

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes – 7:30 p.m.
September 22, 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 September 22, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 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 for those present to speak during this meeting 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 September 14, 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, Ed O'Connell, Steve Sasso and Amy Wilczynski, and Mayor Bernstein

ABSENT: Councilmembers, Susanne Lovisolo and Matthew O'Toole

ALSO PRESENT: Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney
Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk
Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer
Michael Dillon, Chief of Police

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, Allendale. I had shared a concern with Chief Dillon about a parking issue in the center of town. He had originally mentioned that he would bring this up at a public safety meeting. I had shared another photo of that same situation recently and also with, you, the Mayor. Mark asked what the result of that conversation was. Mayor Bernstein said we did discuss it at the last public safety meeting with the Chief and Sergeant Griffith was there as well. Chief Dillon stated that Mr. Savastano had brought to his attention the issue with long cars parking in spaces on the south side of West Allendale Avenue. As you know, the cars are not getting any smaller and there are SUV's and pickup trucks that are parking in spots that result in the end of the car hanging over into the lane of travel.

I had looked at the complaint and discussed it with my traffic officers and it's not an easy solve. I know there has been some changes downtown and we're also doing the streetscape project as well currently, but it's still being research.

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Mayor Bernstein said he was interested in the conversation with the chief and Sergeant Griffith about the angle and purposefully how already it was designed. Chief Dillon said it has been changed once before. Mayor Bernstein said it wasn't a matter of first impression that the angle was to purposefully to try to accommodate the bigger vehicles. Councilwoman Wilczynski asked Mark to explain while driving down. Mr. Savastano said it has happened often enough that I stopped to take photos of it and the cars are absurdly long. What I suggested to Chief Dillon was possibly putting up a sign that if you don't fit you shouldn't park here or if you go beyond the end of that white line. The photo that I shared with the mayor and the chief was there was a car almost three quarters of the way across the double yellow line to get around that vehicle at that point. I did suggest that changing the angle would be helpful. I've seen in other municipalities where the cars are all parked in the opposite direction so it's easier to get out but that wouldn't work here because you would be going against the flow of traffic. Mayor Bernstein said we didn't come to a resolution or conclusion. We discussed it. It's still on the agenda. Mr. Savastano thanked everyone.

Mr. Savastano also stated that we had spoken several times about the sidewalk at the corner of Myrtle and Talman Place. I know the trees had been taken down. I assume because they were raising the sidewalk. The first time I addressed this was when Mayor Liz was still here so it's been quite a long period of time. I would like to know that that is going to be addressed. The sidewalk is absurdly high and you can see underneath it. Mr. Kistner said first is the catch basin and sidewalk throughout the areas of the community, that's the next part they're doing. Keep an eye on the budget; it's on there.

No one else from the public came forward.

ADMINISTRATION:

Agenda Review:

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda which consisted of three resolutions on the Consent Agenda; one is the Bill List and the others are regarding a SLEO officer.

Chief Dillon stated as to Resolution RES-22-224 to approve the 2022/2023 Contract for the hiring of a Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer at the Allendale School District (SLEO). It's a retired law enforcement officer for the safety and security of the students and the staff. We currently have two at the high school. The Board of Education and Dr. Barcadepone at the lower schools approached me and asked that we have the same program for both Hillside and Brookside. This is fully funded by the school district; equipment, training and salary.

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

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Council Reports:

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

The Water Committee would like to share that we're still on Phase II water restrictions. We will be having a meeting this Friday and we'll discuss the opportunities as to whether or not we can lift these restrictions. The sale of the water system to VEOLIA has not yet been completed. The water committee has still been having regular meetings with VEOLIA trying to wrap up many items. We are hopeful that the transaction approval will be on the Board of Public Utilities agenda at the end of this month. Once the BPU approves the transaction we then should be able to close within the next 45 days. There will still be some remaining items that will need to be resolved after the closing date. Ray Wiss, Borough Attorney, stated that the biggest thing the committee is dealing with is the question of easements. With the borough owning the system, in some cases where there was infrastructure on borough property, the borough had not historically granted an easement to itself, but now that we're transferring the system to a third party there's some creation of older documents that really needs to be done and that's really where the focus is right now.

Allendale Water had met and/or exceeded the NJDEP testing guidelines. As far as sewers, we are still working with Saddle River and we have communicated to Ramsey because we will need to have new agreements in place with both of those municipalities because we receive some of their sewage coming through the Allendale sewer system.

Councilman O'Connell – Public Works

For the DPW, Ron has been busy working on an auction of borough equipment and vehicles that various departments are not using anymore. The next two phases of the downtown streetscape project will be starting next week. The yearly leaf bag program will be starting in October.

Councilman Sasso – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Everything is good thanks to Mr. Kistner and his team. I have nothing new to report.

Councilwoman Lovisolo – Land Use and Construction Code

In Councilwoman Lovisolo's absence, Councilman Sasso will read her report as he also sits on this committee. Land Use met yesterday at 8:00 a.m. The Land Use Committee, which includes Construction, Property Maintenance, engineering and a lot of other things are very busy as usual. Our engineer is very busy with the water sale as well. There's a lot of construction going on in town in terms of residential remodeling and things like that. I take that as a satisfaction with the borough instead of buying a new house or buying a bigger house than moving. They stay here and they renovate.

Our revenue on construction permits is up to what were precovid levels and that revenue is good as is the increased tax dollars when you build that big addition.

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A reminder that contractor signs are not permitted in the Borough of Allendale. Our tree ordinance, know that it is there and know that we are serious about it. Recently, a builder disregarded our tree ordinance, was in court and fined \$3,000. Know that we are going to protect our trees and we're going to enforce it.

The Borough of Allendale has a great Facebook Page, a great newsletter and a great website.

Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

For 220 West Crescent we had the approval of the new building last night at the Land Use Board meeting. We brought forward experts on the new plan and everybody was very pleased and answered everybody's questions. It passed, so we're very happy to moving forward. Hampshire is going to be moving forward with their 70 units. Simultaneously, the borough is going to be moving forward with our community recreation center and kitchen. As we've maintained from the very beginning, there's no increases in taxes for this project which was the plan all along. We have also put in a grant to help supplement the community center. We're in the process of receiving another grant for part of the investigation on the environmental impact.

We had a beautiful 9-11 ceremony. It was the first time that I've been the MC that we had to had it inside, but it was still quite lovely. We had a lot of people. Thank you to all of our first responders who showed up. Thank you also to Clan Na Vale, the bagpiping band who comes every year and also pipes out Crestwood Lake every year. They also volunteer to go in all of our parades. They really made the event very special. A resident reached out to me who would like to speak at our ceremony next year. I'm meeting with him next week to have a conversation. Councilwoman Wilczynski also thanked the Municipal Clerk's Office for stepping up and taking charge especially with the new staff in place.

Allendale Day is October 15, 2022.

Councilman O'Toole – Law & Public Safety

In Councilman O'Toole's absence, Councilwoman Wilczynski read his report. The Public Safety Committee has not met since our last meeting; however, we've had a meeting with Chief Policht regarding numerous items pertaining to the fire department including some new policies, the need for more members and some personnel matters. The police department is finalizing logistics for the shared service of the 9-11 answering.

Chief Dillon is working with the chamber to facilitate the Fall Festival Day, which is October 15, 2022.

A new patrol vehicle was placed into service. We're making great progress with the IT upgrades at police headquarters. The year-to-date calls are fire calls, 177; EMS, 554; police record entities and calls for service, 11,883.

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Mayor's Report:

September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness month. We read a proclamation last month in anticipation so throughout the Borough of Allendale you will notice teal ribbons around the trees as part of the town's teal campaign. We want to thank the Allendale Woman's Club for their efforts to raise awareness of this disease. Chief Dillon had good tips in the newsletter about how to keep everyone safe.

Staff Reports:

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, stated he worked with the chief on the resolutions that are on tonight's consent agenda; with Mr. Kistner on some personnel and land use matters that are pending; within his office on some OPRA requests that have come in; and with tomorrow's water utility meeting it will make four meetings in one week.

Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk, stated that the Borough of Allendale is looking for board workers for the General Election. You will earn \$300 for the day. For more information you can contact the municipal clerk's office or you can call the Board of Elections. Please also be advised October 18, 2022 is the last day to register to vote for the General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. The municipal clerk's office in the Municipal Building, 500 West Crescent Avenue, will be open until 9 p.m. on October 18, 2022 for the purpose of voter registration only.

Ron Kistner, Director of Operations, stated that draining of Crestwood Lake will start next week. The construction department is doing well with permit fees and it's the second highest since 2017.

Mike Dillon, Chief of Police, stated that as the Emergency Management Coordinator, he would like to give a shout out and thank you to Mr. Kistner and all the department heads regarding tropical storm Isaias and tropical storm IDA. Between those two storms, the borough was reimbursed \$240,000 for repairs.

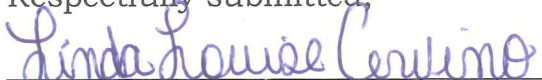
UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

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 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Louise Cervino, RMC
Municipal Clerk

11/17/2022
Date Approved