

**Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes – 7:30 p.m.
March 9, 2023**

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 March 9, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Wilczynski who welcomed everyone who is joining the meeting in the audience and on Zoom Webinar.

Mayor 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 February 27, 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.”

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Susanne Lovisolo, Ed O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole, Tyler Yaccarino, Joseph Daloisio and Mayor Amy Wilczynski.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney
Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk
John Gil, Director of Communications

PRESENTATIONS: Proclamation – Colon Cancer Awareness and Prevention in Allendale

Mayor Wilczynski stated that there are blue ribbons on the downtown trees and read the Proclamation into the record:

**“PROCLAMATION FOR
COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States among men and women combined; and

WHEREAS colorectal cancer is one of the few cancers that can be prevented with timely screening, but 1 in 3 eligible Americans are not up to date on screening; and

WHEREAS colorectal cancer is estimated to be the number one cancer killer for those ages 20-49 by 2030; and

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WHEREAS Black Americans are 20% more likely to be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and about 40% more likely to die from the disease than other groups; and

WHEREAS colorectal cancer is expected to account for 11% of cancer deaths among Hispanic men and 9% of cancer deaths for Hispanic women; and

WHEREAS screening colonoscopy rates have still not returned to pre-COVID-19 levels; and

WHEREAS the national goal established by the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable is to strive to increase timely colorectal cancer screening rates to 80 percent in every community for all Americans eligible for screening; and

WHEREAS observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month during the month of March would provide a special opportunity to increase awareness and offer education on the importance of early detection and screening of colorectal cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, NJ, do hereby proclaim March 2023 as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in the Borough of Allendale.”

Mayor Wilczynski thanked Resident Terry Richardi for requesting this proclamation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one from the public came forward.

ADMINISTRATION:

Agenda Review:

Mayor Wilczynski reviewed the Regular Session Agenda which consisted of Second Reading and Public Hearing of Ordinance 23-03 for the water changing the language to Veolia from Allendale and also Ordinance 23-04 to update the code on all positions in our police department. Introduction of Ordinance 23-05 to update salaries in the borough and Introduction of Ordinance 23-06, which the Allendale Housing, Inc., is taking over senior housing and this is the Financial Agreement, a new PILOT that will be going along with that.

Reviewing the Consent Agenda, we have our temporary budget and appropriations that we have every year at this time. We also have an appointment of Temporary Chief Financial Officer and our Bill List. The rest of the resolutions are approving and authorizing the execution of the senior housing to Allendale Housing, Inc.

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There is no unfinished business.

There is no new business.

Council Reports:

Councilman O’Connell – Department of Public Works

Councilman O’Connell stated the preparation of Crestwood Lake is underway as well as the fields are scheduled to start next week; weather permitting. The borough dealt with its first snowstorm last Monday. The roads were great and everything was open to go to work that morning.

Councilman Joseph Daloisio – Land Use Board

Councilman Daloisio stated that the Land Use Committee met this morning. We had some rediscussions about some of the things we have been talking about for the last month and a half that I’ve been a councilman; some of the code revisions. The committee did agree to a couple of minor code changes and simple language, which I’m going to send out to Mr. Wiss to review. We did have some discussion about some other additional code changes, but we’re just waiting for some additional information back from our planner, which we still don’t have. Once we get those, the committee will review that and we will make some suggested changes. We discussed some items of concerns around the borough, whether it was property maintenance or other issues. I also gave an update on the “variance cheatsheet” that we’re developing. I do have a lot of information I’m putting together and I hope to have something by our next meeting.

Councilwoman Lovisolo – Finance, Human Resources and Administration

Councilwoman Lovisolo stated she would like to remind our residents that neon signs/lit signs are not allowed by businesses in the borough; whether it’s a neon open sign or what have you, in the window of your businesses. Our code does address that. Please familiarize yourselves with our code regarding our signs in town.

For the Finance, Administration and Human Resources committee, our next Finance committee meeting is March 14, 2023. We had to postpone our finance advisory meeting for various reasons. That will be rescheduled soon. We’re looking forward to that meeting with our residents who are on that committee. Continuing to review the budget, continuing to be responsible for our town people.

April 22, 2023, which is Earth Day, is going to be our Environmental Day in town. We’re going to have electronic and recycling collection at the John Fell House. We will do our clothing collection again, which was a big success last year.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan stated tonight we have the second reading of Ordinance 23-03, which takes the activities that are now handled by Veolia out of our code as we sold the water system to Veolia. Allendale will still reserve the right to put in water restrictions should this become necessary.

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As far as an update on the Allendale/Veolia transaction, we have monies that are in escrow because we still need to produce some easements for Veolia to be able to close that escrow portion. Our team continues to move forward. We had a meeting last Friday and things are moving in the right direction. There are blue flags around town that are on the ground and there may be spray paint because there is surveying going on of the water pipes in the ground. In order to ensure that we have a correct easement, we need to make sure that we identify exact locations of water pipes. That is being done by an outside company. It's an important steps so we ask that residents be patient with that and not remove any of the flags at any time.

As far as the sewers, we are continuing work on updating the legal agreements with Ramsey and Saddle River as Allendales pipes do accept sewage from both of these municipalities as it flows to Northwest Bergen Utility Authority. We are also having the sewer lines looked at by video camera and this will identify areas that are in need of repair. The sewer cost in Allendale is high and a significant part of our budget. It certainly is going to be a focus of our water and sewer committee to ensure that we're doing all we can to have an efficient system in place.

Councilman O'Toole – Law & Public Safety

Councilman O'Toole stated that they had their Pubic Safety meeting this past Tuesday and discussed a number of routine police items. A majority of the meeting was meeting with two residents who we invited in to discuss their concerns about speeding on MacIntyre Lane. We all know speeding on MacIntyre has been a problem forever. It seems that all around town speed is up as well as aggressive driving. I was passed on a double yellow this morning for doing the speed limit in the middle of town. Chief Dillon and I had a number of conversations about this. He's going to be targeting certain areas around town for increased speed. Our meeting was very productive. We addressed quite a few of the concerns of the residents with more to go. Thank you to Chief Dillon and Sergeant Griffith for their knowledge and their participation in that.

This past weekend, the fire department held their annual installation dinner. It was a great evening and very well attended. Two members of the fire department; Matt Baez and Christos Peluso, Chris Rago, the dispatcher on duty, were recognized at last year's tragic house fire. There was a lot of emotion. It was well deserved and they received a standing ovation. Congratulations, again, to them.

I was sitting with Tripp Rubino at the dinner who is one of our recruits currently in the police academy. He told me many stories about the fun times they're having up there. They are doing really well and they look forward to graduating and getting to work.

Councilman Yaccarino – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilman Yaccarino stated that we have not had an official facilities committee, but that doesn't mean we're not working on certain things going on in town. We did have a meeting last Friday with the library just looking at some of their needs and concerns longterm, so we're in the process of putting a plan together there. This morning, Ron, Joe and myself, met with the vendor for our new concession stand. We're looking to hopefully get some

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specs and ideas as to what we can do there feasibly so we're going to hope to have proposals in the not too distant future so we can make a decision of how we want to move forward with that. We're looking at a prefab unit and seeing how we can really configure it to meet the needs of Crestwood Lake and be as efficient as possible with that project. We'll review and make a decision, hopefully, sooner.

Last weekend, here at Borough Hall, we had Consolidated Security. They ran new lines for our wifi system. We have that up and running now so we should have some improvements there which will also benefit our livestreaming of council meetings. That's a good improvement there.

Last week, I met with Boy Scouts from Troop 59, here at Borough Hall. They had asked one of the councilpeople to come out and talk to them about how the borough operates and how the governing body effectuates laws and changes and things to that nature. It was a really nice group and I was happy to meet with them. Our next facilities meeting is next Thursday at 5:00 p.m

Councilwoman Homan asked what the timing of the concession stand is based upon. Councilman Yaccarino said it's partially based on supply and also the potential demo of the existing structure and if there's anything underneath the surface that they are not aware of. Ron is working on getting the sewer line camera. We had some issues with the restrooms in the concession stand so we're going to make a determination sooner than later as to what the viability is for this season and how we're going to move forward with that.

Staff Reports:

Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk, stated that on March 20th through March 23, 2023, I will be attending the Municipal Clerk's Conference in Atlantic City at the Hard Rock Café. I haven't been there in two years so I'm looking forward to it.

John Gil, Director of Communications, stated that he is putting together the March newsletter so if you can get him any outstanding reports or anything you want included sooner rather than later so he can get that out early next week.

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, stated the water utility is in a very formative stage for the reasons mentioned by Councilwoman Homan. The markouts are being done, that will then shift the back to us to prepare the easement agreements and get them reported. That will free up some money back to the borough that's being held in escrow. Tom, from my office, has been involved in the transfer of Allendale Senior Housing. A couple ancillary documents to be prepared after adoption of tonight's agenda. That will be finalized. TJ in my office has been involved with the clerk's office on ongoing OPRA requests. Typically, I'm involved in personnel or facility matters two or three times a day.

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Mayor's Report:

Mayor Wilczynski stated the clerk's office will start selling compost permits on March 13, 2023. The BCUA's free paper shredding event in Allendale will be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at borough hall.

220 West Crescent, the 70 condo rental units have broke ground and they will start pouring in the next week. A week or so after that we're going to start seeing some elevation and some framing going on. For our community center we've been meeting weekly. We have weekly huddles. We are going to have our three-hour page turn meeting coming up in another week where we're going to go through all of the specs to get ready to go to bid by the end of this month. That is going to be very, very exciting. One of the big tasks that I have with Councilwoman Lovisolo is to pick out a proper gym floor. We've been doing a lot of research and we're going tomorrow to test out some gym floors. We want to make sure we have a floor that is going to be accommodating for all of the residents.

I had the opportunity to be interviewed by Resident Jake Dreier (phonetic) from Brookside TV. He asked me a lot of questions about what it's like to be mayor and a lot of it was about the history of Allendale.

We met with the library and we are looking to upgrade some of the facilities, particularly, the kitchen, which will benefit the whole community. It's in desperate need for an upgrade. We're looking to get that spruced up for our seniors, our girl scouts, the library, borough council, and everybody else who wants to use it.

Councilwoman Lovisolo said regarding the paper shredding, last year we did four tons of paper shredding in the borough. We had nine tons of electronics and over 5,000 lbs of clothes were collected. We sold 16 green machine composters and five rain barrels. And the composters and the rain barrels will also be for sale again this year. Paper shredding only will be on May 20, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilman O'Connell and unanimously carried, the work meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Louise Cervino, RMC
Municipal Clerk

03/23/2023
Date Approved