

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
September 10, 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 September 10, 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 7:31pm by Mayor Bernstein who reminded the public to mute their devices so as not to distract from the business of the meeting. Due to issues with Optimum, this meeting was held with audio-only. 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, thanked the Mayor for forwarding information on the NJ state regulations on deer hunting. Mayor Bernstein stated that the Borough will be going through the regulations and plan to post the information on the website. Ms. Tsarnas thanked Councilwoman Wilczynski for the lovely September 11th announcement. It was very well done. She then thanked Ron Kistner for his email response to her neighborhood issues and answering her questions.

No other public came forward for comment.

Presentations:

Mayor Bernstein stated it was hard to believe that tomorrow is the 19th anniversary of the September 11th attacks and he will be reading a proclamation to remember those that lost their lives and also honor those heroes that provided selfless service. He stated, 19 years later, through this pandemic, we continue to see the same selfless acts by our first responders. Mayor Bernstein read a proclamation, attached and made a part hereof, proclaiming September 11, 2020 as Patriot Day in the Borough of

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Allendale in tribute to all of the victims of the 9/11 attacks and the many who rose to service in response.

Mayor Bernstein stated that tonight the Borough is honoring five members of Allendale's Ambulance Corps, Daryl D'Amore-Bottaro, Michael Blondin, Laura Dinoia, Barbara Keohane, and Denis Murphy who all responded to Ground Zero on 9/11 and worked for several days on the rescue and recovery efforts. He also announced that these five members will also be honored tomorrow, in person, at the Borough's 9/11 Ceremony. The Mayor thanked Councilwoman Wilczynski and Councilman O'Connell for their efforts in recognizing these honorees.

Mayor Bernstein turned the meeting over to Councilwoman Wilczynski.

Councilwoman Wilczynski stated it was recently brought to her attention, that five of Allendale's very own volunteers were at Ground Zero, and the surrounding area from September 11th to 13th, 19 years ago. She reminisced of when the steel from the World Trade Center was brought back to Allendale on the fire truck with the flag draped over it, and of the march through town to honor that occasion. She continued that this year, more than ever, it's appropriate that the Borough honor our first responders. Councilwoman Wilczynski read a proclamation, attached and made a part hereof, recognizing Allendale's First Responders Daryl D'Amore-Bottaro, Michael Blondin, Laura Dinoia, Barbara Keohane, and Denis Murphy. At the end of the presentation, Councilwoman Wilczynski invited the public to attend tomorrow's 9/11 Ceremony where these five ambulance corps members will be honored in person.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein advised that the minutes of the August 13th and August 27th Work and Regular Sessions would be carried to the September 24th meeting to give all members a chance to review them.

Mayor Bernstein stated Ordinances 20-12 and 20-13 are scheduled for public hearing and adoption tonight. He commented that Ordinance 20-12 permanently memorializes the new train parking permit renewal period and fees due to COVID-19. He also commented on Ordinance 20-13 stating that Northern Highlands and the Borough have agreed to place two Class 3 Special Law Enforcement Officers at the high school for added security measures in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, there was only one and Northern Highlands will once again be covering all expenses related to these positions. At the last meeting, two officers were appointed and sworn in as SLEOs. Ordinance 20-13, set for a second reading tonight, amends the borough code to memorialize the position of two SLEO officers.

Mayor Bernstein spoke about Ordinances 20-14 and 20-15, which are being introduced. He explained that Ordinance 20-14 amends the Borough's Bylaws to require three signatures on borough-issued checks in compliance with N.J. State

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Statutes. Ordinance 20-15 adds the title of “Director of Communications” and fixes the salary range for this position for the year 2020.

Next, Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of Resolutions 20-203 to 20-209. Of particular note, Resolution 20-204 authorizes the renewals of Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor Licenses for Allendale Bar & Grill, Savini’s, and Restaurant L and the Retail Distribution Licenses of Allendale Liquors and Walgreens, which are expiring on September 30th. Resolution 20-205 authorizes the waving of the application fees for the use of Red Barn by Allendale Garden Club, ALEOOOP, Friends of Lee Memorial Library, and the Northern Highlands Board of Education. The Mayor noted a primary concern in Allendale is public safety especially for the return of school and to that end, Resolution 20-206 authorizes the hiring of two part-time crossing guards. Resolution 20-208, which is a requirement of the Bergen County Community Development application, confirms this Council’s endorsement of Eastern Christian Children’s Retreat’s worthwhile application to offset COVID-19 expenses. The Mayor noted the appointment of John Gil as Interim Executive Assistant to the Director of Operations via Resolution 20-209. Mayor Bernstein welcomed John as a member of the Borough's team.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O’Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O’Connell reported 11,461 calls to dispatch, 1,082 “911” calls, 127 fire calls, and 280 ambulance calls to date. One new dispatcher completed training with another one completing it in a week or so. He advised that there is a Public Safety meeting on September 15 in Borough Hall at 5:30pm and Halloween will be on the agenda for discussion. Councilman O’Connell concluded by thanking Councilwoman Wilczynski for her efforts to recognize Allendale’s First Responders.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso reported that the Land Use Committee met on September 3rd and discussed the Borough’s Noise Ordinance as well as the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. He shared his awareness of people renting out playgrounds and pools at their private homes during COVID restrictions. While this doesn’t seem to be happening in Allendale, it may be something the committee wants to address in the ordinance. He reported that engineering and construction code departments were running smoothly. The Land Use Board’s meeting is next week. He thanked Councilwoman Wilczynski for her work on the 9/11 ceremony. He noted that he was the speaker last year discussing his experiences on that hard day. He was happy that Allendale was holding the ceremony in person this year. Councilman Sasso concluded by expressing his thanks to the Police Department, Governing Body, and Board of Education for the presence of Officers Bill and Dan at Northern Highlands on the first day of school. He noted as a parent of a child attending the school, it gave him relief to see them.

Mayor Bernstein thanked the Councilman for his attentiveness to Land Use. Councilman Sasso expressed gratitude for the kind words and noted that the committee works hard in the background to preserve quality of life in Allendale.

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Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan shared that on Wednesday, September 16th at 7pm there will be a virtual Water Meeting. A link was posted on the website, newsletter, and Facebook. The public is invited to learn some of the basics of how Allendale's water works as well as some of the components that are being worked on for the future. The Councilwoman reported that Phase Two water restrictions are still in effect, but expressed her hope to return to Phase One next week, especially with today's rain. Official notification will be sent via Constant Contact and the Borough's website. Next, Councilwoman Homan reported that Suez, Layne Simon and Ron Kistner all worked together to make one of the Fairhaven Tank pumps work faster and operate more efficiently. She reported on ongoing discussions regarding additional upgrades. She informed the Council that Suez had provided the Water Committee with information about the lead and copper rule initially introduced, she believed, by the EPA in 1991. Councilwoman Homan started to discuss this in greater detail however, Mayor Bernstein interjected that due to time constraints the Work Session had to end and that Councilwoman Homan could continue her report in the Regular Session.

Due to time constraints, the committee reports of Councilmembers O'Toole, Strauch, and Wilczynski were given 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 O'Toole, second by Councilwoman Homan, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk