

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan (via teleconference at 7:52 due to technical difficulties) Susanne Lovisolo, Ed O'Connell, and Matthew O'Toole

ABSENT: Councilmembers Steve Sasso and Amy Wilczynski

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Bouregy, Borough Attorney
Michelle Ryan, Acting Municipal Clerk
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 April 28, 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 April 26, 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:

The Dhand Family, 26 Beatrice Street, shared that they came to tonight's meeting to express their fondness for the Lee Memorial Library. Amit extolled the services, especially the free notary services, which have been helpful for his work. He also appreciates how the library has given his children access to information and resources that they wouldn't otherwise have access to. Sid enjoys reading to the therapy dog and has discovered his favorite series, "I Survived", through his frequent visits to the library. Jay, who goes every day, likes the lego club and the interactive workshops. They noted that they have saved \$63,006.04 by checking books out at the library. Mayor Bernstein agreed with their assessment of the library's services and staff and thanked them for coming.

James Thomas, 30 Arlton Avenue, inquired if a closing date has been scheduled yet for 220 West Crescent to which Mayor Bernstein replied no. Mr. Thomas further inquired whether financial and other agreements pertaining to this property had been finalized. As Mr. Bouregy is filling in as Borough Attorney for Mr. Wiss, who is primarily handling this matter, and Councilwoman Wilczynski is absent, it was agreed that responses would be deferred until they return. Mr. Thomas suggested that

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informal meetings with Mayor and Council be brought back post-pandemic. Mayor Bernstein agreed that these Cup of Coffee with the Governing Body meetings in informal settings were well received and that he would work to set it up.

Walter Widmer, 38 Hamilton Street, thanked Mr. Thomas for his interest in the 220/230 West Crescent matter and asking relevant questions.

No one else came forward.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda, consisting of a public hearing on the 2022 Open Space Grant application and accompanying Resolution, introduction of Ordinance 22-02, and 5 Consent Agenda Resolutions, including 22-134, added yesterday, concerning the sewer agreement with Saddle River. He noted a minor amendment to that Resolution today. No Councilmembers had questions.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – *Public Works*

Councilman O'Connell reported that 6 tons of asphalt was recently used to fill potholes. Spring cleanup of borough facilities has been completed. The daily maintenance of the ball fields is being performed by veteran employee John Pasquino and new employee Jason Hoeffler. Lake preparations are going great thanks to Rich McDowell and our other new employee Adam Rothenberger.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – *Finance, Human Resources and Administration*

Councilman O'Toole gave Councilwoman Wilczynski's report in her absence. The budget is set to be adopted on May 12th and the Borough Auditor will be on hand to answer any questions. The Committee is looking to finalize the capital budget in the next several weeks. Regarding 220 West Crescent, COVID-19, the economy, environmental issues and supply chain delays have impacted this project, which will potentially affect its scope. A date will be announced for a town hall meeting in the near future, once all the info has been gathered, so residents can be updated. Thanks to John Gil, Michelle Ryan and Tatiana Marquis for their work on a potential grant this past week which may assist with this project.

Councilman O'Toole – *Public Safety*

Councilman O'Toole reported that the Committee will hold their monthly meeting next week. Relief Crossing Guard Joseph Mirra is being hired to help fill much-needed gaps. Today was on-site inspection of police headquarters to ensure compliance with established standards for re-accreditation. Special thanks to the 2 accreditation managers for their hard work, which resulted in a stellar compliance report. With the assistance of John Gil and Tyler Yaccarino, a series of pedestrian and traffic safety public service clips were recorded for release every Friday in the coming months. To date, there have been 74 fire calls received, 258 EMS, and 5,581 to police.

Councilwoman Lovisolo – *Land Use and Construction Code*

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Councilwoman Lovisolo advised that this Committee met last week to address residential property matters and updating the Borough Code regarding enhanced setbacks.

Councilwoman Homan – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilwoman Homan reported that the State's moratorium on water shutoff ended on March 15th, however prior to shutoff of residential water, the law requires that we offer an installment plan for the unpaid balance with interest. Bill assistance and forgiveness plans are available through the NJ Department of Community Affairs. To echo Mayor Bernstein, the last water rate increase was January 2021 so if people are seeing increased bills it could be due to increased usage. She recommended that they examine their usage to determine whether they have any leaks. Back in December 2021, an ordinance granting consent and permission for Suez to furnish water, treatment, storage and conveyance service was adopted, basically allowing Suez now Veolia to operate the water system. In an abundance of caution, the exact ordinance is being reintroduced tonight with expanded notification to ensure that all of the technical steps of advertising this ordinance are followed. Two noteworthy points from the ordinance are 1. that the exclusive and perpetual consent and permission to furnish water conveyance to the Borough and its residents, businesses and government building is being granted and 2. that all applicable laws must be complied with. These are important as Suez has become Veolia. These terms will be binding on Suez and its successors. As the purchase agreement has been signed, we are now awaiting approval from the NJ Board of Public Utilities. The team met with James Fahey of Suez and Borough Engineer Mike Vreeland to discuss summer 2022 water needs. Mr. Fahey feels that absent drought-like conditions, Allendale should not have a water shortage. Phase 1 restrictions, which Allendale Water perpetually operates on, should be sufficient. Saddle River has requested Allendale accept the sewage that will come from a new 112 unit development through our connections. So, tonight Resolution 22-134 authores Mayor Bernstein to sign a NJ DEP Division of Water Qualit treatment Works Approval Permit application with certain conditions contained in the body of the Resolution.

Mayor Bernstein read point number three with the changes, "The consent of Allendale and its execution of the Application are further specifically conditioned on Allendale and Saddle River agreeing on the costs to be charged by Allendale to Saddle River for sewer flow, and any sewer system costs that may be ascribable to sewer flow from Saddle River to Allendale."

C. Mayor's Report

This past Saturday's Spring Cleaning and Recycling Day was a huge success. Thank you to Tatiana Marquis, John Gil, Amanda Richards, Ron Kistner, Dan Richards, Rich McDowell, Adam Rothenberger, Chief Dillon, Councilwoman Lovisolo, Pat Finn, Mike Limatola, Mark Savastano and the Allendale Green Team for all their efforts to put this together for our residents. A special thank you to the Allendale Acme and especially their Manager Jerry for distributing free reusable shopping bags at the event. We hope to make this an annual event in town. I am happy to report that we have the tonnage in from Saturday's collection - 8,100 lbs of paper was shredded, 5,319 lbs of clothing, linens, stuffed animals and games were collected at the Fell House, several thousand plastic bags were collected towards a free Trex bench, a good amount of unwanted and

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expired prescription drugs were also collected by APD, and 17,855 lbs of e-waste such as electronics, small appliances were collected. All of these recycled materials will be properly recycled and upcycled, saving them from landfills and waterways. The Borough is also saving by not having to pay fees to dispose of these items. The 8th Graders' Bake Sale and food collection to benefit the Center for Food Action was also very successful. Great job Allendale! Prior to tonight's meeting, members of the Governing Body and Mr. Kistner took a training class presented by JIF and our insurance Risk Manager, which was very informative. The Borough will be receiving a \$250 credit off our premium for each attendee, up to \$2,000. Our auditor Paul Lerch will be joining us at our May 12th meeting to make a presentation on our 2022 Municipal Budget. He will answer any questions that the Governing Body and the public may have during the public hearing. 2nd Quarter Property Taxes are due by May 1st with a grace period to pay until May 10th. If paid after that, interest due will be calculated from May 1st. Yesterday, I met with Dr. Barcadepone and Ms. Engeleit to review their school budget. They have their eye on the ball, doing what is right, and saving for necessary capital improvements. Allendale Schools were recognized by US News and World Report for being the No. 9 school in NJ and No. 5 for public schools. This is outstanding! Today, there were some inaccurate comments on Facebook made regarding Allendale water. I can't stop them, but please know that you are misinformed. The sale of the Allendale Water System has not been finalized and is still in progress. Water rates have not increased and under the agreement with Suez, now Veolia, they will not increase this year. If you think there is a mistake, please reach out to Suez/Veolia at 855-367-6708. And, as always, you can feel free to reach out to the Borough or Councilwoman Homan.

D. Staff Reports

Due to time constraints, these were given during the Regular Session.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman O'Toole, second by Councilwoman Homan, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk

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streetscape project will take about 6 to 8 weeks to complete. Right now, there is a delay due to supply chain issues and materials not being available nationwide, but it will likely start after Memorial Day. The scope of the project will be from the empty bank building to the post office area.

Michael Dillon, Chief of Police, reported that the police department is busy with reaccreditation, operational planning, and addressing resident concerns. In his capacity as OEM Coordinator, Chief Dillon advised that the Borough's Tropical Storm Ida claim to FEMA is progressing well with reimbursement amount raised to 90% from the customary 75%, which is very good news for the Borough. He thanked Ron Kistner and FEMA for their diligent work.

Tyler Yaccarino, Webmaster and IT, informed everyone that since January 1st, borough departments collectively have received 40,226 calls. Work is continuing on efforts to meet JIF's Phase 2 Cybersecurity requirements. A formal presentation to the Governing Body is forthcoming.

John Gil, Director of Communications, advised that he is working on the May newsletter, which should be out mid-month.

Mayor Bernstein recognized Mr. Gil for his excellent constituent services, especially at the Spring Cleaning event this past Saturday.

Public Comment on any issue:

No one came forward.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman O'Connell, with second by Councilwoman Lovisolo, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk