner for their work on the 2022 water budget. She then gave updates on meetings with the Water Committee concerning the purchase agreement for the sale of the Allendale Water System and the potential locations for the PFAS water treatment facility at New Street, which include the DPW water garage, next to the current water treatment plant and Allendale's stockpile area. While the sale of the system and the implementation of the PFAS treatment facility are both pending, she advised that there is a possibility that the water could go into non-compliance in Q2 or Q3, but currently it is in compliance for PFOA and PFOS compounds. As the West Crescent well is currently closed, there is also discussion on how to meet Summer's water demand. Councilwoman Homan encouraged anyone with questions or concerns to email her.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – *Finance, Human Resources and Administration*

Councilwoman Wilczynski thanked Councilwomen Homan and Lovisolo for all their hard work to finalize the water sale. She then gave an update on her Committee's work regarding the budget. They are looking to introduce it in a couple of weeks. She then spoke about her visit with Mr. Goodman 8th grade classes at Borough Hall and thanked Chief Dillion and Officer Azevado for speaking to the class. She concluded with an update on the status on the 220 West Crescent project, reporting that the numbers are high and big decisions will need to be made. She will have a Closed Session presentation for the Governing Body at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Lovisolo – *Land Use and Construction Code*

Councilwoman Lovisolo advised that this Committee will meet on the morning of the Land Use Board's regular meeting. She will give a full report at the next meeting.

C. Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein gave the following report:

On Tuesday, voters came to the polls to vote on Northern Highlands Board of Education's public question requesting \$8.8m for renovations and improvements to their facilities. In Allendale, the unofficial totals from the machines and mail-in ballots received, as of Tuesday, is 694 yeses and 323 nos. Upper Saddle River had similar margins to ours. It appears that the proposal passed, but the Board of Elections is still counting ballots. For the most up-to-date totals, please visit

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www.bergenclerk.org. 2022 Compost Permits go on sale Monday. Applications can be completed on our website. The Compost Facility will open on Saturday, April 2nd. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead for Daylight Savings this Sunday. I, like everyone else I am sure, am looking forward to Spring's arrival and getting outdoors and taking advantage of the increasing daylight and nicer weather. I, along with members of the Allendale Fire Department, Allendale Police Department, AVAC, DPW, Clerk's Office, and library had the pleasure of meeting with the 3rd grade classes from Hillside School recently. The Borough has been made aware about a lawsuit that has been filed on behalf of three Allendale Police Sergeants and one Patrolman through a media article yesterday. As of tonight, the Borough has not been served with a copy of the complaint. The article on social media was factually inaccurate and the only characterization of the process was offered by the officers' attorney, which was replete with inaccuracies. The Borough stands behind the process and the outcome. The Borough supports Chief Dillion and the Allendale Police Department.

D. Staff Reports

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, reported that since the last meeting, his office has been working on personnel and property maintenance issues, as well as working with the Water Committee on the closing of the Allendale Water sale.

Michelle Ryan, Acting Clerk, reported that the Special Election went very smoothly and thanked Tatiana Marquis, John Gil, Amanda Richards, Ron Kistner, Dan Richards, Rich McDowell, Ray Frazier, and Chief Dillion. She recognized Dave Flynn, one of the poll workers who went above and beyond staying after the election ended to help clean up and put tables away. The Clerk's Office is ready for Compost Sales on Monday.

Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer, reported that work on ladder truck 941 will be done.

Michael Dillon, Chief of Police, thanked everyone for helping him in this transition. He then gave an overview of PD and OEM happenings.

John Gil, Director of Communications, advised that he is working on the March newsletter and to submit any last minute additions as soon as possible.

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 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk