

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein
(*in person*)

PRESENT: Councilmembers Edward O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch, and Amy Wilczynski
(*via teleconference*)

ABSENT: Councilwoman Liz Homan

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 22, 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:

Kristen Tsarnas, 74 Heights Rd, asked Councilman Sasso about the procedure for following up on questions posed at the Land Use Board Meeting concerning the 220/230 property. Councilman Sasso stated that he is recused from that application's hearing, however he explained that generally any board member, member of the public, witness, or representative of the witness can go back to deferred questions. Mayor Bernstein, who is recused as well, concurred and stated that Chairman Quinn and Board Attorney Botta will provide ample opportunity for the public to ask questions.

No other public came forward for comment.

Presentations:

Mayor Bernstein presented a commendation to Communications Officer Shafeq Zarif, making the following statement of his accomplishment.

On June 16, 2020 Communications Officer Shafeq Zarif answered a 9-1-1 hangup call. Upon callback, the caller was confused and stated that both he and a female had fallen down the stairs. The caller reported that the female was unconscious and CO

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2020

Zarif determined she was in distress and in need of emergency assistance. The caller could not provide an exact address and their location only registered to the nearest cell tower. Through perseverance, asking specific, guided questions, remaining calm and relying on his training and experience, CO Zarif was able to determine their location and dispatch appropriate emergency services. CO Zarif's actions not only prevented further injury, but he quite probably saved the female's life.

Shafeq, you are a hero and on behalf of the entire Borough of Allendale, thank you for your professionalism and for answering those calls when needed. We get regular updates from Councilman O'Connell with the numbers, the thousands of emergency and non-emergency calls, that are received by you and your colleagues. It is comforting and reassuring to know that you and Allendale's team of dispatchers, police officers, volunteer firefighters and ambulance corps members are all there, keeping us safe, and coming to our rescue when called, most times during crisis, on the worst day of our lives. While dispatchers might not be the ones first thought of when public safety comes to mind, you are truly the first line of response and we are grateful that you have chosen Allendale.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda starting with consideration of the September 24th Work & Regular Sessions, with all governing body members eligible to vote. The minutes of the October 8th Work and Regular Session will be listed on the November 12th meeting. He spoke about second reading of Ordinance 20-16 and thoroughly reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of Resolutions 20-232 to 20-243.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell reported 12,898 calls to dispatch, 1,257 "911" calls, 134 fire calls, and 311 ambulance calls to date. An entry exam for the possible hiring of a police officer was conducted and explained the process of that possible hiring. Regarding Halloween, he advised that the Borough will not be closing Dale Ave and New St and encouraged everyone celebrating to follow CDC guidelines.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso reported the committee had to cancel their October 20th meeting but did have a short meeting this past Wednesday to address some urgent issues. He advised that the Land Use Board discussed Ordinance 20-17, amendment to Chapter 181, and that he received notification from Board Attorney Botta that it was consistent with the Borough's Master Plan.

In Councilwoman Homan's absence, Councilman Sasso gave the Water Committee report. The next meeting meeting will be October 26th, the Fairhaven tank is currently being cleaned and expected to be back online next week, and another virtual meeting focusing on emergening contaminants and the economics of water is being planned.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2020

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski gave an update on 220/230's remediation and stated that a grant has been applied for to offset a portion of the cleanup. She announced that there will be a Town Hall on Thursday, October 29th regarding the questions that have come up on the new municipal building. The meeting will be an opportunity to talk about the global picture, the history of the project, and the reasons why the Borough is moving forward with the project. She informed the Council that the Streetscape project is coming along wonderfully and gave an update on the status of the work. She reminded everyone that the project has been funded with three different grants and that at the completion, there will be more trees in the downtown. She also provided an update on the playground renovation project, which is funded through Bergen County Open Space Grants. Mayor Bernstein thanked her for her hard work.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole stated that the committee had not met since the last meeting, but that discussions regarding ongoing as well as upcoming contract negotiations, personnel and financial matters had occurred.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch reported that the DPW is preparing for winter and that Crestwood Lake has been closed and drained. Curbside leaf pickup has started and the schedule can be found on the website. He advised that he and Mark Stavistano visited Sussex County's Recycling Center to see their facility and operations including Styrofoam recycling. They plan to review their findings with the DPW Committee. He complimented Land Use Board Chair Kevin Quinn on his handling of their recent meeting and expressed that he felt the public questions were good. He then reviewed the procedures for public questions and assured that all questions and opinions can be voiced at the end of the hearing.

C. Mayor's Report

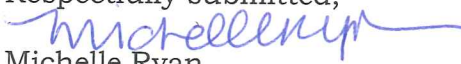
Due to time constraints, this agenda item was addressed during the Regular Session.

D. Staff Reports

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

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman O'Toole, second by Councilman O'Connell, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk