

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
Acting Municipal Clerk Michelle Ryan

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 February 13, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Mayor Ari Bernstein who asked that the Acting 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:

Walter Widmer of 38 Hamilton Street wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

No other public came forward to comment.

Administration:

A. Discussion of Single Use Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance (Draft)

Councilwoman Homan led the discussion and expanded upon her comments from the previous meeting. She stated that copies of the draft ordinance had been circulated to the governing body for comment. She expressed a desire to follow in the footsteps of other towns, most notably Paramus, that have already gone single use plastic bag free to help reduce the 4.4 billion such bags that New Jerseyans use every year. She advised that this proposal has been positively received based upon feedback from the Chamber of Commerce, the shop owners she has visited so far, and the residents. Once the final wording has been determined by the governing body, she will continue her efforts to inform and educate the public with the help of various community organizations. Ideally, she would like to adopt this in March with an effective date of September 1st.

Mayor Bernstein thanked Councilwoman Homan for all her efforts on this. He has read the draft and will provide his comments at another time. In response to his inquiry about feedback received from affected business owners, Councilwoman Homan replied that AB&G is in favor as well as Roshler's, with the exception that plastic put down such as to prevent dampness when transporting plants still be permitted. She has reached out to Acme and Walgreens but has not gotten response yet. She doesn't anticipate resistance since other towns in the area have already implemented this policy. Councilwoman Wilczynski added that the recycling industry has changed and people realize that single use plastics need to be reduced. Allendale has always been on the forefront of being environmentally conscious and this is just another step in the right direction.

Councilmembers O'Connell and Strauch expressed their support. Councilwoman Homan noted receipt of Councilman Sasso's comments. Mr. Wiss suggested that any comments be submitted to

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2020

the committee over the next two weeks for fine tuning and introduction of the ordinance in March.

B. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda. He advised that the January 23, 2020 Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval and noted that Councilmembers Strauch and Wilczynski will need to abstain as they were absent from this meeting.

Ordinance 20-01 is listed for second reading and adoption, explaining that the ordinance adds the title of "Clean Communities Coordinator/Certified Recycling Professional" and to fix the salary range for this position as well as the Deputy Municipal Clerk and Crew Chiefs for the year 2020.

Mayor Bernstein then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Of particular note, he advised that he and Councilman O'Toole had reviewed the bill list on Resolution 20-74, and he thanked Ron Kistner for doing all the legwork to authorize the GovDeals auction on Resolution 20-75. With respect to Resolutions 20-79 and 20-80, Ms. Ryan explained to the governing body that the State of New Jersey has incorrect information on some of our petty cash accounts, despite corrective resolutions being sent previously. Tonight's resolutions will be sent to a supervisor who will make these corrections. Mayor Bernstein noted that Resolution 20-82 re-authorizes our yearly interlocal agreement with Waldwick for the Well Baby Clinic. Councilwoman Homan presented Resolution 20-83 for consideration on behalf of the Water Committee. This resolution authorizes Mott MacDonald to perform a PFAS Treatment Feasibility Study in the amount of \$59,500. As Councilwoman Homan has previously shared, PFAS are groups of manmade chemicals that have been/are found in consumer products such as food packaging, waterproofing and stain repellents. They are emerging contaminants that are being tested for in water. The approval of this resolution will allow Mott MacDonald to explore treatment options to bring measurement of PFAS compounds to non-detect levels. Samples will be taken from Allendale's three water facilities and the study's completion date is targeted for the end of September. Results will be shared with the public at a meeting and anything pertinent would be shared with the public along the way. Councilwoman Homan and Mr. Wiss both agreed that this was a pro-active measure being taken by the Borough and not a reactive one as there is no identifiable problem. Allendale's water complies with current regulations. Mayor Bernstein noted that the resolution's wording has been amended to authorize the signing of an appropriate agreement subject to attorney review, once a contract is received.

As there were no questions from Councilmembers, Mayor Bernstein moved on to Council Reports.

C. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety

Councilman O'Connell reported that the committee met on February 4th. Checks on crosswalks, stop signs and yield signs as well as checks on visibility and viability at corners are underway. He highlighted a few dates to keep in mind for upcoming events: April 22nd is the Books v. Badges basketball game; signups start on April 1st for the July 6th to July 10th Junior Police Academy, and the Special Olympics Torch Run will be held on June 5th. Year to date, the police have received 2,347 calls, the fire department 18 calls and AVAC 39 calls. Councilman O'Connell thanked everyone who attended the public safety finance meeting last night to help tighten up the police budget. He noted that it was very helpful to have the meeting and headway was made. Mayor Bernstein echoed Councilman O'Connell's feelings of the prior night's meeting. He thanked

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2020

Councilmen O'Connell and O'Toole, Alissa Mayer, Ron Kistner, Chief Scherb, Sgts. Griffith, Kroepke, Lawler, and Mattiace, Officers Dillon and Stettner for working as a team to address the issues.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso reported that the committee had not met since the last Council meeting, but they are scheduled to meet on February 24th at 7:30am. Borough Attorney Tom Bouregy will be joining them for the meeting, which has a full agenda.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan has been working with the legal team to create draft Emergency Interconnect Agreements. The Borough has always had verbal agreements in place with other towns, but now the NJDEP is looking for formal, written agreements. This is in the initial steps. As discussed during the January 23, 2020 meeting, the Water Committee is proposing a rate increase starting April 1, 2020. The ordinance will be introduced at the next council meeting and then a public hearing will be held prior to adoption. While she will not be attending the next meeting, she is available to answer any questions prior to that. She reminded the public to report water running down the streets to the police. The fluctuating weather temperatures could cause water main breaks or leaks. The next committee meeting is February 18th. She expressed her continued gratitude to Layne Simon, Ron Kistner, Alissa Mayer, Mike Vreeland, Mayor Bernstein and Ray Wiss for their tireless work on water committee initiatives. She invited the public to feel free to email her with any water matters.

Additionally, Councilwoman Homan attended the USRA Coalition meeting this past Tuesday. There was great discussion on programs to offer and ensuring the awarded grant money is wisely spent for benefit of the youth of Allendale, Upper Saddle River and all the Northern Highlands' towns.

Councilwoman Homan and Mayor Bernstein also discussed their recent meeting with the Ridgewood Mayor regarding the interconnect agreement as well as their offer to do an informational water presentation, as water is not just a local issue, for the NW Bergen Mayors at their April meeting.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that the 220/230 due diligence is continuing. The Borough has weekly meetings, one having taken place with the borough and environmental attorneys earlier in the day. As mentioned previously, the Borough received a NJ DOT grant for Phase 3 of the downtown streetscape project. She attended a kickoff meeting where she received a project schedule. A survey is expected the first week in March and the goal is to be shovel ready by summer. The phases include replacement of the lightposts, pavers and trees downtown. The Borough will also be utilizing two Bergen County Open Space grants to replace the playground and beautify the band shell area in Crestwood Park. Plans for the grand opening of the band shell are in the works. Councilwoman Wilczynski has a meeting with the Crestwood Lake managers next week and the committee is starting to schedule bands for the summer concert series. ARC is gearing up for spring sports sign ups. The next committee meeting will be next week.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole reported that the committee continues to work towards introduction of the

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2020

budget on March 12th. All departments have been asked to sharpen their pencils. Two meetings with the Financial Advisory Committee are scheduled before introduction of the budget. There will be a meeting next Thursday to prepare for the meetings with the Financial Advisory Committee.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch thanked Ron Kistner and Councilman O’Connell for filling in in his absence at the last Council meeting. He reported that the fire extinguishers have been tested and/or approved for 2020. Rich McDowell and Ray Frazier are busy replacing old, worn out street signs. Spring and summer projects are currently being reviewed, including the annual paving program. Allendale has decided not to join the Ramsey Coop for paving projects this year. Councilmen Strauch and O’Toole and Mayor Bernstein met with a resident who volunteered his expertise in e-waste recycling. As Allendale doesn’t currently offer an in-house program, residents rely on Bergen County’s events held only four times a year to dispose of their e-waste. The goal is to make it easier, more convenient thereby increasing resident’s participation. E-waste can potentially generate revenue for the Borough. Mayor Bernstein shared how impressed he is with Councilman Strauch’s wealth of knowledge, which shines through. A March committee meeting date has not been finalized yet but will include the annual drive around town.

D. Mayor’s Report

Mayor Bernstein reported the Borough is making great progress with scanning and archiving records. Accuscan picked up another building department batch, which now completes all records stored in their archives room. Mayor Bernstein announced the Borough is once again participating in Bergen County’s Cooperative Purchasing System for electricity generation supply service. This beneficial program allows the Borough to receive lower electricity rates. The current bid is for a period of up to 2 years and notification is expected from Bergen County soon. Mayor, Alissa Mayer, Ron Kistner, Tatiana Marquis and Michelle Ryan met to put a plan together to make sure that everyone in Allendale gets counted as part of the 2020 Census. This was one of the topics discussed by Camden Freeholder Carmen Rodriguez at the last Northwest Bergen Mayor’s meeting. This is important for determining federal funding, programs and representation. Administrative offices will be closed on February 17th in observance of President’s Day. Mayor Bernstein walked the Celery Farm with Jim Wright recently to discuss and observe some issues, which will be shared with the governing body going forward. Councilmembers Strauch and Homan joined Mayor Bernstein at Hitachi Chemical’s grand opening. Everyone is thrilled that they have made Allendale one of their homes.

E. Staff Reports

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilwoman Wilczynski, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk