

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
July 23, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein  
(*in person*)

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole,  
Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski  
(*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 July 23, 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:**

Kristen Tsarnas, 74 Heights Road, asked for an update on the deer culling situation in Allendale. Councilman Sasso explained that a letter was sent to Bergen County regarding overabundance of deer in the area however, to date, no action has been taken to partner with Allendale to control the overpopulation. With vast county parklands being in close proximity, it will take a collaborative effort with Bergen County and other towns in the region to have a meaningful impact. Ms. Tsarnas inquired as to the reason for their lack of partnership, but it is inexplicable. Mayor Bernstein and Councilmembers Sasso, Homan and Wilczynski all shared measures that the borough had taken in the meantime to try to mitigate the damage caused by overpopulation of deer and to become more informed on the issue including onsite meetings with NJDEP and County officials, hosting informative public town hall meetings, research on actions other towns have taken, and fencing off areas to preserve the Celery Farm. Ms. Tsarnas expressed her support for taking action to cull the deer population. Mayor Bernstein advised that the borough will revisit this issue.

Ms. Tsarnas inquired if Heights Road was on the list of streets being authorized for paving on Resolution 20-182. Mr. Kistner replied that it is not on this list of streets, but

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that discussion is ongoing with Orange and Rockland to repave roadways where they have and are upgrading utility services.

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, thanked Ms. Tsarnas and echoed her comments on deer culling. He acknowledged the death of Representative John Lewis.

No other public came forward for comment.

**Administration:**

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda starting with consideration of the May 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Session minutes as well as those for the June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup> Work & Regular Sessions. He advised of everyone's attendance and eligibility to vote.

Next, Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Consent Agenda. Of particular note, Resolution 20-180 authorizes the Allendale Woman's Club's participation in "Turn the Towns Teal" in September to raise awareness for Ovarian Cancer. Resolution 20-182 awards a contract to D&L Paving for the 2020 Paving Program and 20-183 awards the contract to Ambient Group LLC for the 230 West Crescent Soil Remediation Project. Resolution 20-184 authorizes the hire of two as-needed police dispatchers and 20-185 continues participation in Bergen County's roadway rock salt contract. Resolution 20-186 authorizes Neglia Engineering's proposal for Construction Management on the West Allendale Avenue Streetscape Project. Mr. Kistner and Councilwoman Wilczynski expressed their excitement for work to begin and Mayor Bernstein thanked them for their efforts with this project.

B. Council Reports

**Councilman O'Connell** – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell reported that OEM met this past week. Allendale still has one of the lowest COVID-19 rates. Everyone must keep wearing masks and social distancing. The police department has been fully trained for all the requirements. To date, there have been 9,255 calls to dispatch, 854 "911" calls, 78 fire calls and 221 ambulance calls. The Junior Police Academy completed successfully on July 10<sup>th</sup> with a helicopter landing, K9 and SWAT units, and bomb teams.

**Councilman Sasso** – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso reported that the Land Use Committee met this past Monday. He shared that building inspections and property maintenance are running smoothly. Councilman Sasso thanked Ron Kistner and Mike Limatola. He also invited residents to reach out to him if they feel there is something in the construction code that needs to be updated. Additionally, Councilman Sasso shared that he and the Fire Chief have discussed the dry weather conditions and the posting of NJ fire warnings on their Facebook page. He suggested that residents like the Allendale Fire Department's Facebook page and reminded everyone to take extra caution when the fire danger is higher. There were two small brush fires recently in Allendale.

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**Councilwoman Homan** – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan thanked the community for their water conservation and compliance with phase 2 water restrictions. The Monday recharge day has been helpful. If anyone has a hardship, please contact the Borough to request a water-restriction exemption. There is constant monitoring of water levels with Suez and meetings taking place. The team works well together and Allendale is in great shape regarding water. Councilwoman Homan will be hosting a public Water Committee meeting on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7PM to talk about Allendale's water components, restrictions, utilization and more. She promoted opportunities to purchase Green Machine composters from BCUA to reduce waste. She thanked Councilwoman Wilczynski for her tireless effort on 220/230.

**Councilwoman Wilczynski** – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski shared that Crestwood Lake revenue is doing very well, and everyone is following the rules nicely. She also thanked the DPW workers for maintaining the lake beautifully. Regarding 220/230, Councilwoman Wilczynski shared that they are still moving forward and approving a bid for soil cleanup tonight. There are many documents to go through but are starting to look at plans and will share with the Vision Committee. The newsletter that was recently sent out has an abundance of information and will be sent monthly going forward. The Facilities Committee is hoping to complete the grant-funded playground renovation and downtown streetscape projects this year.

Due to time constraints, the committee reports of Councilmen O'Toole and Strauch were given during the Regular Session meeting.

C. Mayor's Report

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

D. 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 Sasso, second by Councilwoman Homan, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan  
Acting Municipal Clerk