



**BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
FOR
THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024
7:30 P.M.**

**Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
 Combined Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes
 September 19, 2024 – 7:30 p.m.**

A combined Work and Regular Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale was held in the Municipal Building at 500 West Crescent Avenue, Allendale, New Jersey on September 19, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Wilczynski.

Linda Cervino, the 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 and on the Borough Website, 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 September 11, 2024, Sunshine Notice was sent to The Record, The Ridgewood News and Star Ledger and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and Borough website.”

On Roll Call, the following were present: Councilman Joseph Daloisio, Councilman Matthew O’Toole, Councilman Tyler Yaccarino, and Mayor Amy Wilczynski. Councilwoman Liz Homan, Susanne Lovisolo and Councilman Ed O’Connell were absent. A quorum was met.

The following were also present: Ray Wiss, Esq., Borough Attorney; Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk; and DPW Superintendent, Andy Agugliaro.

Mayor Wilczynski led the salute to the flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 5, 2024 Work and Regular Meeting Minutes:

The vote was recorded as follows:

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Daloisio		✓	✓			
Councilwoman Homan						✓
Councilwoman Lovisolo						✓
Councilman O’Connell						✓
Councilman O’Toole			✓			
Councilman Yaccarino	✓		✓			

PROCLAMATION: Recognizing the month of September as Hunger Actin Month

The mayor read a proclamation into the record:

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RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

WHEREAS, hunger and food insecurity are a reality for far too many of our neighbors; and

WHEREAS, those who are food insecure are without reliable access to an adequate amount of affordable, nutritious food. Food insecurity can affect anyone, whether they are recently unemployed, underemployed, or supporting a large family; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is a symptom of broader challenges, such as unemployment, disability, retirement or unforeseen financial hardships; and

WHEREAS, those who do not have their basic needs met are further hampered in their path toward self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, ongoing economic instability has increased food insecurity amongst individuals and families throughout Bergen County and across the country; and

WHEREAS, food pantries in Bergen County have experienced an approximately 22% increase in need for food assistance; and

WHEREAS, there are residents in every municipality in Bergen County who receive SNAP benefits, illustrating that this is an issue impacting residents all across Bergen County; and

WHEREAS, the economic coattails of the pandemic are long, and despite the end of Federal and state emergency declarations, tremendous need still exists within our community; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Food Security Task Force was established to support food pantries in Bergen County by increasing the supply of healthy food options, connecting those in need to vital services, and investing in long term infrastructure to build a more resilient pantry network to ensure no one in Bergen County goes hungry; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Food Security Task Force has been incorporated into the Department of Human Services as the new Office of Food Security to reaffirm that the county's commitment to fighting hunger continues past the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the energy, philanthropy, and hands-on efforts of a multitude of volunteers throughout the county make a tremendous impact in combatting hunger in our community, and are vital in meeting the struggles of our neighbors with compassion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby recognizes the month of September 2024 as "Hunger Action Month" in the Borough of Allendale and encourages all Bergen County residents to support their local food pantries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough of Allendale is committed to ending hunger in Bergen County and will spread awareness and increase engagement in our community to solve this problem by hosting a food drive through the month of October at Borough Hall for the Center for Food Action.

The Municipal Clerk announced that the clerk's office will have a donation box in the main lobby of Borough Hall for non-perishable food items through the month of October.

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AGENDA REVIEW:

Mayor Wilczynski reviewed the agenda which included:

- Introduction of Ordinances #24-15 and #24-16.
- Consent Agenda items Resolutions #24-222 through #24-232.

RES 24-222: A RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES FOR CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH.

RES 24-223: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CANCELLATION OF OUTSTANDING CHECKS.

RES 24-224: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CHECK FOR PROPERTY AND CHARGE SAME TO OVERPAYMENT OF 3RD QUARTER OF 2024 TAXES.

RES 24-225: APPOINTMENT OF CROSSING GUARD, P/T, HOURLY, PER DIEM BASIS – JOSEPH AGUGLIARO.

RES 24-226: APPOINTMENT OF CROSSING GUARD, P/T, HOURLY, PER DIEM BASIS – SABRINA CORREA.

RES 24-227: APPROVAL OF NON-CONTRACTUAL SALARY RESOLUTION.

RES 24-228: AUTHORIZATION TO HIRE AND APPOINTMENT OF PART-TIME CCO INSPECTOR - KEVIN TODD

RES 24-229: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT AN AWARD EXTENSION REQUEST FOR LA-2022 MA ALLENDALE BORO W ALLENDALE AVE PHASE 5 02 TO THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

RES 24-230: A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE UNPAID INTERNSHIP OF JOSHUA ALVELO WITH THE ALLENDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

RES 24-231: BILL LIST OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024.

RES 24-232: RTP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES, INC., TO PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR 98-101 NEW STREET, BLOCK 2101, LOT 4, LOCATED WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Although not an agenda item, Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, Allendale, New Jersey gave an update to the activities of the Green Team from the summer. We've been very busy. I came up with an idea that I've investigated to collect pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks and mums. I've approached Rohsler's and Borst to be locations for the collections and they were very enthusiastic about the idea.

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I think that’s going to be quite a bit of weight that will be kept out of the trash stream. It’s all compostable material, so it will just be returned to the earth where it does its job instead of rotting in a landfill.

Contact was made to us from two students from Northern Highlands and they were interested in joining the Green Team. I invited them to come and speak before the council at the next meeting. I think it will be a great way to introduce themselves so they can introduce their interest.

I also want to commend Andy and his new staff members. I’ve been to the recycling center several times and they’ve helped me recover a great deal of the EPS from the dumpster there. People are bringing it there hoping to recycle it and they are told we don’t accept it. DPW had offered that we can put some type of container there and we can collect it outside of the dumpster.

A little more regarding the collection referring to the pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks and mums, we’re going to have two; one immediately after Halloween and one immediately following Thanksgiving; the Saturdays following the holidays. We will be busy planning putting up posters and will advertise in the newsletter, website and 07401.

No one else came forward.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 24-15:

The Municipal Clerk read the title of the ordinance into the record:

ORDINANCE 24-15: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 53 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE, “OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES”, TO FIX THE SALARIES, WAGES AND COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE FOR THE YEAR 2024.

The vote was recorded as follows:

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Daloisio			✓			
Councilwoman Homan						✓
Councilwoman Lovisolo						✓
Councilman O’Connell						✓
Councilman O’Toole		✓	✓			
Councilman Yaccarino	✓		✓			

The Municipal Clerk stated, “Ordinance 24-15 has now been introduced upon first reading and will be published in the Wednesday, September 25th edition of the Record and will be taken up for further consideration and final passage at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council on October 3, 2024 at 7:30 pm or as soon thereafter.”

(See Ordinance 24-15 attached and made a part hereof)

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INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 24-16:

The Municipal Clerk read the title of the ordinance into the record:

ORDINANCE 24-16: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING BUSINESS INSURANCE REGISTRY IN THE BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE.

The vote was recorded as follows:

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Daloisio			✓			
Councilwoman Homan						✓
Councilwoman Lovisolo						✓
Councilman O’Connell						✓
Councilman O’Toole		✓	✓			
Councilman Yaccarino	✓		✓			

The Municipal Clerk stated, “Ordinance 24-16 has now been introduced upon first reading and will be published in the Wednesday, September 25th edition of the Record and will be taken up for further consideration and final passage at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council on October 3, 2024 at 7:30 pm or as soon thereafter.”

(See Ordinance 24-16 attached and made a part hereof)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The vote was recorded as follows:

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Daloisio			✓			
Councilwoman Homan						✓
Councilwoman Lovisolo						✓
Councilman O’Connell						✓
Councilman O’Toole		✓	✓			
Councilman Yaccarino	✓		✓			

(See Resolutions 24-222 through 24-232 attached and made a part hereof)

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ADMINISTRATION

Council Committee Reports

Councilman Tyler Yaccarino - Facilities, Parks and Recreation. Councilman Yaccarino stated that we had our Crestwood end of season meeting. Andy had also provided some input before the meeting. We had a lot of different topics to cover including operations. We'd like to extend our gratitude to Tierney Poggi who will be resigning as our Crestwood events coordinator. She's been a long-time employee of Crestwood Lake and started with Crestwood as a lifeguard and since moved up to working with the events through the lake. We wish her very well. Next year we will be looking to have someone within borough hall take over events or maybe we'll do that within committee.

Regarding the concession stand, we anticipate the opening up submitted bids next week. We are very excited for that. I'd like to thank Andy and the DPW for working to make improvements on our fields based off feedback from the Allendale Sports Alliance. Two of the fields that we're working on are the football field and the soccer field that we're working on and making improvements. One of the resolutions out of the last Allendale Sports Alliance meeting was to close the West Maple fields so that we can continue to make more extensive improvements long term.

Special thanks to Alison for continuing your efforts improving our facilities here in Borough Hall. We collaborated with Hickey Electric to move some of our communications, infrastructure and equipment from the clerk's office to a more secure location ensuring compliance with JIF Cyber Standards.

And, finally, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Real ID event at the firehouse last week for two days went off with no issues. Thank you to Andy for facilitating that. Our next motor vehicle event will be another inspection event on October 4th at Crestwood.

Mayor Wilczynski thanked Councilman Yaccarino for initiating that. It's a great program and residents love it because they don't have to go down to the DMV.

Councilpresident Matthew O'Toole - Public Safety Committee. Council President O'Toole stated that due to the busy nature of September our meeting was pushed a month, so we met this past Monday. Our two new officers have finished our field training, so they are out on the streets keeping the borough safe. We discussed the new crossing guards and spots, and it seems everything is working out very well; only a few minor adjustments to be made. We discussed our perennial issue of downtown parking with the new officers. That should help to alleviate some of the issues that we're seeing down there. As you mentioned in the consent agenda, we have the new police intern. He's working with the EOM. Finally, next Thursday is blood drive at the firehouse from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. AB&G is partnered with us on this one and they are offering a pint of blood for a pint of beer or a glass of wine or a soft drink. I'm very happy to say that once again, the scouts will be helping at the blood drive.

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Councilman Joseph Daloisio – Councilman Joseph Daloisio - Public Works & Public Utility. Councilman Daloisio stated that since our last meeting, the DPW committee did not meet. We just had quick conversations with our superintendent, Andy Agugliaro. The DPW is continuing their regular duties. We appreciate all their efforts. I know they're prepping Crestwood for the draining of the lake and the final closing of everything. They continue to maintain fields as Councilman Yaccarino mentioned. Our new mechanic is working out very well. He's acclimating well for the borough and we're very happy to have him on board.

Staff Reports:

Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk, stated that she attended Film Ready NJ in Trenton. It's a multi-step training and certification process which helps municipalities to prepare and market themselves as film destinations. It is part of the New Jersey Motion Pictures and Television Commission which is under the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

Mayor Wilczynski said this is something I've been talking about for a while because we were at a meeting in Atlantic City where they were talking about how Netflix is moving to Monmouth. So, this is just a good opportunity for the borough to make revenue.

Andy Agugliaro, DPW Superintendent, stated I must echo what Tyler said about how borough hall looks. It looks fantastic. Kudos to Alison. Our new borough mechanic, CJ, is working out phenomenally as is Joe and Drew. Part 1 of 2 of our streetscape project has started today. They've mobilized. I hope everybody liked the upgrades to the 9/11 memorial. I did receive a lot of comments on it. The DPW is preparing fields for the fall sporting events which are underway. We have added a new half flag football field across from the park inside Crestwood Lake. They finished that up yesterday. The lower multipurpose field was converted to a soccer field. Lastly, we started decommissioning Crestwood Lake and prepping for the new concession stand.

Ray Wiss, Esq. of Wiss & Bouregy, Municipal Attorney, stated we continue to work on the after closing matters on the sale of the water utility, including a meeting this evening with Mayor and Councilwoman Homan. Mayor signed a couple of easement agreements this evening, so, we work with Veolia's counsel in trying to get that done. We've also had meetings involving Mayor, Councilwoman Homan, Andy, myself, Mike Vreeland working on the diversion process.

On tonight's agenda, Resolution 232 was hiring an environmental consultant to do an assessment of the site on New Street that we're proposing to dedicate the passive recreation as part of the diversion process with Green Acres. We met earlier this evening, the same group, to discuss some ongoing sewer related issues with our neighbors in Saddle River that I suppose will be the focus of some continuing discussions going forward. Some conversations with Chief Dillon on some departmental matters.

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We've had some certain things involving the bylaws and related items at the fire department. Affordable housing, as the Mayor has previously reported, the Borough has joined in the litigation in which Montvale is the lead agency. That complaint has been filed. We're in communication with the attorney that is representing the group. He provided a status update this morning that I shared with the mayor. I think the litigation is in its very informative state. The state is not due to respond until about mid-October.

I was told by TJ and Tom today that the leases on the cell tower are in circulation pending signatures. Hopefully, that revenue should come on board shortly.

Lastly, while I had reported that the settlement conference on PK was supposed to have taken place earlier this month, unfortunately, the attorney for PK was hospitalized so the conference was put off to October 28th.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Wilczynski stated 210 West Crescent, our community center, is coming along nicely. I think everyone on the council has seen it now. We just put up our tv's. Our security is currently going in and our new entrance system is going in. We're working on systems and operations and procedures and regulations in borough hall. We have to put signage up and figure out a lot of stuff before it's open to the community, including buying some furniture. We're still hoping there will be a soft opening by the end of the year, but definitely by the beginning of 2025.

The 9/11 ceremony was beautiful. Tim Latterner was a great speaker. It's always the most beautiful ceremony and this year was no different. Thank you for making it look so beautiful. The residents really appreciate it. They come all day to reflect. We have Allendale Day this Saturday so the borough will have a booth. In the spirit of keeping government transparent, we are going to try to sign everybody and anybody up for our Newsletter, Constant Contact, Facebook and Instagram. We are just pushing information out there. If you don't have a computer we will mail the newsletter to you. There's so much great information in our newsletter. I write a Mayor's report every month. I'm constantly sending out memos and updates. Everyone should be informed about everything in the borough.

We had our third of our four town halls this week. This one was on deer management. As I mentioned, it is one of the most talked about topics in town. It's one of the biggest complaints that I get from residents. It is also a very emotional and triggering topic for a lot of people. I brought in the DEP and TYCO who is our animal control company to explain and give facts and things we can do to help control the deer population. At one point in the meeting, I asked who is in favor of deer management and I would say 90 percent of the people raised their hand or even more. It has just gotten out of control unfortunately and, quite frankly, it's something I wish we didn't have to do, but I think the numbers are out there and it's getting a little scary with the car accidents. It's not very humane for the deer either that are getting killed by cars and they are hobbling around with broken legs. We will continue to update everybody on that.

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Our streetscape phase started today on Central Drive. That's going to go along the street by the train station and then after that it's going to be DeMecurio and then we have one other little section on DeMecurio and then we're done.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER:

Walter Widmer, 38 Hamilton Street, Allendale, asked how successful are the blood drives? Councilpresident O'Toole said it's very successful. The last blood drive we had about 39 people; each pint can save three lives. Overall, he's doing exceptionally well. He's running about 60 drives a year now.

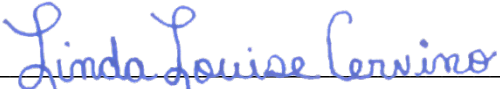
Mr. Widmer asked Mayor Wilczynski what the function of reading proclamations are. Mayor Wilczynski said that the function is a declaration to honor either an event or person. Ray Wiss said when they are read at a public meeting, they're in the public record. So, for organizations who are having these read at multiple places, it also gives them the ability to say we're recognized by the Borough of Allendale by the County of Bergen, by the State of New Jersey. So, it's note-worthy causes or events and then the mayor reads them into the public record. Mayor Wilczynski said she signs it, and we sometimes give it to the organization. Some people hang them up.

No one else from the public came forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Yaccarino, second by Councilman Daloisio and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Louise Cervino, RMC
Municipal Clerk

October 3, 2024

Date Approved