

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
November 12, 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
Acting Municipal Clerk Michelle Ryan
CFO Alissa Mayer

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 November 12, 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:

Erika Leeuwenburgh, 100 Midwood Ave, read a prepared statement on behalf of some members of the Vision Committee expressing their concern and feeling of limited input regarding the redevelopment plan for 220/230 West Crescent Avenue. Councilwoman Wilczynski responded to the issues expressed and also requested the names of the Vision Committee that Ms. Leeuwenburgh was representing, however she was advised that they wished to remain anonymous. As discussion continued, Mayor Bernstein respectfully interjected stating that this was not the forum for dialog and discussion should take place at a different time.

No other public came forward for comment.

Presentations:

CFO Alissa Mayer spoke on the Best Practices Inventory Checklist, a state requirement for municipalities. She reported that there were no areas that needed to be addressed and the Borough was very compliant with the standard best practices recommended by the Department of Community Affairs. There were 60 questions in total, some new

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and some repeat, 29 of which were scored and 31 unscored, which are used by the DCA to solicit information on a variety of topics. Of the 29 scored questions, Allendale responded yes to 24, 4 were not applicable due to being a small municipality and 1 was a no. The Borough will be receiving its full portion of State Aid. Mayor Bernstein and Councilmembers Wilczynski and Homan thanked Ms. Mayer for her efforts.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda, starting with consideration of the October 8th Work & Regular Sessions. He advised of everyone's attendance and eligibility to vote. He spoke about Ordinances 20-17, which is scheduled and listed for second reading and public hearing tonight, and the introduction of Ordinances 20-18. Next, Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of Resolutions 20-244 to 20-255. Councilwoman Wilczynski spoke to Resolution 20-254 & 20-255 giving background and insight on the playground equipment being purchased.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell reported 13,550 calls to dispatch, 1,364 "911" calls, 143 fire calls, and 341 ambulance calls to date. He reported on the current status of officers regarding COVID and reminded everyone to continue to follow CDC guidelines. There will be meetings for OEM and Public Safety next week.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso provided an update on the committee's work to address quality of life issues. Their next meeting will be November 20th. Mayor Bernstein commended the Councilman on his diligent efforts for the residents' benefit.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan discussed the recent passage of the State's law banning single-use plastic and paper bags. She informed everyone of her attendance at the upcoming Northwest Bergen Virtual Mayors' Meeting, where she will discuss drinking water and potential collaborative efforts with other smaller municipal water operators. She also gave an update on the Fairhaven tank, hydrant flushing by Suez, and the review of water rates and potential service charges for next year due to increased maintenance and infrastructure improvements. She concluded by inviting everyone to the second virtual water meeting being held on December 9th.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski gave an update on 220/230 meetings that have been held including a Vision Committee meeting and the Virtual Town Hall. She reviewed the reasons why the development of this property is important to the Borough. She advised that work continues on various aspects including legal documents, remediation, the insurance carrier, and exploring more grant opportunities from the DEP. Next, she gave an update on the downtown streetscape project.

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Due to time constraints, the remainder of Councilwoman Wilczynski, as well as Councilman O'Toole and Strauch's reports, were given in the Regular Session.

C. Mayor's Report

Due to time constraints, Mayor Bernstein gave his report 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 Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilman Sasso, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk