

**Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
January 4, 2024 2023 Sine Die Meeting Minutes – 7:00 p.m.**

The 2023 Sine Die 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 January 4, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Amy Wilczynski who welcomed everyone who was joining the meeting in the audience and on Zoom Webinar.

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 December 22, 2023 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: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Susanne Lovisolo, Edward O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole, Tyler Yaccarino, Joseph Daloisio, III, and Mayor Amy Wilczynski. No one was absent and a quorum was met.

Also present were the following: Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney; Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk; Michael Dillon, Chief of Police; John Gil, Director of Communications; and Alison Altano, Business Administrator/Chief Financial Officer.

Mayor Wilczynski led the salute to the flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: No one came forward.

AGENDA REVIEW:

RES 23-272: BUDGET TRANSFERS.

RES 23-273: APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 31, 2023 BILL LIST.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilman O’Toole that the Consent Agenda be and is hereby approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Homan:	aye	Councilman O’Toole:	aye
Councilwoman Lovisolo:	aye	Councilman Yaccarino:	aye/abstain 23-273
Councilman O’Connell:	aye	Councilman Daloisio:	aye

For the record, Councilman Yaccarino abstained 23-273, but aye to the balance.

(See Resolutions 23-272 through 23-273 attached and made a part hereof)

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
January 4, 2024 2023 Sine Die Meeting Minutes – 7:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Council Committee Reports

Councilman Edward O’Connell – Department of Public Works, stated that we are collecting Christmas trees. The DPW is gearing up for the snow/rain/ice that we’re getting this weekend.

Councilwoman Susanne Lovisolo – Finance, Human Resources, Administration and Council Liaison to Library Board, wished everyone a happy holiday and happy New Year. For Finance/HR/Admin, we’re hitting the ground running. Starting next week, we were proud to be able to provide a zero percent municipal tax increase again this past year. We are taking a look at things for this upcoming year. Added to that committee this year is also IT. We’re going to look at communicating better to the public in new innovative ways.

For Land Use, I look forward to continuing to work with Councilman Joseph Daloisio, continuing many of the initiatives that we started last year. That includes streamlining and clarifying our code and paying attention to things around tree removal. We are toying with the idea of resurrecting our shade tree committee and we have a formal councilman who would be very instrumental in that. We look forward to getting that up and running again.

I am the liaison to our Green Team and we are looking at our spring cleanup day, which is a big day in town and our environmental day, tentatively Saturday, April 27th, which is also Earth Day. We might move it away from that weekend because some of the things that we do on that day, like, our clothing recycling, those get harder to do when all the towns are doing things on Earth Day.

At the library, for our young folks here, on January 15, 2024 the library will have a dragon sculpture craft and stories to celebrate Appreciate a Dragon Day. We also have a hot coco in a jar craft for Hot Coco Day on January 31, 2024.

Councilwoman Liz Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities, stated I was reflecting upon the past year. For myself, it’s been a pleasure to be councilpresident for the year. I think the thing that I thought most about this year in looking back was really about all the things that Mayor Wilczynski has accomplished during her first year as mayor. I won’t list everything, but I think there are three things that I felt like I really wanted to share in public about how Amy works for the borough. The first one is that Amy works absolutely tirelessly for the borough. I think all of us know there are conversations and emails at all times of the day. As far as people in the public and ourselves, Amy is amazing at following up on phone calls and messages. She doesn’t let things fall through the cracks. And even as a councilmember, she’s awesome in her gentle reminders about the timelines that we set, which are so important. Being a tireless worker for Allendale is a huge thing.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
January 4, 2024 2023 Sine Die Meeting Minutes – 7:00 p.m.

The second thing is that Amy really works as a team. I think sometimes it would be easier to just say, I already know what I want to do, check it off, move forward, and that's not how you operate. I admire that because she really does always communicate and look not only at the short-term solution for something, but how is it going to impact in the short term, how is it going to impact in the long term, what are the financial implications, pros and cons. I think that's huge and truly to Allendale's benefit.

The third one is really that Amy only works for the best of Allendale. That there is no other political agenda, there's no personal agenda, that she does make time and have difficult conversations sometimes, which we would like to sometimes even as elected representatives avoid and she doesn't do that because she knows it's in the best interest of Allendale.

The other thing I can for sure say is that she also celebrates with each one of us when good things that we're a part of and she totally wants the team member to know how appreciated they are. So, as residents, I can say she truly appreciates the team part of residents' feedback in and trying to make sure she gets information out. As councilmembers, I know we're truly a team. As individuals that are employees in Allendale, I certainly hope that they feel that team leadership from Amy. Those were the three things that I had to make sure that I shared with our community and I know that our council echoes that. It's a pleasure and it's awesome to be on the council with you all.

Regarding the Water Committee, I've been the head of the water committee for eight years and it has been a lot more fun than I ever expected. I have one more year to work with Joe Dalosio who is going to be heading up water and sewer and DPW, which he'll be great. I want to say that, Ray, we're on a timeline. We have some remaining money in escrow from Veolia and for the community to know that it's just over three million dollars. Veolia has been a great partner, so to the community, we are still going to be having led and cooper digging in front of many residences because it is part of the lead and cooper rule, again, to identify what the service line is made of. So, that will be continuing throughout the year. And I know some residents feel that's an inconvenience but, really, it is not only the law, it is a wonderful opportunity to ensure that our water lines are as safe as possible.

The temporary PFAS treatment at the West Crescent well continues to move forward. They just had a little road closure the other day to bring in the media in order to have the temporary PFAS treatment up and running before the well needs to be opened up for the higher water use season. Thank you to Mike Dillon for helping out with. The next step in managing PFAS, which is present in water all over New Jersey, will be the construction of a permanent facility. We're hopeful that that will stay down at New Street in the current water facility, but we'll be working with Veolia on that.

As far as sewers, our focus there is going to be, first, the sewer agreements with Saddle River and Ramsey. Today, our lawyer sent over to Saddle River another draft of an agreement that as a team we all worked on today. The other thing that we'll be working on, and I look forward to working with our team, is really looking at the infrastructure of the sewers in Allendale because next to our public safety line items, the sewer is the next largest tax item. It's a big chunk of money, so whatever we can do in the future.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
January 4, 2024 2023 Sine Die Meeting Minutes – 7:00 p.m.

Councilman Matthew O’Toole – Public Safety, stated with the forecast for snow this weekend, the Chief and I touched base a couple of times today monitoring the snow fall potentials. We’ve scheduled our next blood drive for March 28th. We are swearing in two new officers tonight, Nicholas Antonelli and Christopher Rosado. We’re very happy to have them join the family and we’re certain that they will be great additions to the police department. We had quite a turnover in our police department this year and the department is moving in a great direction under Chief Dillon. I’m looking forward to next year. We will be working to bolster the numbers for our fire department and our ambulance corp. We have a lot of great volunteers already, but they can’t do it just with just them.

Councilman Tyler Yaccarino – Facilities, Parks and Recreation, stated that one thing I did want to highlight in which you and I were part of correspondence this week as we’re on track for the first deadline deliverable for the concession stand from our retained professional with regard to demolishing the existing structure. Andy will be in touch with that relatively soon to get things in touch for the summer. Looking forward to moving that along. I’m happy to be joining the Public Safety committee this year with Councilman O’Toole.

Councilman Joseph Daloisio– Land Use Board

Councilman Daloisio, appearing via Zoom, wished everyone a Happy New Year and apologized for not being in person. He stated that he’s looking forward to his new role and working with Andy and the DPW and sewer and water. I’m also looking forward to working with Susanne on Land Use and continuing what we started and continuing to keep Allendale a great place it is.

Staff Reports:

John Gil, Director of Communications wished everyone a very happy New Year. Congratulations to Ed and Joe on being sworn in tonight. I know we have a lot of swearing in, including two new officers ,who I look forward to working with everyone this new year.

Alison Altano, Borough Administrator/CFO, stated we’re just working on closing up 2023, getting ready to start 2024 and begin working on the budget.

Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk, stated that free covid test kits are available at the municipal clerk’s office. The 2024 animal license registration for dog and cats is from January 2, 2024 through January 31, 2024. Any renewals after January 31, 2024 are considered late and subject to a \$5 late fee, unless you’re registering a new animal, then no late fee. Upcoming free rabies clinic at the Red Bar at Crestwood Lake on January 20, 2024 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you can’t make that rabies clinic, you can go to the borough website and there’s a flyer with additional locations.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
January 4, 2024 2023 Sine Die Meeting Minutes – 7:00 p.m.

Michael Dillon, Police Chief, thanked the Mayor and Council for your continued support of the Police Department. I'm looking forward to two new officers to join our ranks tonight. There are eight new officers since I became chief. They are here for our residents and our visitors.

Andrew Agugliaro, DPW Superintendent, wished everyone a Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to working with everybody.

Ray Wiss, Borough Attorney stated, as everyone knows, it's a very busy last week of any calendar year and a busy first week, and this certainly has been no exception. Matters that we've been involved in have included concluding our sewer meeting at four o'clock this afternoon. We have labor negotiations starting at 8:30 a.m. Yesterday, my office was out on the field trip about the cell tower and 5G coming to the borough. Certainly, there's been no shortage of OPRA requests that have come in. We will see what the legislature does with many revisions to the legislation on OPRA requests. To the comments that Councilwoman Homan said, I think the mayor knows that I get to the office around 7 a.m. but she starts with emails and text about 6:30 a.m. or 6:45 a.m., so I think she's concluding that 7 a.m. isn't sufficient. Other than that, I just want to say to Ed and Joe, congratulations. I wish everyone a happy new year.

Councilwoman Lovisolo stated that we all just wanted to thank you for the time that you put into the borough this year. Councilwoman Lovisolo presented the mayor with a clocktower pillow.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Wilczynski stated, first, I like to welcome some dignitaries here this evening. Former Assemblyman, Jack Ciattarelli, thank you for being here this evening. Mayor Emeritus Liz White and Mayor Emeritus Mary Jo-Ann Guinchard. Thank you, all, for coming. I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your faith and support in me as Mayor this first year. At the last meeting, I had the opportunity to express my gratitude for the amazing staff that we have and we do have an amazing staff and we have amazing professionals. But, tonight, I would really like to take a moment to commend these guys up here, this team up here. We made a lot of changes this year and change can create uncertainty, but you were all absolutely super and wonderful through it all.

Some highlights myself, we closed on the water, technically, but we're still working through easement detail. I will always state and will never back down on this that we would not have received \$18 million dollars if it was not for your due diligence and hard work in getting this water deal done with Veolia. Kudos to you. Regarding the sewer agreements, you're always working to get the best deal for Allendale and all future developments. Thank you, Liz Homan. Plus, you're my past partner with the roller coaster deal for Black Millwork, also known as 220/230.

So, we've worked through a lot of challenges in our police department with many legalities that we had to sort through. We had a lot of retirements and hired eight new officers. Luckily, we have a new chief and we have a councilman who has been strong through all of this so, thank you, Matt O'Toole.

**Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
January 4, 2024 2023 Sine Die Meeting Minutes – 7:00 p.m.**

We also have a committee that I like to call the fun committee. It was always my committee so I was really happy to hand it over to the young one. Tyler Yaccarino is spear-heading the new concession stand and he's jumped right into lining up a record number of bands this year. Crestwood Lake isn't our only gem in town. Our Fell House is a historic treasure as well. Ed O'Connell helped out here when he was needed. He always kept tabs on Ron down at the DPW. And he always lends a hand when he's asked. He's very easy going and always goes with the flow. Thank you, Ed.

In the short time that Joe has been on board, he has made significant improvements to Land Use, introducing a bunch of new ordinances and creating a user-friendly packet for residents. He also sits on the Land Use Board and is partnering with me on our new community center, which we now call 210. Thank you, Joe, and congratulations on being chairman to the RCC, The Railroad Construction Corp.

I always say there's a lot going on for a little town. We worked through lots of organizational changes at Borough Hall. We've dealt with retirements of our key leadership positions. Hiring for these positions, making positive changes. You're always curious, you're always looking for a better way to do things. I think we talk about five times a day, so, thank you Susanne Lovisolo.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no 2023 unfinished business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 7, 2023:

Motion by Councilman Yaccarino, second by Councilman O'Connell that the December 7, 2023, Combined Work and Regular Session minutes be and is hereby approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Homan:	abstain	Councilman O'Toole:	aye
Councilwoman Lovisolo:	aye	Councilman Yaccarino:	aye
Councilman O'Connell:	aye	Councilman Daloisio:	aye

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 21, 2023:

Motion by Councilman Yaccarino, second by Councilman O'Connell that the December 21, 2023, Combined Work and Regular Session minutes be and is hereby approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Homan:	aye	Councilman O'Toole:	aye
Councilwoman Lovisolo:	aye	Councilman Yaccarino:	aye
Councilman O'Connell:	aye	Councilman Daloisio:	aye

Councilwoman Homan arrived five minutes late at the December 21, 2023 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER:

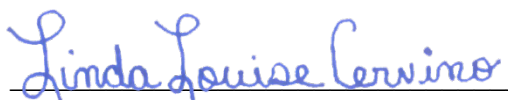
No one came forward.

**Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
January 4, 2024 2023 Sine Die Meeting Minutes – 7:00 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Yaccarino, second by Councilwoman Homan and unanimously carried, the work meeting was adjourned at 7:.22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Louise Cervino, RMC
Municipal Clerk

01/18/2024

Date Approved