

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, NJ on June 16, 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 June 8, 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, Steve Sasso and Amy Wilczynski, and Mayor Bernstein

ABSENT: Councilmember 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
John Gil, Director of Communications
Tyler Yaccarino, Webmaster and IT

PROCLAMATION: A Ceremonial Proclamation for LGBTQ+ Pride Month

Mayor Bernstein said on behalf of the governing body, I am pleased to read a proclamation recognizing June 2022 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the Borough of Allendale. The Democratic Club of Allendale tied ribbons around the light post downtown. We thank them for this. This is one of the many reasons Allendale is such a special community; making sure that all of our residents are recognized and celebrated.

Mayor Bernstein reads proclamation:

“WHEREAS, on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, a courageous group of citizens resisted harassment and maltreatment, setting in motion a series of demonstrations which became known as the Stonewall Uprising and are widely considered to constitute the most important events leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for LGBTQ+ rights in America; and

WHEREAS, while the LGBTQ+ rights movement has realized much progress, there is more work to be done. As long as the promise of equality for all remains unfulfilled, all Americans are affected. If we can work together to advance the principles upon which our Nation was founded, every American will benefit; and

WHEREAS, all people deserve to live with dignity and respect, free from fear and violence, and be protected against discrimination, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. During LGBTQ+ Pride Month, we celebrate the proud legacy LGBTQ+ individuals have woven into the fabric of our Nation, we honor those who have fought to perfect our Union, and we continue our work to build a society where every child grows up knowing that their country supports them, is proud of them, and has a place for them exactly as they are; and

WHEREAS, Allendale promotes a proud Stigma Free community, accepting people from all walks of life,

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, New Jersey, do hereby proclaim June 2022 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the Borough of Allendale.

PRESENTATION: Cyber Incident Response Plan – Jim Coban and Tyler Yaccarino of Coban Computers regarding cyber security.

Mayor Bernstein stated that Coban Computers worked very hard to put this Incident Response Plan in place to safeguard the borough’s IT infrastructure and also meet the requirements for JIF’s Cyber Risk Management Program.

Jim Coban said we were approached with the latest JIF requirements to take us to meet certain competencies in terms of cyber security, disaster recovery and other protections we have in place for the borough. It’s separated into different tiers. Last year we were at Tier 1. This year I am proud to say we are at Tier 2, which basically demonstrates an enhancement to our cyber security infrastructure in our protection across all departments, including now the police department, fire department, water, the lake, the municipal building and DPW. Some of the things that are in place are the backups, our disaster recovery solution, our defensive software, our patch management systems which have been enhanced to include third party patching and utilizing VPNs for secure remote access into the borough.

Going through the Joint Insurance Fund's requirement, I am happy to say that we are at Tier 2 at this time. Councilwoman Homan asked how many Tiers are there? Jim Coban responded that there are three. Jim Coban said we were at Tier 1 last year. This year we're at a better place especially when you compare us to other municipalities. The tiers cover a broad range of areas from access privilege, for example; nobody has administrative rights on their workstations going forward. In the remote access, during COVID, we were utilizing different methods of remote access. We're now funneling all that traffic through a secure VPN directly to the firewall, so it's all controlled and managed by us. When it comes to security you're only as good as how many layers of security you have in place.

Mayor Bernstein asked, should we be subject, do we have a backup plan in place? Jim Coban said, we do. The server infrastructure is virtually backed up to our cloud. If we're infiltrated we can restore within the day. It depends on the amount of data. We have to restore the amount of damage. There will be some time looking at the issue, isolating any end points that have been infected, possibly removing those devices from the network and then going into the restoration mode. The one thing that I can say is that our clients who have not utilized all these different tools and technologies have been hit. The clients who have, have not. We are in a good place.

Mayor Bernstein said you've been very proactive. The systems you've put in place are catching it or as they're doing it and when we've had problems you've communicated to us and you've gotten us up and running as quickly as possible.

Councilwoman Wilczynski asked if there any protocols we should follow; for example, when you go to a hotel, they say the network is not really secure. Does it make a difference with our phones using our borough emails in accessing Box, etcetera? Jim Coban said in regards to Wi-fi, you have to be careful when you're on a public wi-fi. Be careful with the information you put out there. If you see a free wi-fi and you're not signing up for something, be leery of that. We have something called a cyber security primer which we can distribute borough wide. It's just a how-to PowerPoint to remind everybody best practices, password policy and things of that nature. In terms of the phones, when you're on wi-fi, you are protected by our web filter, so anything inside the borough is filtered on this wi-fi. We do filter that traffic. In terms of email, all email goes through a third-party company called Titan, which performs scrubbing of the messages, looks for viruses, looks for viruses, phishing attempts, scans the URLs for any malware or ransomware of the other side before it's delivered to the exchange server and before it's delivered to your mailbox. Even there we have protections in place.

Councilwoman Wilczynski asked as far as software platforms that are in the Cloud, such as Box and at Crestwood, CapturePoint, is that the same thing? Jim Coban said, yes. We'll do a review of that as far as who has access and the password strength of those Cloud platforms. There are backups inside those Cloud platforms, called shadow copies, so if the data was hit or affected you can restore through those platforms as well.

Mayor Bernstein thanked Jim Coban for everything they do.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jessie Velten, 68 Elbrook Drive, Allendale, President of the Democratic Club of Allendale, thanks the Mayor, Councilwoman Wilczynski and the rest of the Council for giving them the approval to do the ribbons for the second year in a row and for adopting the Proclamation again. It was very well received last year and this year. When we were putting the ribbons up, several people stopped and said this is great, thank you, can I have one and took it home. Last year, they did have a table outside of Goldberg's and gave out some little flags and pins and information. Two different instances of adolescents stopping by and saying they never thought they would see this in Allendale and this is great. That was the point all along for particularly the youth in town. People in our group worked with that community and my wife works with the community. We wanted to make sure everybody knew they were accepted and celebrated and comfortable here. We helped break that wall down. Thank you for the role you've played in.

No one else came forward.

ADMINISTRATION:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda, consisting of a two proclamations; one, recognizing the Girl Scout's 110th Anniversary; and National Police Week. Also on the agenda is a second reading and public hearing for Ordinance 22-04, Introduction of Ordinances 22-05 through 22-10, 21 resolutions on the Consent Agenda and a Closed Session meeting regarding 220 West Crescent Avenue.

No Councilmembers had questions regarding the Agenda Review.

Mayor Bernstein stated on June 4, 2022, Allendale suffered a tragedy with the loss of Riley Boyle. As a father and parent, I can't put into words what the family and our neighbors have gone through and are going through. In times like this, we need to come together as a community. Days like this and moments like this remind us what's important in life to never take for granted each day and those that make each day special. The Mayor and Council would like to thank our first responders; the fire department, the volunteer ambulance Corp, the police department and our dispatchers. The heart and soul they put into protecting our community can never be understated and our appreciation never overstated. I also want to thank our mutual aid communities who answered the call for assistance. On behalf of the borough, I want to send our thoughts and prayers to the Boyle family. We will be having a moment of silence after the flag salute during the regular session.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O’Connell – *Public Works*

Councilman O’Connell reported that six tons of asphalt was used to patch potholes throughout the borough. Repairs were made to the HVAC units that service the Quilt Room in this building and in the DPW facility. The DPW was honored to assist the Holiday Observers in hosting the 2022 Memorial Day Parade. It went off awesome. Due to a large part of work done by Rich McDowell, Crestwood Lake opened Memorial Day weekend.

Councilman O’Toole – *Law & Public Safety*

Councilman O’Connell gave Councilman O’Toole’s report in his absence. He just wanted me to express and mimic the mayor’s comments. He wants to thank all the firefighters, EMS and police for the job they did in that fire. On behalf of Law & Public Safety, our thoughts and prayers go to the family.

Councilman Sasso – *Facilities, Parks and Recreation*

Councilman Sasso reported that the Facilities Parks and Recreation Committee has not met because we haven’t needed to. We’ve been communicating a lot via email. Mr. Kistner has the facilities all buttoned up with his team and the DPW and outside contractors. The properties look great. The buildings are getting taken care of. The fields look great. Council President Wilczynski has a great relationship with the various recreation groups. Everything is going smooth. The lake looks fantastic; I was up there today. Regarding the lake, revenue-wise, we’re about \$286,000 this year, which is a couple of pennies less than it was last year. I think as COVID seems to be less of an issue from 12 months ago people are going away more. Maybe some people didn’t sign up.

They had the first band night. I heard it was great from a number of different people. Family night is coming up on Friday, June 26th. We have new Mobi Mats. They’re working great and look beautiful. The lake will be open during the day starting on the 22nd. If folks are frustrated about that, it’s because our lifeguards go to school. All of the managers are teachers. Thursday, June 30th at dusk, there will be the first movie night of the summer, WALL-E. Saturday, July 9th, at 7 p.m. is Tim Gysin is playing. Saturday, July 16th at 7 p.m., the Mid-Life Crisis Band will be back. The peace poles are up. They are not 100 percent complete, but they look really good. There’s an eagle scout project that looks really good. Mayor Bernstein adds that we, collectively, would like to recognize Porus Pavri for his outstanding work to create the peace pole reflection garden in Crestwood Park as part of his eagle scout project. The Boy Scouts will be hosting an official dedication on June 21st at 6 p.m. All are welcome. We would like to thank Councilman Sasso and Councilwoman Wilczynski and Ron Kistner for their assistance to determine a proper location. That’s a perfect addition to our park and will be a peaceful place where residents can reflect.

Councilman Sasso said Porus dedicated the bench to his dad who tragically passed away suddenly while raking leaves last fall. He was a scout leader, so there's a nice plaque on the bench recognizing his dad. Mayor Bernstein said I just wanted to add that part of my report to yours as it made sense there.

Councilwoman Homan – *Water, Sewer and Public Utilities*

Councilwoman Homan reported that the Water Committee meets bi-weekly as a group to ensure that all of the many, many moving parts of the now Veolia purchase of our water system continues to progress. We're working as a unit to hopefully ensure that we may be able to make a late summer closing. There are a tremendous number of items and I can't thank all of the committee members enough for all the work that they do. Our professionals, Ron, Ray, and our consulting lawyer and Mike Vreeland, our borough engineer, they have multiple meetings today. They had two during the day. We're always communicating by email about all of this technical work. It's a lot of checklists and a lot of reviewing of documents and a lot of field work. If anybody has any specific questions at any time, whether that be the public or amongst our group, certainly, don't hesitate to reach out to me. I feel very pleased with the teamwork that we've had, both from the Suez Veolia side as well as the Allendale side. We just need to ensure that we move this along so that we can close by the end of August.

It's not just the water committee; it is also water and sewer. We are now very deep into analysis of sewer costs and the evaluations of some of the contracts that we have and how we interact with the utility authority who processes our sewerage. There will be a lot of future meetings where I will go into all the details, but at this point, it's just a lot of work in making sure we have everything the way that we would like to have it.

The water shutoff moratorium ended on March 15, 2022; however, prior to the shutoff of a residents' water, the law requires that we offer an installment plan for the unpaid balance, and interest fees may be applied to the arrearages. Bill assistance and arrearage forgiveness programs are available through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, so everyone is encouraged to visit our website where more information can be available. This is a message that we are required to continue to share in community meetings and in publications that we put out.

I am so happy to see all of the girl scouts here. Councilwoman Homan thanked Mayor Bernstein for his words earlier. I struggled with what was appropriate to say and thank you very much for saying them well.

Councilwoman Lovisolo – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilwoman Lovisolo advised usually meets the morning of Land Use Board meetings. I will have more to report at our next council meeting on Land Use issues. I do want to remind everyone that the Green Team is still selling compost bins as well as rain barrels. They are currently in storage at the Fell House if anyone is interested in purchasing them. We're going to do a rain barrel at the Fell House, which is great, because the Allendale Garden Club helps the Fell House maintain that area around our Flagpole. They will be able to use the water from our rain barrel. I want to give a congratulations because I was able to attend the 8th grade Service-Learning Project Day. Ed's daughter was one of the wonderful projects there that day. What a great event and great thing that Mr. Goodman leads there. There was just so many impressive projects these 8th graders did and things I think we could probably adopt here in the borough. It was a wonderful thing to attend.

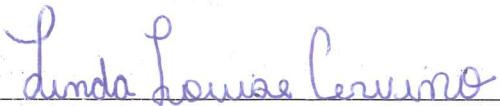
Councilman Liz Homan said I'm going to plug the composting thing again. You girls that are girl scouts can remind your parents composting, taking all the vegetable waste and putting it into the green machine and it makes really nice dirt. When I pull out my drawer the worms are in there breaking down the food. It saves so much weight. The weight of a watermelon rind and it goes out there and it's not in our trash, it's not going into the landfills where there's too much pressure for everything to degrade. Girl scouts you can really get the recycling and that going.

Due to time constraints, the Council reports will continue at the Regular Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Louise Cervino, RMC
Municipal Clerk

10/13/2022
Date Approved



Borough of Allendale

A CEREMONIAL PROCLAMATION FOR LGBTQ+ PRIDE MONTH

WHEREAS, on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, a courageous group of citizens resisted harassment and maltreatment, setting in motion a series of demonstrations which became known as the Stonewall Uprising and are widely considered to constitute the most important events leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for LGBTQ+ rights in America; and

WHEREAS, while the LGBTQ+ rights movement has realized much progress, there is more work to be done. As long as the promise of equality for all remains unfulfilled, all Americans are affected. If we can work together to advance the principles upon which our Nation was founded, every American will benefit; and

WHEREAS, all people deserve to live with dignity and respect, free from fear and violence, and be protected against discrimination, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. During LGBTQ+ Pride Month, we celebrate the proud legacy LGBTQ+ individuals have woven into the fabric of our Nation, we honor those who have fought to perfect our Union, and we continue our work to build a society where every child grows up knowing that their country supports them, is proud of them, and has a place for them exactly as they are; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, NJ, do hereby proclaim June 2022 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the Borough of Allendale.

Mayor Ari Bernstein

June 16, 2022