

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2018

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Councilmembers Ari Bernstein, Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Steve Sasso, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilmember Jim Strauch

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond 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 September 27, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 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:

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, explained that his comments at a previous meeting were not meant to diminish the time and effort of the Mayor and Council. He explained that he, former Councilwoman McSwiggan, and Councilman Bernstein had a good conversation following that meeting and ideas were exchanged freely and openly. He expressed that he attends meetings in order to present ideas in good faith.

Councilman Bernstein commented that he appreciates that Mr. Savastano is involved and expresses a willingness to help. Although they may not always agree, he expressed his opinion that their discussions are emblematic of a good, healthy exchange of ideas.

Robert Sottolano, 126 Midwood Avenue, inquired whether now would be the appropriate time to address his issue.

Mayor White expressed that she's happy that his problem has been resolved. She advised that it is his decision whether to address his concerns this evening or if he would like to meet separately.

Mr. Sottolano advised that he would like meet with Mayor White separately to express his concerns.

Walter Widmer, 38 Hamilton Street, inquired how he can learn about the platform of the candidates who are running for local office.

Mayor White advised that there will be a “Meet the Candidates” night sponsored by the Allendale Republican Club and all candidates will be invited to attend. She expressed her belief that the candidates have social media platforms as well.

Councilman O'Connell confirmed that the Allendale Local Candidates Night hosted by the Allendale Republican Club will be held on October 18th at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at Borough Hall. He noted that this event will not be a debate, but rather, an opportunity for the candidates to speak on

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2018

their platform and background. After everyone speaks, there will be time to speak individually with the candidates. An invitation has been sent to the Democratic candidates and a response is awaited.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She advised that the September 13, 2018 Work, Regular and Closed Executive Session Minutes are listed for approval.

With respect to the ordinances listed for adoption, Mayor White explained that the first few ordinances pertain to the Borough's affordable housing obligations. She noted that Ed Sniekus, Borough Planner, will attend the Regular Session to provide more information on these ordinances, noting that they provide for overlay zones and clarify the language pertaining to the Borough's affordable housing obligations. These ordinances were sent to the Land Use Board for review and were found to be consistent with the Master Plan.

Ordinance 18-18 was recommended by the Police Chief due to the wide latitude that must now be given to solicitors as a result of recent court decisions. This ordinance will allow residents to register on a "no knock" list which will be maintained by the Borough Clerk's office and sent to the Police Department monthly. This list will then be provided to solicitors when applying for a permit. Mayor White advised that solicitors will face strict penalties if this ordinance is violated, but noted that certain solicitors, legally, cannot be limited.

Borough Attorney Wiss explained that the Borough is attempting to strike a fair balance between the rights of the solicitors and the rights of residents to privacy. He advised that political and religious solicitation would be examples of those who would be exempt from this ordinance.

With regard to Ordinance 18-19, Mayor White advised that this ordinance will limit parking on Elbrook Drive from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to allow buses to exit the high school onto this street.

The purpose of Ordinance 18-20 is to prohibit the sale of recreational marijuana throughout the entire Borough while permitting the sale of medicinal marijuana in the E and EM zone. Mayor White noted that this ordinance was recommended by the Allendale Police Department and was sent to both the Board of Health and Land Use Board for review. She confirmed that the Land Use Board found this ordinance to be consistent with the Master Plan.

Mayor White advised that Ordinance 18-21 is listed for introduction this evening and establishes the salary range for the position of Assistant Fire Official.

Mayor White then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. She highlighted Resolution #18-231 and announced that Pierre Gauthier is being appointed to the position of Fire Official due to the passing of Ernie Cassidy. She commented that it is with great sadness that this appointment needs to be made and noted that Ernie's passing is a big loss for Allendale. She expressed her sincere condolences to his wife, Andrea, and the rest of his family. She advised that the Fire Department will be holding a wetdown in his honor to celebrate his life.

Mayor White then explained that Resolution #18-232 authorizes the adoption of the Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual. She thanked the members of the Administration, Finance, and

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2018

Human Resources Committee and Michelle Ryan, Deputy Clerk, for their work on this manual. She noted that it is mandated by JIF that this manual be adopted every two years and expressed that the committee feels that it is good policy to do so. She advised that Councilman Bernstein chairs this committee and was at the forefront of ensuring that the Borough is protected.

Councilman Bernstein commended the work that Ms. Ryan did in pulling this manual together, commenting that it is tedious at times but very important as the words and details matter. He also thanked the members of the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee as well as Borough Attorney Wiss.

Mayor White noted that some areas in the manual are still under review and further revisions may come before the governing body in the near future.

B. Changes in Recycling Market Discussion

Councilwoman Wilczynski provided a brief history on the recycling program in the United States and explained that China has now banned the import of recyclables due to its economic state as well as trade issues with the United States. She advised that Allendale's recycling rate is 37%, and at the market's peak, Allendale was receiving \$20-\$25,000 per year. She explained that when the recycling rate was up, the tipping fees were down, making it a real win-win for Allendale. She noted that there is now a lull and the recycling market has plummeted. She advised that new technologies will need to emerge and some recycling centers are looking to retrofit in order to take in more volume. Residents are still encouraged to recycle as it is believed that the market will come back. Councilwoman Wilczynski noted that Allendale is in better shape than most municipalities as they still have dual stream recycling. She explained that there are some changes in recyclable items which have been detailed in the upcoming Recycling Newsletter. She noted that the Borough is advocating sustainability and encouraged residents not to use single use bottles.

Councilwoman Homan added that reusable bags will be distributed at Allendale Festival Day.

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

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

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2018

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk