

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
FF February 24, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Susanne Lovisolo, Matthew O'Toole, Steve Sasso, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan and Ed O'Connell

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
Acting Municipal Clerk Michelle Ryan
Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer
Alissa Mayer, CFO (via teleconference)
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 February 24, 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 February 24, 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."

Presentation:

Mayor Bernstein announced that after 34 years, Layne Simon is retiring from the DPW on Monday. Mayor expressed how invaluable Layne's service has been and thanked him on behalf of the entire borough. Mr. Kistner recollected that Layne was the first person he met when he came to Allendale, and expressed his gratitude for Layne's work. Councilwoman Wilczynski shared how much she enjoyed working with him, how impressed she was with his knowledge, and how his retirement is a big loss for the Borough. Ms. Mayer conveyed her admiration for Layne and her appreciation to him for helping make her job easier. Councilman O'Toole and Councilwoman Lovisolo congratulated Layne on his retirement and wished him all the best.

With his wife, Diana Davis Simon, looking on, Mayor Bernstein presented Layne with a plaque in recognition of his dedicated and outstanding service to the Borough of Allendale over 34 years. Layne thanked the Governing Body.

Public Comment:

None.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
FF February 24, 2022

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda, consisting of 3 Resolutions. No Councilmembers had questions.

B. Council Reports

Councilman Sasso – *Facilities, Parks and Recreation*

Councilman Sasso reported that the Committeemembers are busy talking about preparing to open the fields for the spring season as well as planning for the Crestwood Lake season and lining up Summer Concert Series bands.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – *Finance, Human Resources and Administration*

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that there will be a budget meeting next week.

Councilman O'Toole – *Public Safety*

Councilman O'Toole reported that Chief Dillon continues to make improvements in the police department, including implementing body cameras. The Detective Bureau is working on numerous cases, including a burglary. To date, there have been 44 fire calls received, 134 EMS, and 2,516 to police. The Committee will meet next Tuesday.

Councilwoman Lovisolo – *Land Use and Construction Code*

Councilwoman Lovisolo advised that this Committee will regularly meet monthly on the morning of the scheduled Land Use Board meeting. During their recent meeting, they addressed some resident concerns and have recommended to the Land Use Board to receive documents electronically in addition to a limited number of paper copies. With a potential storm in the forecast, she reminded homeowners that sidewalks on their property are their responsibility to maintain.

C. Mayor's Report

Two weekends ago, we had a free, drive-up Rabies Clinic as well as pet license registration at the Red Barn. Thank you to the Allendale Board of Health, especially Maria Crean and Linda Morgan, Tyco Animal Control, Dr. De Santo from Oradell Animal Hospital, John Gil and Tatiana Marquis from the Clerk's Office and Rich McDowell from DPW for putting it all together and making it so successful! Friendly reminder: All dogs and cats living in Allendale must be registered, regardless of whether they are indoor pets only. If you haven't already done so, please complete our online application or visit the Clerk's Office. Late fees are now in effect. Just a reminder that on Tuesday, March 8th there will be a Referendum for the Northern Highlands Regional High School District. Voting will be from 6am to 8pm. Full details can be found in the Voter's Guide in our Happenings Newsletter. We know Spring is coming because Borough Hall is starting to get calls regarding the sale of 2022 Compost Permits. Applications can be completed on our website for purchase starting on March 14th at Borough Hall. The Compost Facility will open on Saturday, April 2nd. Our Kindergarteners at Hillside School have partnered with a company called Trex to recycle clean plastic bags. Not only will this help the environment by keeping these plastics out of our landfills, but

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
FF February 24, 2022

they will be turned into a composite bench for our community to enjoy. Collection sites are Hillside and Brookside Schools as well as the lobby at Lee Memorial Library. Their goal is to collect 40,500 bags. Please check out all the accepted items on their flyer found in our March edition of Allendale Happenings, which will be going out in the next two weeks. And finally, this coming Tuesday, March 1st, I will be meeting with the 3rd graders to discuss how local government works. It is always exciting to engage with our next generation of leaders and who knows, maybe one or more of them will be sitting right where we are today.

D. Staff Reports

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, reported that since the last meeting, his office has been working on personnel, property, OPRA, and cell tower matters in addition to working daily to bring the sale of the water system to closure.

Michelle Ryan, Acting Clerk, reported that the Clerk's Office received (7) OPRA requests today alone. At the recent Rabies Clinic, (67) pets were vaccinated and (75) licensed. She thanked all involved, especially John Gil and Tatiana Marquis. The office is also busy preparing for the March 8th Special School Election. Over the past two weeks, the Clerk's Office staff attended virtual meetings with borough vendors about upgrading software programs. Yesterday, the Bergen County Elections Officials held their annual meeting with Clerks. For this year's June Primary, there will be candidates on the ballot for Congress, Bergen County Executive, (3) Bergen County Commissioners, and locally a Mayor and (2) Council candidates as well as a County Committee man and woman for both the Democrats and Republicans in each of Allendale's four election districts. Petitions for the local offices will be emailed to the Municipal Chairs of each political party tomorrow. The deadline to submit the local petitions is Monday, April 4th at 4 p.m.

Alissa Mayer, CFO, advised that she is working diligently on the 2022 budget.

Tyler Yaccarino, Webmaster and IT, reported working with the police department to address their IT needs to prepare for body camera implementation.

John Gil, Director of Communications, advised that he is working on the March newsletter.

Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer, thanked Layne Simon, Rich McDowell, and Ray Frazier for fixing in-house the chlorine building area that sustained damage from Tropical Storm Ida. The beach area project will need to go out to bid so the work can be completed by May 1st. DPW staff is scheduled tonight and ready to plow should it be necessary. Mr. Kistner thanked Chief Dillon for assisting him on some administrative matters. Borough Engineer Mike Vreeland and Mr. Kistner are working on putting together 2022 Paving Program recommendations for the Facilities and DPW Committees. Finally, the environmental issues at the DPW facility that the Borough has been dealing with since 1991 are finally coming to closure, which is great progress. The monitoring wells have been cemented up, and

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
FF February 24, 2022

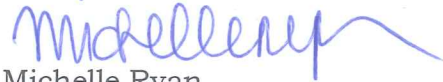
another clean up phase will occur in four to six weeks that includes the parking lot area will be encapsulated and paved over.

Michael Dillon, Chief of Police, thanked everyone for their continuing support and Mr. Wiss for his guidance. He praised Borough Mechanic Dan Richards for his hard work to keep the police department's fleet operational. The department is staying current with a growing list of state mandates, guidelines and training.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Sasso, second by Councilwoman Lovisolo, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk