

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein
(*in person*)

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole, Steve Sasso
(7:35pm), Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski (7:35pm)
(*via teleconference*)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
(*in person*) 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 May 14, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the public was provided via GoToMeeting video and teleconferencing only, with adequate notice of same posted for public viewing. The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Mayor Bernstein who reminded the public to mute their phones so as not to distract from the business of the meeting. Mayor Bernstein advised the public that they would have an opportunity at an appropriate time during the meeting to be heard.

Mayor Bernstein 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:

No one from the public came forward.

Presentations:

Mayor Bernstein announced that Borough Auditor Paul Lerch of the firm Lerch, Vinci and Higgins would be joining the meeting around 7:45pm to present the 2020 Municipal Budget. Mayor Bernstein thanked the Council especially Councilman O’Toole and Councilwoman Wilczynski for their tireless efforts overseeing the budget process and for their dedication to the community. He shared that it was not an easy year, however the budget is fiscally prudent. On behalf of the governing body, he expressed sincere gratitude to CFO Alissa Mayer and Auditor Paul Lerch for their wealth of knowledge and much relied-upon guidance. He also recognized department heads, employees and the Financial Advisory Committee for their contributions to the crafting of the budget. Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Lerch joined the meeting later than expected and it was decided that he would make the budget presentation during the Regular Session.

Administration:

Mayor Bernstein fully reviewed the agenda of the Regular Session starting with consideration of the April 30, 2020 Work Session and Regular Session minutes followed by the second reading and public hearing of Ordinance 20-09, and then budget related Resolutions 20-128 through 20-130. Of particular note during his discussion of the Consent Agenda, he expressed the Borough’s delight to have intern Kate Callaghan returning this summer via Resolution 20-133, the authorization to cancel unexpended balances from a general capital ordinance through Resolution 20-134 and the necessity to approve Resolution 20-135, which authorizes the Tax Collector to prepare and mail

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estimated tax bills for the 3rd quarter due to the Bergen County Board of Taxation's inability to certify a tax rate at this time.

With no further discussion on Agenda Review items, Mayor Bernstein moved to Council Reports.

A. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell advised that OEM continues to meet and offered that the Mayor's weekly Friday video messages disseminate helpful information. He thanked OEM, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Ambulance Corps, CERT, DPW, and Borough Hall staff for their efforts during this pandemic. He promoted continued social distancing practices especially now as businesses and activities start to reopen.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso reported that the Land Use Committee last met on April 20th and that progress was being made on amendments to the noise ordinance. He shared he has been consulting with counsel, has been reviewing other towns' ordinances and has received input from Chief Scherb and the Allendale Police Department. The next committee meeting will be on May 18th via GoToMeeting.

He also informed everyone that he and Councilwoman Wilczynski had a conference call with the head of career planning and placement at Northern Highlands to discuss establishing an internship program with the borough for a senior student. He said that discussions would continue but asked the governing body members to think of projects and research topics that the interns could potentially help the committees with. Councilwomen Homan and Wilczynski expressed their support for establishing this program.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan reported on the committee's continued work on the PFAS treatment feasibility study. She advised that Mott MacDonald had submitted a preliminary report, which she as well as others on the committee had reviewed, and said that a meeting with Mott MacDonald was being scheduled to review further. Due to the pandemic some steps have not been able to occur yet, however this slower approach has provided an opportunity for clarification and presented more options which may benefit Allendale. Her plan is to have a meeting with the community in the future to share and discuss the findings. Councilwoman Homan also announced that letters from Suez regarding last fall's tetrachloroethylene violation had gone out to residents. She noted that although the DEP required notification for four quarters following this type of violation, due to their running quarterly annual average reporting standards, the water quality testing results have been and continue to remain at non-detect levels since repairs were made. The DEP permitted Suez to bold this information in the letter to bring further attention to this important distinction. She thanked the committee for their efforts on all ongoing projects.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities Committee

Councilwoman Wilczynski thanked the Allendale residents for adhering to social distancing guidelines which has allowed for Crestwood Park to remain open for passive recreation and for all to enjoy. She informed everyone that the committee is having weekly meetings regarding the possibility of Crestwood Lake opening this season. While the State has opened their beaches with considerable restrictions, direction to the towns has been vague. Crestwood is a vast space which allows for social distancing but keeping residents and employees safe is paramount. They would

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love to open the lake, but there are many hurdles to overcome before that can happen. She will keep everyone apprised of developments. Councilwoman Wilczynski also updated everyone that due diligence continues, almost non-stop, on 220/230. It is a massive project, not without its challenges, but the committee is working hard to get the best result for the community. She recognized the first responders, volunteer organizations and residents for their shining community outreach and encouraged everyone to keep up the good work. She wished everyone to stay safe.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Due to time constraints, this Agenda item was addressed during the Regular Session meeting.

Councilman Strauch – DPW

Due to time constraints, this Agenda item was addressed during the Regular Session meeting.

B. Mayor's Report

Due to time constraints, this Agenda item was addressed during the Regular Session meeting.

C. Staff Reports

Due to time constraints this agenda item was addressed during the Regular Session meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Strauch, second by Councilwoman Wilczynski, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk