

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Council members Ari Bernstein, Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Ray Wiss
Municipal Clerk Anne Dodd

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 March 22, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Elizabeth White who 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, published in the Record within the first 10 days of the New Year, and copies are sent to the Ridgewood News and Star Ledger.”

Public Comment:

Maureen Shaw, 110 E. Crescent Avenue, requested that the governing body take action to oppose the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. She advised that New Jersey has one of the toughest concealed carry laws and this proposed legislation would overhaul existing State laws.

Mayor White responded that this topic was discussed at a recent Northwest Bergen Mayors' meeting and noted that the surrounding mayors are looking at this issue. She advised that this resolution is on the agenda for consideration this evening and it was reviewed by the Police Chief who is in support of its adoption. Mayor White announced that the Public Safety Committee has worked on a release that will be distributed to the public regarding the way in which Allendale handles active shooter issues in the community. She thanked Chief Scherb for the excellent job that he did in putting this release together. She advised that she participated in a safety precautions tour at Northern Highlands together with towns that might respond if there was an incident.

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, inquired whether the proposal to arm teachers would be considered a Board of Education issue or a law enforcement issue requiring Mayor and Council input and approval.

Mayor White advised that it would most likely be a Board of Education issue, noting that although the Borough Council works hand in hand with the Board of Education, the governing body does not have jurisdiction over them.

Borough Attorney Wiss advised that it would depend on which form it took. He noted that a School Resource Officer (SRO) can be engaged directly by the Board of Education if they choose to hire a retired police officer. He explained that the municipality may become involved should the Board of Education engage an active law enforcement officer as a cost sharing measure.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018

Administration:

A. Follow-up Discussion on Town Hall Meeting Re: Wildlife Management

Mayor White explained that there have been requests from residents to implement a wildlife management program and a town hall meeting was held on this topic. She advised that this meeting was not a Council meeting. She then opened the floor for public comment on this subject only.

Philip Ciulla, 109 Dale Avenue, detailed reasons that he believes it would be better to tranquilize and sterilize deer versus holding a hunt. He requested that nonviolent methods be explored.

Barbara De Sena, 46 Rio Vista Drive, expressed her concern over holding a deer bow hunt and commented that nonlethal deer management solutions are far superior. She requested that a presentation by the Animal Protection League of NJ be scheduled during a Council meeting.

Mayor White responded that another town hall will be scheduled to allow this group to present in a similar forum to the NJ DEP.

Kristen Tsarnas, 74 Heights Road, advised that she attended the town hall meeting, and although initially against a hunt, she commented that she is now convinced that the deer population needs to be reduced either through a bow hunt or trapping and killing.

Mayor White noted that there will be no action in the immediate future as any type of management would not happen for at least a year.

Councilman Bernstein commented that the town hall was very informative and inquired whether a link to the information provided by the NJ DEP could be placed on the Borough website.

Mayor White responded that there is not currently a link but the possibility of another town hall may be considered. She advised that surrounding towns are also considering scheduling similar presentations.

Councilwoman Wilczynski expressed that this decision is not an easy one but noted that this issue is a public safety concern. She advised that all avenues are being explored and no rash decisions are being made but expressed her opinion that something needs to be done.

Councilwoman Homan added that there are other considerations to take into account such as the effect that the deer population is having on other animals as well as the rise of Lyme disease.

Mayor White advised that the governing body cannot do anything on private property and there are only two pieces of municipal property would make sense to use for wildlife management purposes.

Cari Laughman, 41 Hareton Road, inquired whether there is the possibility of a livestream broadcast of any future presentations held on this topic.

Mayor White responded that she would look into this possibility.

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, expressed his opinion that deer have become a pest and commented that hunting is humane if done properly. He noted that other methods are costlier and expressed his opinion that it is not more humane to trap as it is very difficult on the animal.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2018

Councilwoman Homan left the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

B. Agenda Review

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not addressed.

C. Mayor's Report

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was carried to the Regular Session.

D. Council Reports

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was carried to the Regular Session.

E. Staff Reports

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was carried to the Regular Session.

F. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Strauch, second by Councilman O'Connell, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk