

**Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes – 7:30 p.m.
December 1, 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 December 1, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Bernstein who welcomed everyone who is joining the meeting in the audience and on Zoom Webinar. He 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 one opportunity during this meeting for public comment and he will advise you at the appropriate time.

Mayor Bernstein 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 November 23, 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 Liz Homan, Susanne Lovisolo, Ed O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole, Steve Sasso and Amy Wilczynski, and Mayor Bernstein

ABSENT: None.

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

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Bernstein stated that the highlight of this work session is the proclamation honoring Taylor Holmes, winner of the MLB Pitch Hit and Run Softball Division Championship. Mayor Bernstein asked Taylor to come forward with her family and he explains to Taylor that the borough is honoring her today because what she did was amazing and so worthy of acknowledging. The mayor, council and borough are very proud of Taylor.

Mayor Bernstein reads the following Proclamation:

**Proclamation
in Honor of
TAYLOR HOLMES**

“WHEREAS, nine-year old Allendale student, Taylor Holmes won MLB Pitch Hit & Run Softball Division Championship at Minute Maid Park in Houston between World Series games on November 4th; and

WHEREAS, Taylor was the youngest ever to win the 9/10 softball division of the MLB Pitch Hit & Run National Championships; and

WHEREAS, to win, Taylor ran 90 feet in 4.6 seconds, batted four out of five balls 150 feet in the air, and threw four out of five pitches on target — including two bull's-eyes; and

WHEREAS, the Brookside School fourth grader represented the Philadelphia Phillies with three other division winners at the finals; and

WHEREAS, Taylor’s parents and brother Ben brought her good luck as they cheered her on; and

WHEREAS, Taylor won by 10 points and will be honored at a Phillies game next spring; and

WHEREAS, Taylor placed third in the 7/8 division finals last year at Truist Park in Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, Taylor’s skill-building began as a way to pass the time during the isolation days of COVID and her parents built a batting cage for Taylor in her backyard; and

WHEREAS, Taylors favorite activities besides softball is hanging with friends, making videos, art and drawing; and

WHEREAS, Taylors favorite subject in school is writing and her favorite thing about Allendale is walking to the library after school; and

WHEREAS, Taylor, is an all-around athlete, who plays soccer as well as softball at the rec, travel and club levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ari Bernstein, Mayor of Allendale, do hereby recognize Taylor Holmes for her tremendous hard work, training, and dedication that lead her to the great accomplishment.”

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Mayor Bernstein asked Taylor how she got involved, how she did it and what was she feeling like when she was doing it. Taylor said the competition was one day and she was confident for the hitting and running, but for the pitching she had mixed feelings about. Taylor said she plays on the Highlands Player Rec team, Highland Player travel and Pride Club Team.

Councilwoman Wilczynski said they are very proud of her for doing something nice and healthy during COVID and used that opportunity to build her skills. Councilwoman Homan said it's great you picked something to work on during COVID because it definitely was a time where it was hard to find things to do. Councilwoman Wilczynski said they are all happy Taylor is involved in all of that and to keep up the good work.

Mayor Bernstein presented the proclamation to Taylor Holmes. John Gil took photos.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one came forward.

ADMINISTRATION:

Agenda Review:

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda consisting of the approval of Work and Regular Sessions minutes of October 13, 2022, October 27, 2022 and November 17, 2022; second reading and public hearing on Ordinance 22-15; introduction of Ordinance 22-16, nine resolutions on the Consent Agenda and a Closed Session regarding Pending Litigation current tax appeal.

No comments from the audience or councilmembers regarding the Agenda Review.

Council Reports:

Councilman O'Connell – Public Works

Councilman O'Connell stated that leaf pickup is still going on and the DPW is getting geared up for snow. I would like to congratulate the water team, especially Councilwoman Homan, for the water sale.

Councilman Sasso – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilman Sasso said Parks, Recreation and Facilities. Facilities are in good hands always with Mr. Kistner. It's not park and rec season right now so things are pretty quiet. I would also like to congratulate Councilwoman Homan. Having served on the water committee with her, and not to take away from anybody involved with this process, but it would not have happened the way it happened without Liz Homan.

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Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

The budget is in really good shape as we approach the end of the year. As far as 220, we are still navigating through legal documents. We have another meeting tomorrow. All hands meeting with both teams. If you remember, this is the front building, which is 220, which is going to be comprised of the community center as well as 70 units. Once we close on that, the demo will begin. There has already been fencing and some of the equipment has been mobilized to start with the asbestos abatement and the demo will hopefully happen by the end of this year. We are aiming for December 15, 2022 to have some of these documents on the calendar.

Regarding the water, about four years ago, before PFAS was a household name, there was this strange report that talked about this agent that a resident brought up to Liz Homan. From there, it has whirlwind of just completely researching and taking a deep dive into what really has now become a household name as PFAS. Liz really did research every single option. She went to mayor's meetings, she talked to experts in the field, she talked to different municipalities, she went to seminars and she educated herself and left no stone unturned for this borough. It was years of work. Then came the presentation. Once we realized that there was something that we were going to have to do with our water system, not only did we have these emergent contaminants that were coming and we knew that we didn't have the proper equipment, we didn't have a proper staff, but we also had an aging system that we were dealing with. There were a bunch of different scenarios that we had to go through. For about a year we went through them and we went through them live with the residents of Allendale. There were PowerPoint presentations once a month for about a year and slowly going through every single option that we had. I remember the one slide where we had the whipa was one option and then we crossed that out. There was definitely a lot of scenarios that we could have gone with. Then it became eminent that selling the system was really the best option for Allendale. So we had a referendum and the referendum was overwhelmingly in support of it. Not only that, though, the fact that the sale was not imminent was such an important part I think in this whole process because we could have easily taken the easy way out and just said we're selling the system. That wasn't the case.

Liz made sure that all this research was done and SUEZ was watching. They knew that we were looking to potentially maybe do a shared a service with another municipality, potentially doing it ourselves. We were going through all of these scenarios and we were a really, really important piece; a linchpin for SUEZ in the sale with other sales. We received an exorbitant amount of money. Money was definitely not the driving force of it, but because of this and because of all of the work they wanted us. We received 18 million dollars. Other town have already been reaching out to Liz to ask her for her expertise. I don't think anybody knows more about PFAS and all these other contaminants that she does.

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Because of all this, we had an advantage and that's why we got that money. That's going to be very, very significant. It's going to cover all of our debt, which is about 14 million dollars, so it will wipe out that. You will see in the newspaper now a lot of municipalities are going through the same thing. I know she had a team, but it was really Liz Homan who completely led and made this all happen.

Councilman O'Toole – Law & Public Safety

The Public Safety Committee has a meeting on Tuesday to get together with everyone to go over some things. Borough emergency services are working together to ensure a safe holiday celebration tomorrow night with the holiday walk. The police department is working with the public safety committee for a fiscally responsible 2023 budget. We've already started looking at those items. The chief in conjunction with the CFO is finalizing a plan to replace antiquated parking meters with a pay by text option.

Councilwoman Lovisolo – Land Use and Construction Code

The Land Use committee has not met since we met November 14, 2022, but we are due to meet again on December 21, 2022. As a reminder, the committee meets the morning of Land Use Board meetings. The curbside fall leaf pickup of the bagged leaves are this week for west side and next week east side. There's a great section in our newsletter (John Gil) on why Allendale bags our leaves. If people continue to have questions as to why we don't have where you put your leaves on your curb and in the street that some other towns have, there's ten reasons why in our newsletter. Look to that for a reference. I'd like to congratulate Liz Homan and our borough on this monumental sale. I was really proud to be her second on this committee and I just also want to thank the incredible team of professionals we had. Thank you to Ray for being a big part of that too.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan thanked Amy for giving a great summary. She stated that it really is a team effort and without our professionals and them listening to some ideas that I had and coaching and counseling and people recommending advisors that we had; Ryan Scerbo came in at Mike Vreeland, our Borough Engineer's request. We really were thorough and methodical and we did do a really good job. We are pleased to announce the completion of the sale of Allendale's water system to Veolia, who is a global leader in water and waste and energy management. I am so proud of our team. The sale of the water system that the residents did support and that was so important as we, as a team, talked that we wanted to make sure that residents understood why we were doing this. It was our water system. Oftentimes, you want to hold on to things, but the analysis was done and with increasingly complicated regulatory and treatment protocols we realized that we did have to do something to continue to provide Allendale residents with safe drinking water in an economical fashion. The financial, as Amy said, is wonderful, but I would never want it in the books that it was the driving factor. Really, the driving factor was the complexity under which the management of water now stands in the United States. We still have work to do. The sale is not 100 percent complete.

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We still have to collect some easements and do some other work. The professional team with the water committee will continue to put together these outstanding documents.

The next thing I'm going to share is important because it really is meaningful as to what is happening with water everywhere. At the last meeting, I reported that Allendale had not had any violation notices and I had advised that Veolia was currently in discussion about Well 11 and third quarter testing results because the way that these PFAS contaminants are looked are on running annual averages. That well had been turned off for a little while because it had been damaged in the storm. Then we tried to keep it off as long as we could because we knew those PFOA numbers were going up; however, with the demand of water, even on water restrictions, in third quarter we used two million gallons of water a day. Our system has to pull water from that well in order to meet that demand or the system will depressurize, which would cause a situation where you have to have a boil water advisory. That well was turned on. I was informed by Veolia that the DEP has determined that we will have a fourth quarter violation for PFOA, so there will be letters that will be sent out sometime, I believe, the week of the tenth. Veolia has been aggressively pursuing temporary treatment to be installed both at New Street as well as at Well 11, which is on West Crescent. These things are challenging. They have applications in at the NJDEP. The sale was a really smart thing to do. Well 11 is currently off because our water demand is not as high. The plan is to have that temporary treatment at Well 11 by May when we would need to have the water from that well again. I feel really relieved that we have Veolia working towards that. New Street, I don't know exactly when the temporary will be completed, but over the next three to four years we will have permanent treatment at New Street. I just want to thank everybody for the support and for helping communicate to the residents because we couldn't have done it if everybody wasn't talking to their neighbors, their friends, residents and teammates. Thank you.

Mayor Bernstein thanked Liz Homan. We have a great team. The committee and professionals were great. Everyone did what they needed to do. It was a joint collective journey that I was proud and honored to be a part of.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bernstein stated Allendale Chamber of Commerce sponsored "Holiday Walk" in downtown Allendale is this Friday, December 2nd from 6:00-8:00PM for holiday cheer, shopping and a visit from Santa.

Allendale Holiday Observer's "Holiday Gift Giving" for Allendale Children grades Pre-K through 8th grade is Saturday December 10th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 p.m. at the Town Square. Santa will be riding the Allendale Fire Truck and donations are being accepted for the Center for Food Action.

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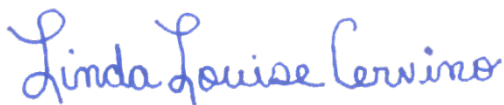
Winter Wonderland Tree Lighting ceremony at Van Saun Park in Paramus has been moved to Sunday, December 11th at 5:30 pm. While you are there you can check out Allendale's tree! Thank you to Amanda Richards, John Gil, and Lissa Mayer for decorating it for our town!

On Wednesday, December 21st at 6:00 pm Valley Chabad and the Borough of Allendale invite you to a Chanukah Celebration and public Menorah Lighting that takes place at Borough Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman O'Connell, second by Councilwoman Homan and unanimously carried, the work meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Louise Cervino, RMC
Municipal Clerk

12/15/2022
Date Approved