

**Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes – 7:30 p.m.
August 18, 2022**

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, New Jersey on August 18, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Councilpresident Amy Wilczynski who welcomed everyone who is joining the meeting in the audience and on Zoom Webinar. She reminded the public to mute their devices so as not to distract from the business of the meeting.

Councilpresident Amy Wilczynski asked that 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 August 12, 2022 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."

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers, Susanne Lovisolo, Ed O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan and Steve Sasso and Mayor Ari Bernstein

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one came forward.

PRESENTATIONS: Councilpresident Wilczynski stated we have some special guests, Jai Dhand and Sid Dhand. They are Mayors for a Day. They're mom won a bid in AFEE, which is the Allendale Foundation for Education Excellence. It was a fundraising night for the school. The Allendale Foundation for Educational Excellence is a non-profit organization dedicated to funding grants that enrich the Pre-K through 8th grade. They learned to see the ins and outs of working government. They get to see what the leadership does in this town and have an opportunity to step up. We had some fun today.

We first went to the Fire Department. We saw all of the trucks. We sprayed the hose. Then we met Chief Dillon and we went to the Allendale Police Department and we saw all of the apparatuses in that one room. Officer Sean took them downstairs and they got to see the jail and they also saw the police cars. We then came back to borough hall and John Gil took them on a tour of the library. They came back and we had pizza and chocolate milk.

OATH OF OFFICE: Councilpresident Amy Wilczynski administered the Oath of Office to Jai Dhand for Mayor for a Day.

OATH OF OFFICE: Councilpresident Amy Wilczynski administered the Oath of Office to Sid Dhand for Mayor for a Day.

PROCLAMATION: Councilpresident Amy Wilczynski read the Proclamation in Honor of Mayor Sid Dhand Day.

Proclamation in Honor of “Mayor Sid Dhand Day”

WHEREAS, young people gain valuable citizenship skills by learning about state and local government; and

WHEREAS, in honor of our young citizens, a “Mayor for a Day” event was auctioned at the Allendale Foundation for Educational Excellence Annual Dinner and Auction, an event that helps fund grants to enrich the Pre-K through 8th Grade educational experiences at Hillside and Brookside Schools; and

WHEREAS, the “Mayor for a Day” event is a first step into the world of local politics as the winner sees the inner workings of Borough Hall and other municipal facilities as they follow Mayor Bernstein in his duties as the leader of the Borough of Allendale; and

WHEREAS, by working to educate our young people in the duties, responsibilities and opportunities of citizenship, this event will contribute to the success of the winner as a future leader of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, the Dhand Family won the “Mayor for a Day” prize for their son, Sid Dhand, who is a rising 8-year-old student at Hillside School; and

WHEREAS, Sid is interested in dance, audio books and one day he would like to be a pilot; and

WHEREAS, Sid loves to swim all year round, is a beginner level in Taekwondo, and will learn to play the recorder in the upcoming school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Ari Bernstein, Mayor of the Borough of Allendale, officially proclaim that August 18th be recognized as “Mayor Sid Dhand Day” within the Borough of Allendale; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale encourages all its citizens to work together to prepare our young people to be good citizens.

PROCLAMATION: Council president Amy Wilczynski read the Proclamation in Honor of Mayor Jai Dhand Day.

Proclamation in Honor of “Mayor Jai Dhand Day”

WHEREAS, young people gain valuable citizenship skills by learning about state and local government; and

WHEREAS, in honor of our young citizens, a “Mayor for a Day” event was auctioned at the Allendale Foundation for Educational Excellence Annual Dinner and Auction, an event that helps fund grants to enrich the Pre-K through 8th Grade educational experiences at Hillside and Brookside Schools; and

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WHEREAS, the Dhand Family won the “Mayor for a Day” prize for their son, Jai Dhand, who is a 10-year-old student at Brookside School; and

WHEREAS, Jai is interested in coding, chess, STEM and math. He loves to read Big Nate, swim, eat buffalo wings and is at expert level in Taekwondo; and

WHEREAS, Jai is enrolled in the Gifted and Talented program and he plays clarinet in the Brookside band.

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Photos are taken.

ADMINISTRATION:

Agenda Review:

Mayor for a Day, Jai Dhand, reviewed the Regular Session Agenda, consisting of an Introduction of Ordinance 22-13; 14 Resolutions on the Consent Agenda and a Closed Executive Session on the Allendale Senior Housing.

Councilpresident asked if anyone had any comments on any of the agenda items. One person came forward and stated his name and address. **Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, Allendale** asked if there will be a brief discussion of the Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO). Councilpresident Wilczynski asked Police, Mike Dillon, to explain the SLEO.

Police Chief explained that it is a program that is continuing at Northern Highlands High School. A Special Law Enforcement program, called SLEO III, Class III officers. They are part-time. They are reimbursed by the Board of Education completely and they are at the school for the safety of the students and staff. This is our third year we’ve had them. It’s become very successful. It’s proven its worth time and time again with some things that happen in a large regional high school.

No one else came forward.

Council Reports:

Councilman O’Connell – Public Works

A thorough cleanup of the rear of the DPW will be completed by next week. All borough-owned properties have received their summer trimming and look great. Extra attention was given to the police department and Orchard Commons. Third sweeping of the west side area of the borough has been completed and the third sweeping of the east side will start on Monday if the weather holds up. It’s that time of year that we’re prepping the ballfields and sports will begin next week as well. Some sports have started already.

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Councilman O’Toole – Law & Public Safety

The police department is actively working with school districts to improve security and safety plans for the upcoming school year. We’re working on some capital improvements to IT at police headquarters. The police department is working with borough officials on the downtown streetscape project. We have some ongoing discussions about equipment and some personal matters with the fire department.

Year to date numbers: fire calls, 147; EMS, 488; police record entries and calls for serve, 10,401.

Councilwoman Lovisolo – Land Use and Construction Code

The Land Use Committee met via Zoom yesterday morning. We discussed some resident property maintenance issues and concerns. I’d like to thank the team that meets once a month from my Land Use Committee; Ron Kistner, our Director of Operations; Anthony Hackett, our code official; Mike Vreeland, our engineer; Ari Bernstein, our mayor; Steve Sasso, councilman; and Mike Limatola, our property maintenance officer. These people often deal with a lot of concerns that come our way. One of the things that we continue to deal with are tree maintenance issues. I want to remind people that you are responsible for the trees on your property and the care of them. The borough does its best to maintain the things that are on our property. I’d like to thank Chris Botta, our attorney; Ray Wiss, our borough attorney, who has helped us with a few things along the way; and our Land Use Board headed by Kevin Quinn, Michael Sirico and Joseph Daloisio. We do our best to accommodate our residents. Thank you to this great team.

Mayor’s Report: Mayor Ari Bernstein was absent.

Staff Reports:

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, said he’s working with Mr. Kistner on some property maintenance, personnel and contract matters; with the Borough Clerk’s office on ordinances and resolutions, some of which are on tonight’s agenda; the 220/230. I would say that the water utility sale is progressing and moving rapidly. We are probably at the point where if it’s not every day, I would say four of the five days we have an hour or more of Zoom meetings as details are filled in and documents are finalized. The VPU hearing, which was conducted earlier this month went well. There was very little questioning from the board. The actual approval is going to be scheduled for the month of September. It’s in a very formative stage. We’re working with Chief Dillon on some departmental matters. The chief has been very proactive in bringing policies up to date. The governor has signed the legislation which was said S3340 on outdoor dining extending that in Allendale has always been very proactive of making sure that the restaurants are able to accommodate. That legislation is about sidewalk and street dining to expand the parameter of what’s available. Allendale is already jumping on the new legislation in making sure that we’re compliant in keeping the downtown vibrant.

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Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk, said she has nothing to report.

Ron Kistner, Director of Operations, thanked Linda Cervino, Kerri Niosi, Linda McLaughlin, John Gil and Amanda Richards regarding the smooth transition of staff in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Mr. Kistner said the water sale is coming along very well. There's a lot involved with the field visits and dealing with some easements. The rear area of the DPW facility cleanup looks better. We have enough clean good quality topsoil. The boulders get crushed into three-eighths inch stone.

We're going to refurbish the clocktower in the downtown area. The downtown streetscape project in a couple of weeks. The contractor is ready to go but they're just waiting for the material. We're looking at some new lawnmowers.

Tyler Yaccarino, Borough Webmaster & IT said all systems continue to be operational. We're working on some capital improvements. Working with the chief on continuing to make sure all of our systems are running smoothly. Year-to-date phone calls on our system has been 102,787.

John Gil, Director of Communications said I'm just working with the clerk's office transitioning our new group which has been fantastic. I'm looking at doing some improvements on the website and upgrading our webstreaming.

Mike Dillon, Chief of Police, said there's really no slow time of the year for public safety, but this is an exceptionally busy time with school coming back in session on September 6th. We're working very closely with the schools. I'm in good communication with the superintendants. We made some changes that they requested for safety reasons and also school safety. We're making good progress obtaining a SLEO III for the lower schools. Tonight we're approving the high school, but the lower schools have expressed an interest as well. Working with John Gil to create a police department website off of the borough's website. Prior to my administration it was done separate, but I feel it's very important for the borough and the police department to have websites together. We're going to come back to the town's website and I'm very excited about that. We're working with the crossing guards in getting them ready to go. We had some personnel switching and changes. We're almost ready to roll out the body cams as well. New Jersey Legislature has required all law enforcement agencies in New Jersey to equipped their officers with body cameras. Body worn cameras are going to be used every day of every shift and we have all of the equipment, but we're just waiting on a manufacture for training and some software updates which are expected to occur the last week of September.

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Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski said 220 West Crescent we're moving forward with the construction plans. We just received the architectural and structural piece of the construction plans so we are giving them to one prospective developer. As we all know, the project now is going to be one hundred percent community center. There's an ordinance on the agenda tonight that talks about that. Before we were going to have a combination of offices. It will be part community center/senior center. Then the other side is going to be more for fitness or a gym type facility and there will be a kitchen in the middle. As Ray mentioned, we are working on the documents to close and reviewing them next Tuesday. We did apply for a grant for this project and we made it through the first round of it so we're looking forward to completing that. There is also a grant that we put in for the investigation piece of it that finally came through from two years ago so we're working to get that money finally.

Councilpresident Wilczynski said the 2021 audit process went very smoothly. She stated that Alissa Mayer would like to thank everyone who helped gather all the information and provide the enormous number of files and information requested from all of the auditors. This year, like last year, there were no recommendations. No corrective actions need to be taken. Alissa further states that she appreciates the cooperation of the staff and the department heads in making sure that all the policies and the guidelines for the financial transactions are being followed. She wants to thank everybody.

The budget, in general, is good to date. We're pretty much on track. Crestwood Lake is doing great. Our revenues are up. They're higher than last year. We are very healthy financially.

We have two bands this weekend. We have Blend on Friday night and we have Frank Sinatra on Sunday at 7:00 p.m. We will close the lake on Labor Day. We also had a surprise inspection at the lake and everything went very well. I want to thank Tom Viscardi, the staff at Crestwood Lake, as well as the whole DPW to make sure that everything is always in order and the lake is always looking beautiful.

Football fences are going up. There's a huge push for the water closing. We went through all of this to sell the water system but there is so much more work now. No one wants to hear the word easements. I want to thank the water committee and Ray and Ron, Susanne, Liz and Mike Vreeland, for really sticking through this.

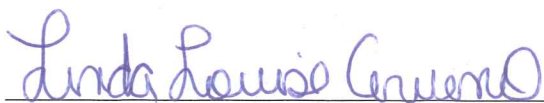
Thank you to the residents who are adhering to our water conservation efforts in town. There is also a statewide effort moving forward. There's really not a lot of rain in the future. I just secured a speaker for 9-11. We will be planning our 9-11 ceremony. It will be on Sunday, 9-11. Again, thank you admin offices. They are all working very nice together. A lot of new people and everybody is really stepping up.

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman O'Connell, second by Councilwoman Lovisolo and unanimously carried, the work meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Louise Cervino, RMC
Municipal Clerk

10/27/2022
Date Approved



OATH OF OFFICE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
SS
COUNTY OF BERGEN

I, **Sid Dhand**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey; that I will bear True faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and in this State, under the Authority of the People, and that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all the duties of **Mayor for a Day of the Borough of Allendale** according to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Signature

Name

Address

Witness

Date



OATH OF OFFICE

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
SS
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I, **Jai Dhand**, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey; that I will bear True faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and in this State, under the Authority of the People, and that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all the duties of **Mayor for a Day of the Borough of Allendale** according to the best of my ability, so help me God.

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Ari Bernstein, Mayor of Allendale

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