

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein  
(*in person*)

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O’Connell (*Joined the meeting late due to technical difficulties*), 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 October 8, 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 7:30pm by Mayor Bernstein who reminded the public to mute their devices 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 public came forward for comment.

**Presentations:**

Mayor Bernstein announced that Allendale lost a pillar of our community Chief Robert Herndon on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Chief Herndon served our country in Vietnam and then the Allendale Police Dept for 41 years with 20 of those years as its Chief. As a lifelong resident, he loved volunteering; as a founding Trustee of AFEE, Chairman of our Beautification Advisory Committee, a longtime Planning Board member all for the benefit of our great community. He was also a Traffic Safety Police Officer and under his leadership as Chief, the Allendale Police Dept received the Bergen County Law Enforcement “Professionalism” Award in 1993 for being the most professional police department within Bergen County, a practice that the Mayor believed has continued through today. He had no greater pride nor devotion than to his wife, 2 daughters, and 6 grandchildren. On behalf of the governing body, Mayor Bernstein sent the deepest condolences to his family and on behalf of Allendale’s residents an unending

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2020

gratitude for all that he did for our town. The example of service that he set for our community will be a lasting testament to his life.

Councilwoman Wilczynski read a Proclamation, attached and made a part hereof, in his honor. She concluded by noting that the ceremony designed by his daughter was touching and beautiful. Hundreds of people attended to show their respect, and it was a testament to how he was; he will be missed.

Councilwoman Homan stated that Chief Herndon was such a nice part of the Allendale community and an incredible person.

Mayor Bernstein reflected on his time serving with him on the Planning Board and Council and that it was an honor and pleasure to work with Chief Herndon.

Councilman Sasso commented on his time serving with Chief Herndon on the Planning Board for many years and that it was a pleasure and honor sitting next to him. He reminisced about his retirement dinner and shared a memory of sitting and discussing his time serving in Vietnam.

Susan Herndon thanked everyone and Councilwoman Wilczynski for their kind words. She expressed how much Chief Herndon loved Allendale and how she appreciated everything that everyone has done.

Mayor Bernstein concluded by announcing that they will have a moment of silence Chief Herndon after the salute the flag at the regular session.

***Administration:***

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein advised that the minutes of the September 24<sup>th</sup> Work and Regular Sessions will be listed for the October 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

Mayor Bernstein spoke about Ordinances 20-16 and 20-17, that are scheduled and listed for introduction tonight. He explained that Ordinance 20-16 is to amend, supplement, and revise chapter 237, Article I entitled property tax refunds for disabled veterans. Ordinance 20-17 is amending, supplementing, and revising chapter 181-1 of the code of the Borough of Allendale. Mayor Bernstein invited Councilman Sasso to speak on the ordinance. Councilman Sasso informed the Mayor and Council that this ordinance is an amendment to an ordinance passed a few months ago that regulated short term rentals and the amendment extends the prohibiting of 30-day rentals, or less than 30 days rentals, to include pools, playgrounds, and driveways. He also explained the reasons that lead to this amendment. Mayor Bernstein thanked Councilman Sasso and the Land Use Committee for their work on this ordinance.

Next, Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of Resolutions 20-225 to 20-229. Of particular note, Mayor Bernstein called upon CFO Alissa Mayer to explain resolution 20-226. Ms. Mayer stated that these were prior notes

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2020

that were rolled over and were added to the 2020 Capital Ordinance of \$857,000. The total of the note with water was \$3.78 million. She informed the Mayor and Council that there were six bidders and had a net interest rate of less than half a percent. Mayor Bernstein thanked CFO Mayer and the Boroughs Bond Council for their hard work. Mayor Bernstein continued reviewing the Consent Agenda, discussing the need for Resolutions 20-227 and 20-228. On 20-229, Councilman O'Connell informed everyone that this is a part-time crossing guard should someone call in sick or take a vacation.

B. New Business

Mayor Bernstein reviewed Resolution 20-230, which was added to the agenda under New Business and invited Councilwoman Wilczynski to speak. Councilwoman Wilczynski informed the Mayor and Council that during the remediation of 220/230, testing was done prior to the backfill. The testing came back with some hot spots that require more digging. This Resolution was added as an emergency so that the hot spots can be addressed while there are crews mobilized as well as an impending storm. This going as a change order and being put under insurance. Mr. Wiss added that there are some health and safety concerns and there is a statutory protocol, which is in effect in order to adopt a resolution like this. In conjunction with the Borough's committee, environmental consultant, and engineer those protocols were adhered to, which allowed this Resolution on the agenda this evening.

C. Council Reports

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

Councilman O'Connell advised that there will be a Public Safety meeting next week. The topic will be Halloween and whether or not to close Dale Ave. After the meeting, he will email seek input. He reported 12,476 calls to dispatch, 1,204 "911" calls, 134 fire calls, and 303 ambulance calls to date. He informed everyone the Police Dept. is taking applications for new officers, with a limit of 100 and 78 received to date. The test will be on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Councilman O'Connell stated that there were two quarantined officers that should be back over the weekend after negative test results.

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

Councilman Sasso reported that the Land Use Committee has not met since the last council meeting. The highlight of the Committee is Ordinance 20-17, which after first reading will go to the Land Use Board to determine consistency with the master plan. It will then be listed for second reading on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

Councilwoman Homan informed residents that Suez is in the process of doing fire hydrant flushing. The Fair Haven tank is scheduled to be drained and then cleaned inside. Residents will be notified in that area. She added that the bill list included the purchase of multiple meters and other supplies that are needed to keep the system running smoothly. She stated that she attended a program that the NJDEP Water Quality Committee hosted on the emerging contaminants that NJDEP would be investigating at the New Jersey level as well as the EPA. She, along with Councilman Sasso and Mayor Bernstein, met with the NJDEP team and that there was excellent

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
October 8, 2020

communication on the implementation of the PFAS guidelines and MCL that will go into effect in January of 2021. She stated that Allendale, once again, has established itself as a community that is forward-thinking that we have completed a feasibility study on PFAS and are actively learning and taking steps to be prepared. She informed everyone that she has had multiple meetings with Suez on items pertaining to the maintenance of our water system. The Councilwoman thanked the entire Water Committee team for their excellent work. She added that there will be a second virtual water meeting covering emerging contaminants.

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

Councilwoman Wilczynski gave an update on 220/230. They finished the review of the pilots and have sent them to Hampshire for their review. Also being reviewed are the Redevelopment Agreements with the redevelopment attorney as well as the Municipal Facility Agreement is being worked on. The Land Use Board will meet on October 21<sup>st</sup> and a vision committee meeting will be held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Remediation will commence again and they are hoping to get everything out before the rain on Sunday. The Councilwoman informed everyone that they are hoping to place the order for the new playground soon. She also stated that the Streetscape program is going very well. The sidewalk demo on one side is almost complete and the pavers have arrived. She reminded everyone that this project is being paid for by a grant and that upon completion there will be more trees than in the past.

Due to time constraints, the committee reports of Councilmembers O'Toole and Strauch were given 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 Homan, second by Councilman O'Toole, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan  
Acting Municipal Clerk