

**Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Combined Work and Regular Session Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.**

A combined Work and Regular 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 November 13, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Amy Wilczynski.

Linda Louise Cervino, 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.

The roll call was recorded as follows:

	Present	Absent
Councilman Yaccarino	✓	
Councilman O’Toole	✓	
Councilwoman Homan	✓	
Councilwoman Lovisolo	✓	
Councilman Daloisio	✓	
Councilman O’Connell	✓	
Mayor Wilczynski	✓	

A quorum was met.

The following were also present:

Raymond Wiss, Esq., Borough Attorney
Alison Altano, Borough Administrator/CFO
Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk
Michael Dillon, Police Chief
Andrew Agugliaro, DPW Superintendent

Mayor Amy Wilczynski led the salute to the flag.

PRESENTATIONS:

- A. Proclamation: A Proclamation of Gratitude for United States Veterans.
- B. Presentation: Girl Scout Presentation.
- C. Presentation: Best Practice Inventory.
- D. Proclamation: Proclamation Honoring the 90th Anniversary of the Allendale Bar & Grill.

See Attached Presentations:

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Mayor Wilczynski record into the record the following Proclamation:

A Proclamation of Gratitude for United States Veterans

WHEREAS, Veterans Day is a day of solemn observance set aside to honor the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have served and sacrificed in defense of the fundamental freedoms we hold dear; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Allendale is immensely proud to recognize and honor the dedicated service of our veterans who have courageously protected our nation, from past conflicts to present-day engagements, ensuring our security, liberty, and way of life; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Allendale acknowledges the profound importance of supporting and thanking our veterans for their unwavering commitment and contributions to the preservation of peace and the protection of our rights and freedoms, both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the veterans of Allendale represent the finest qualities of patriotism, selflessness, and resilience, and their service has indelibly shaped the history of our great nation and our local community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Allendale, in keeping with its commitment to honor our veterans, invites all residents to join in recognizing and reflecting on the sacrifices of those who served, as well as the ongoing contributions of veterans to our community and country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Amy Wilczynski, Mayor of the Borough of Allendale, County of Bergen, New Jersey, do hereby officially proclaim

November 11, 2025, as Veterans Day

in Allendale, New Jersey, and encourage all residents to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, reflections, and heartfelt expressions of gratitude to our veterans, their families, and all those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Borough of Allendale to be affixed this 13th day of November, 2025.

PRESENTATION: Girl scout presentation: Sinan Li

Mayor Wilczynski stated Girl Scout Sinan Li did an amazing project in Allendale and made the most beautiful surrounding for garbage barrels that are of high quality.

Sinan Li approached the podium and made the following presentation:

I am a boy scout from Troops 59 and 933 of Allendale and USR respectively. Over the past two years I've been working with the town on my Eagle Project which was to build 15 wooden trash can surrounding that will surround the blue ones that have been used until now. Going into this I really did not have any experience with this sort of stuff such as the wood-working. I had very minimal experience. I had to do a lot of research. I started out with just learning how to use the tools and types of materials I needed to use, like how the wood needs to be pressure treated. I also made my own design for the trash cans.

I based it on this one trash can near Brookside and it was the only one that was like one of the wooden ones starting out about two years ago. I started this project back in 2024 when I emailed Mayor Wilczynski and we worked together to find out the type of project that the town needed to be done and that's how we came to this conclusion. After I made the whole design and finished the research project I went and started gathering materials.

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The most important part was looking for the lumber. I ended up getting it from Kuiken Brothers and later on also Home Depot. I worked with Mr. Doug Layden from Kuiken Brothers to order the wood and kind of just decide what the shipments were. In the end we got them in multiple batches. I also gathered tools such as drills and tarps, trash bags, that sort of stuff to prepare for the work sessions. During this time I ended up borrowing tools from my scout masters as well Mr. Chu and Mr. Murphy. They were very gracious. They lent me a lot of drills.

Afterwards is the work session. This was definitely the hardest part of the project. My project spanned across eight work sessions all the way from March to June. Some of them I would work for nine or ten hours a day. It was a great experience to learn how to lead a lot of scout volunteers as well as their parent volunteers who also showed up and really supported me with the project.

Sinan Li showed the Mayor and Council pictures which included the finished product.

Sinan Li thanked numerous people for working together and their support in allowing the opportunity to learn about leadership and other skills. She also thanked the scout masters, volunteers and her parents.

Sinan Li stated she had about 180 hours for this project and 520 hours with a combined with volunteers.

Councilpresident Homan stated well done.

Councilman O'Connell stated that one of Sinan's scout masters told him that she baked cookies and sold cookies as a fundraiser to fund this project.

Mayor Wilczynski praised Sinan as an extraordinary young woman whose leadership throughout the project was remarkable. She noted how proud her mother is of her, acknowledging the strong family she comes from. She emphasized that the project will benefit and beautify Allendale for years to come, highlighting the useful skill she learned and the leadership she showed to her teammates. She thanked her sincerely and called the project a wonderful contribution to the community.

**PRESENTATION: BEST PRACTICE INVENTORY
ALISON ALTANO, BA/CFO**

Alison Altano stated that the 2025 Best Practices Inventory has been completed. The inventory is required every year by the State of New Jersey. Its purpose is to assess each municipality's compliance with various laws and evaluate implementation of Fiscal and Operational Best Practices. It's also used by the DCA to determine areas that may need attention in certain municipalities which are generally unscored survey questions. It's more for informational purposes. Our answers to the scored questions determine if we will receive our full final aid payment. This year's inventory consisted of 70 questions in total; 51 were scored and 19 were unscored. The borough scored 37 points this year and a score of 35 and greater assures full payment of aid. So the borough will be getting our full portion of energy tax receipts.

The only two topics that scored a zero included electric vehicle charging stations as well as lead paint inspection. Lead paint inspections have been on four to five years continuously because it's something new being introduced into the boroughs, but we should be scoring on the next year because in 2026 we will begin implementing in the building department doing lead pain inspections. Otherwise, everything else was in compliance and the borough is in good shape.

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Mayor Wilczynski record into the record the following Proclamation:

Proclamation Honoring the 90th Anniversary of the Allendale Bar & Grill

WHEREAS, 2025 marks the 90th Anniversary of the Allendale Bar & Grill, tracing its history back to 1935 when it had its humble beginnings as a neighborhood tavern located in the old Allendale Hotel, owned by Mike and Maude “Ma” Connelly; and

WHEREAS, even in its humble beginnings at the Allendale Hotel, the establishment was known for its great food and generous portions at bargain prices; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Maude Connelly, a widow and devoted mother of five daughters, purchased 67 West Allendale Avenue, its present site, leaving behind her management of the restaurant and tavern at the Allendale Hotel, and with her vision, perseverance, and spirit, opened the Allendale Bar & Grill; and

WHEREAS, Maude Connelly not only carried the Allendale Hotel’s liquor license with her but also carried the strength of character that would establish one of Allendale’s most enduring family-owned businesses, and her entrepreneurial courage and dedication created a gathering place that has thrived for generations, becoming a landmark institution deeply woven into the fabric of the Allendale community; and

WHEREAS, this milestone celebrates both the history of the Connelly and Kunisch families and the countless residents, visitors, and friends who have shared memories within its walls; and

WHEREAS, the family’s second generation, Mike and Bobbie Kunisch, instilled many life lessons in their children—none more so than, “**A restaurant’s success is measured by its impact on the community**”. They took great pride in knowing that Chris, Craig, and Katie would carry this forward, with Kenny forever close to their hearts; and

WHEREAS, the fourth generation of the family—Chris Kunisch, Craig Kunisch, and Katie Ohnegian—together with their spouses Jeanie, Denise, and Pete, have proudly carried on the traditions of past generations through both the Allendale Bar & Grill and the Mahwah Bar & Grill, insomuch that the AB&G is now memorialized on the new Allendale Mural; and

WHEREAS, Chris, Craig, and Katie continue to live by their parents’ teachings and by Ma Connelly’s original goal, set 90 years ago: to provide good food—and plenty of it—along with generous drinks at reasonable prices for their guests; and

WHEREAS, the Kunisch family was recently awarded the 2025 New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Association (NJRHA) Restaurateur of the Year Award, a high honor bestowed upon a restaurant owner or operator who exemplifies outstanding leadership, business success, and contributions to both the hospitality industry and the community; and

WHEREAS, the patrons, guests, and staff of the Allendale Bar & Grill and Mahwah Bar & Grill are all considered family, and we are proud to bring everyone together to celebrate this extraordinary anniversary, honor Maude Connelly’s legacy, and recognize the role the Allendale Bar & Grill has played in shaping the social and cultural life of our town; and

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WHEREAS, preserving, honoring, and sharing our borough's history is a vital responsibility of this governing body, ensuring that future generations appreciate the contributions of leaders like Maude Connelly and the Kunisch family, who have helped define Allendale;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Amy Wilczynski, Mayor of the Borough of Allendale, along with the Council, do hereby recognize and celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Allendale Bar & Grill and the remarkable vision of its founder, Maude Connelly; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that November 13, 2025, shall be a day to honor this legacy, with deep gratitude to the Connelly and Kunisch families for their lasting contributions to the history, character, and spirit of Allendale.

Photos were taken.

Someone from the Kunisch family thanked the Mayor and Council for the proclamation. He stated we have to keep in mind that the Kunisch family has the fun part. The mayor and council and what you do for this town is incredible. I think it all started back with Mayor Barra, Mayor White and Mayor Wilczynski and the countless hours, time, energy and effort that you give this town to maintain. My kids are fifth generation in this town. We've seen a lot. What you do for the town of Allendale is commendable and very much appreciated. Thank you very much.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 9, 2025

The vote was recorded, and a roll call was conducted as follows:

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Yaccarino	✓		✓			
Councilman O'Toole			✓			
Councilwoman Homan					✓	
Councilwoman Lovisolo		✓			✓	
Councilman Daloisio					✓	
Councilman O'Connell			✓			

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 23, 2025

The vote was recorded, and a roll call was conducted as follows:

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Yaccarino	✓		✓			
Councilman O'Toole			✓			
Councilwoman Homan			✓			
Councilwoman Lovisolo		✓	✓			
Councilman Daloisio			✓			
Councilman O'Connell			✓			

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AGENDA REVIEW:

Mayor Wilczynski reviewed the agenda which consisted of:

- Consent Agenda Items #25-239 through #25-242, which included:

RES 25-239:	APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL COURT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR TO SIGN 2026 INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT–BOROUGH OF HO-HO-KUS.
RES 25-240:	AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE BID SPECIFICATIONS FOR AS-NEEDED SNOW PLOWING & REMOVAL SERVICES OF BOROUGH ROADWAYS FOR JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER OF 2026 AND SALTING OF ALL MUNICIPAL AND SPECIFIED PRIVATE ROADS AND PUBLIC AREAS IN THE BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE.
RES 25-241:	APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 13, 2025 LIST OF BILLS.
RES 25-242:	BERGEN COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 2025-26 PROJECT ENDORSING RESOLUTION.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

No one from the public came forward for public comment on agenda items only.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

The vote was recorded, and a roll call was conducted as follows:

	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Yaccarino			✓		25-241	
Councilman O'Toole			✓			
Councilwoman Homan	✓		✓			
Councilwoman Lovisolo			✓			
Councilman Daloisio		✓	✓			
Councilman O'Connell			✓			

Councilman Yaccarino abstained to Resolution 25-241 and, yes, to the remainder.

(See Resolution 25-239 through 25-242 attached and made a part hereof)

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ADMINISTRATION:

Council Committee Reports

Councilman Yaccarino, Facilities, Parks and Recreation/Land Use and Construction Code Report: Councilman Yaccarino reported that they will attend the ARC meeting on Monday and thanked ARC for adjusting the schedule due to an upcoming conference. He is coordinating with Mark Valdez to update the borough's contact list for field-closure notifications. He also shared a fun fact: before becoming Crestwood Lake, the site was a sand and gravel pit quarry that was converted in the 1920s into a swimming and picnic area for residents.

Councilman Matthew O'Toole, Public Safety Report: Councilman O'Toole reported that a conditional offer has been issued to Christopher Locks, who is now undergoing background checks to become an officer. The borough is working on ordinances and programs to address E-bikes. New electronic speed signs have been installed on East Crescent, and crosswalk photo-enforcement "safety sticks" will soon be placed downtown to deter parking in crosswalks during busy evening hours. He noted that the STOP (Student Teacher Officer Partnership) program is underway at the high school, educating young drivers on safe practices and positive interactions with law enforcement. The next public safety committee meeting is scheduled for November 25th.

Councilpresident Elizabeth Homan – Finance, Human Resources, Administration & Information Technology, Public Works & Public Utilities Reports: Councilwoman Homan shared a fun fact that some Roman sewer systems built in 600 B.C. are still in use today. She updated the council on ongoing litigation concerning the borough's sewer system and neighboring towns' large developments that could overburden it. She also reported that they are monitoring Saddle River's lawsuit against Veolia, noting that it concerns large bulk meters—not residential ones—and will continue to evaluate any implications for Allendale.

She addressed resident questions about PFAS and water-contaminant treatment, stating she has contacted Veolia to help provide more information to the public. She referenced NJDEP's PFAS questionnaire and emphasized the importance of educating residents about treatment options, costs, and effectiveness.

Mayor Wilczynski thanked her for proactively addressing PFAS issues early, which led to most of Allendale's wells being treated. Homan noted that resident inquiries played an important role and reinforced how seriously the borough takes public concerns.

Council President Homan also praised Sinan Li, commending her hard work, positive attitude, and the strong example she set for both youth and adults through her leadership and the significant volunteer effort involved in the project.

Councilwoman Susanne Lovisolo – Finance, Human Resources, Administration & IT, Land Use and Construction Code Report: Councilwoman Lovisolo highlighted the presence of AB&G at the meeting, noting its iconic reputation and joking that Allendale will now also be known for its beautiful new garbage cans, which have even become "photo worthy."

She thanked the CFO for ensuring compliance and keeping the borough's finances strong, noting that the budget is solid with no concerns and that a few procedural adjustments have further strengthened their financial position. She reported that the Land Use Committee will meet again in two weeks and reminded residents—via property maintenance officer Mike Limatola—to have trees inspected for dead or unhealthy conditions, since property owners are responsible for any trees that fall onto roads, waterways, or neighboring properties. Residents uncertain whether a roadside tree belongs to them should contact Mike for clarification.

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She also announced upcoming Green Team events, including pumpkin and mum collection at Roshler's from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and continued collection of holiday lights. At Borough Hall, there will be collection events for Styrofoam, reusable bags, food donations, and warm clothing. The borough is partnering with former Mayor Vince Barra to gather coats, sweatshirts, hats, and gloves for homeless individuals in Paterson. The Borough Hall collection runs from 10 a.m. to noon.

Councilman Joseph Daloisio, Public Works & Public Utility/ Public Safety Report: Councilman Daloisio reported that the DPW is preparing for winter, including receiving a salt delivery and putting out a bid for snow removal. DPW crews have been busy collecting bagged leaves and managing debris from recent windy weather to keep roads safe and clean. He also noted Andy Agugliaro's efforts coordinating with the county DPW, which recently cleaned out the borough's catch basins to improve stormwater handling during heavy rains.

Councilman Edward O'Connell – Facilities, Parks & Recreation Report: Councilman O'Connell shared a fun anecdote about Sinan Li, noting that she always apologized for "bothering" him, though he considered it a pleasure to work with her. He reported that the Girl Scouts have begun work on their Bronze Award project and that coordination with Mike Limatola and Jim Strauch is underway. Several site options have been identified, and the list will be refined after walking through the locations. Jim has suggested using a garden hose and rope to prevent any project materials from damaging tree branches.

Staff Reports:

Alison Altano, Borough Administrator/CFO: Ms. Altano reported that work has begun on the 2026 budget, with department heads submitting their budget reviews. Major cost drivers such as pensions and health insurance are already known, and health insurance will see a significant 35% increase. While retiree health costs cannot be adjusted, savings are expected for active employees through the newly implemented Difference Card Program, which reduces premium costs. She thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the program, noting that participating employees appreciate the savings.

She stated that 2025 has been a strong fiscal year, with all departments remaining responsible in their spending. Next month, the borough will hold its second cell tower bid opening to attract more tenants and increase revenue. Additionally, the building department has launched a new system allowing applicants to pay permit fees by credit card or electronic check, while still retaining the option to pay in person by check.

Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk's Report: Gratitude is extended to all Allendale District and Super Board Workers for their dedication on Election Day, arriving early and ensuring smooth operations. Thanks, were also given to minor board workers, residents for their patience, and the Clerk's Office assistants, Amanda Richards and Dottie Blitzer, for their support. Appreciation was expressed to DPW Superintendent Andy Agugliaro, Lieutenant Todd Griffith, Detective Chris Rosado, and the Allendale Fire Department for their assistance. The combined efforts of everyone involved made the election process efficient and successful.

Michael Dillon, Police Chief: The police department is currently preparing for holiday gatherings and the upcoming year's budget. Appreciation was expressed to residents for a safe, uneventful Halloween, noting that community efforts, especially from parents—is key to ensuring children's safety. Thanks, were also given to the DPW for their hard work during the October 30th rain and windstorm, which helped the police manage the impact of severe weather in Allendale.

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Andrew Agugliaro, DPW Superintendent: Fall sports have concluded, and new turf blankets were purchased for the soccer field. Winterization of Crestwood Lake and other borough areas is underway. The bagged leaf program is ongoing, with drop-offs at the dump on Wednesdays and Saturdays. November 15th is National Recycling Day, coinciding with local recycling activities. Work on the 2026 budget is in progress, and new monitors have been installed in the room.

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney's Report: The past couple of weeks have been busy with ongoing work on departmental matters, including finalizing the PBA contract and addressing a return-to-duty issue in the police department. In litigation updates, the Well 17 case is awaiting the plaintiffs' reply, with oral argument expected within two weeks, and guidance likely before year-end. The Avalon litigation now has a revised appellate briefing schedule, with the brief due in mid-January. Daily coordination continues among special counsel, the mayor, and the engineer to manage interconnected matters involving affordable housing litigation, Saddle River sewer issues, and Avalon litigation, which require team effort due to their complexity.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Fair Share Housing process remains demanding, involving multiple meetings with judges, adjudicators, Avalon Bay, and experts. The team is focused on protecting the community's character while complying with state mandates.

The fourth town hall of the year will be held on December 2 at 7 p.m. at the Community Center, offering residents a casual, transparent forum to ask questions. A QR code in the next newsletter will allow residents to submit topics in advance.

The newsletter also includes a letter about a meeting with Bishop Michael Saporito. Preparations are underway for the holiday walk on December 5, with residents helping to decorate the town with garlands, lights, and wreaths. Additionally, meetings were held with Boy Scouts to discuss civic duties. Congratulations were extended to Councilmen Matthew O'Toole and Tyler Yaccarino on their reelection for another three-year term.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER:

Liz White, 26 East Crescent Avenue, Allendale raised a question about PFAS, asking whether a resident's recent inquiry reflected a lack of awareness about Allendale's long-standing efforts. Councilwoman Homan explained that the question focused on understanding temporary treatment at four of Allendale's five wells and future permanent treatment options, and that Veolia has been actively involved in addressing PFAS and other contaminants. Ms. White emphasized the importance of having Veolia manage the PFAS issue and the benefits of selling the system to ensure proper treatment. Ms. White also praised the AB&G family, noting their significant contributions to the community, including Kunisch Field, and expressed gratitude for their positive impact on Allendale.

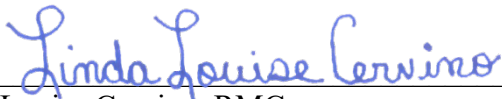
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Walter Widmer, 38 Hamilton Street, Allendale, New Jersey asked about the speakers in the council chambers. Alison Altano stated that new speakers will be installed in the council chambers. Mr. Widmer raised a concern about trees along Crescent Road, which are The Vale's responsibility. Deer antlers are damaging the bark, and although he offered to purchase protective bark if reimbursed, The Vale declined. Mayor Wilczynski noted she speaks with The Vale's manager monthly and will address the issue with them.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Daloisio, second by Councilwoman Lovisolo and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Louise Cervino, RMC
Municipal Clerk

12/04/2025

Date Approved