

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2018

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Councilmembers Ari Bernstein, Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch (arrived at 7:37 p.m.) and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Thomas Bouregy
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 April 26, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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:

No one came forward.

Presentations:

A. Recognition of CERT Members – Winter Storm Quinn

Mayor White advised that members of CERT were asked to attend tonight's meeting in order to recognize the outstanding job that they did in making residents feel safe during Winter Storm Quinn. She presented each member with a letter and certificate of commendation in recognition of their time and effort during this storm.

B. Proclamation – Community Meals, Inc.

Mayor White explained that she was unable to attend the March Mayors for Meals, and for this reason, there was a delay in recognizing the 16th Annual March for Meals Month. She advised that she, together with Councilwoman Homan and Councilwoman Wilczynski, participated in Mayors for Meals last week. She then read the following proclamation into the record:

**A PROCLAMATION PROCLAIMING MARCH 2018 AS THE
16th ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH**

WHEREAS, on March 22, 1972, President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older; and

WHEREAS, Meals on Wheels America established the March for Meals campaign in March 2002 to recognize the historic month, the importance of the Older Americans Act Nutrition Programs, both congregate and home-delivered, and raise awareness about the escalating problem of senior hunger in America; and

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2018

WHEREAS, the 2018 observance of March for Meals celebrates 16 years of providing an opportunity to support Meals on Wheels programs that deliver vital and critical services by donating, volunteering and raising awareness about senior hunger and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Community Meals, Inc. – nutritious meals prepared by The Valley Hospital and home-delivered by dedicated volunteers, in Allendale, New Jersey have served our communities admirably since 1971 and for several decades in the Borough of Allendale and neighboring towns; and

WHEREAS, volunteers for Community Meals, Inc. in Allendale, New Jersey are the backbone of the program and they not only deliver nutritious meals to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at significant risk of hunger and isolation, but also caring concern and attention to their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Community Meals, Inc. in Allendale, New Jersey provide nutritious meals to seniors throughout the Borough of Allendale that help them maintain their health and independence, thereby preventing unnecessary falls, hospitalizations and/or premature institutionalization; and

WHEREAS, Community Meals, Inc. in Allendale, New Jersey provide a powerful socialization opportunity for millions of seniors to help combat loneliness and isolation; and

WHEREAS, Community Meals, Inc. in Allendale, New Jersey deserve recognition for the contributions they have made and will continue to make to local communities, our State and our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth White, as Mayor of the Borough of Allendale do hereby proclaim March 2018 as the 16th Annual March for Meals Month and urge every citizen to take this month to honor our Meals on Wheels programs, the seniors they serve and the volunteers who care for them. Our recognition of, and involvement in, the national 2018 March for Meals can enrich our entire community and help combat senior hunger and isolation in America.

C. Proclamation – Mental Health Month 2018

Mayor White read the following proclamation into the record:

Mental Health Month 2018 "Fitness #4Mind4Body"

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, all Americans experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives; and

WHEREAS, prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong research that diet, exercise, sleep, and stress management can help all Americans protect their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our nation; and

WHEREAS, with effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2018

recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen shares the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts.

WHEREAS, the Borough of Allendale recognizes the community needs, and by establishing itself as a Stigma Free Zone, raises awareness of resources and encourages residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided.

THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth White, do hereby proclaim May 2018 as Mental Health Month in Borough of Allendale. As the Mayor, I also call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in the Borough of Allendale to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions before Stage Four.

D. Budget Presentation – Presented by Charles Ferraioli, Registered Municipal Accountant

Mayor White thanked Charles Ferraioli, Borough Auditor, for his guidance in preparing this budget. She recognized Alissa Mayer, CFO, as well as Councilman Bernstein and Councilwoman Wilczynski for ensuring that the Borough continues on the path of being fiscally prudent. She also thanked the entire governing body for the part that they have played in preparing this budget.

Councilman Bernstein advised that the Borough is reaping the fruit of the work that began 11 years ago by Mayor White together with Mayor Emeritus Vince Barra and former Councilwoman Susan LaMonica. He acknowledged the efforts of CFO Mayer and Mr. Ferraioli and commented that he is proud of this budget. He also noted the countless hours that Mayor White spent in preparing this budget.

Mr. Ferraioli reported that the Borough's AAA credit rating from Standard & Poors was affirmed which is the highest credit rating a municipality can receive. He noted that this rating will result in the Borough receiving lower interest rates when going out for a note sale and commented that there are not many legitimate AAA-rated municipalities in New Jersey.

Mr. Ferraioli then reviewed the Annual Debt Statement. He explained that, although he prefers that the percentage of net debt to equalized valuation to be under 1%, it is slightly over 1% as a result of the acquisition of 220 and 230 W. Crescent Avenue. He expressed his belief that this percentage will be reduced in a fairly short amount of time without impacting the tax levy. He highlighted the fact that the Borough's equalized valuation has increased over the past three years as it means that home values are increasing. He then reviewed the Summary Tax Levy Cap Calculation and noted that this budget is \$862,877 under the Tax Levy CAP. He advised that the Borough is also \$638,830.67 under the CAP for appropriations. He noted that he always recommends that the Borough adopt the indexing ordinance as it acts as an insurance policy should the Borough need these funds in future years. He advised that the \$638,830.67 cannot be spent this year and is carried for three years. He reviewed the results of 2017 operations and noted the various areas in which anticipated revenues were exceeded within the budget. Due to the budgeted revenue amounts being exceeded, \$1,445,255.32 in surplus was generated. He explained that \$1,000,000 from surplus was used in the 2017 budget as a revenue in order to help reduce taxes and with the

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2018

\$1,445,255.32 that was generated in surplus, there was an overall increase of \$445,255.32. This increase in surplus allowed \$1,450,000 to be budgeted as revenue in the 2018 budget. He advised that this year's budget is \$569,000 higher than last year which is due to the decision to begin making early principal payments on the \$14 million Bond Anticipation Note. Another reason for the increase in the budget over 2017 is due to the debt service increasing by \$841,000 over last year. Despite this increase, Mr. Ferraioli noted that the average assessed home will see a \$21.71 increase or a 0.59% increase over last year.

Mayor White explained that 25% of every tax dollar goes to the municipality, 65% to the schools, and 10% to the County. She advised that they met with the schools this week and the Allendale school district budget will be going up 2% and the regional school district budget will be increasing 4% as the number of students from Upper Saddle River has decreased while both the number of students from Allendale has increased as well as the equalized valuation. She noted that Allendale schools are very well regarded and keep the property valuations high.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

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

B. Mayor's Report

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

C. Council Reports

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

D. Staff Reports

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

E. 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 Councilwoman Homan, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk