

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
December 3, 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

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 December 3, 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 member of the public came forward.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda starting with consideration of the October 22nd Work & Regular Sessions. He advised that Councilwoman Homan was absent and would need to abstain. On Ordinance 20-18, scheduled for second reading and public hearing, Mr. Wiss provided the background and stated that the purpose of this ordinance is to set objective, weighted criteria for police department promotions. Councilman O'Toole discussed Resolutions 20-256 and 20-257, which authorize special emergency measures due to COVID-19-related revenue losses. Regarding Resolution 20-258, Alissa Mayer, CFO, advised that this resolution was necessary to amend an existing ordinance to add funds to finish out the acquisition and sale of 220/230. Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed Ordinances 20-19, 20-21, 20-22, 20-23, and 20-24 that were introduced at this evening's meeting. Of note on the Consent Agenda, Resolutions 20-259 to 20-264, the Borough is happy to approve

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a Memorandum of Understanding with the UPSEU White Collar Unit employees for a new contract. Finally, the Mayor stated that at the end of the Regular Work Session the Governing Body would be going into closed Executive Session via Resolution 20-265 to discuss two attorney client privilege matters, an update on contract negotiations with the PBA and a potential litigation matter, as well as a prospective personnel matter in the Police Department. No action will be taken on items once they return to the open session.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell informed the public that he had two items for closed session. He provided an update on OEM meetings and advised that the borough has "PPE" readily available. He reported 14,287 calls to dispatch, 1,464 "911" calls, 150 fire calls, and 360 ambulance calls to date. He concluded by announcing that Alex Helmer is training for LEAD instructor.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso gave an update on the Land Use Committee meeting held earlier in the day, at which property maintenance issues and amendments to the garage sale and sidewalk ordinances were discussed. He complimented Director of Operations Ron Kistner and reminded residents that sidewalks and curbs are the responsibility of the homeowner with the only exception being when the sidewalk is damaged as a result of a Borough shade tree.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan reported that her presentation at the Northwest Bergen Mayors Virtual Meeting received positive responses for setting up a joint meeting with the NJDEP and establishing a Northwest Bergen Drinking Water working group to collaborate on purchasing and sharing of information. Mayor Bernstein gave high praise for the Councilwoman's presentation. She announced that the next Virtual Water Meeting would be held on December 9th and provided an update on the quality of Allendale's water, which meets/exceeds standards, and the authorization by the Water Committee for testing of a new emerging contaminant 1,4-Dioxane.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski shared updates on the 220/230 project: agreements are being reviewed; remediation cap bid is forthcoming once test results are received; and grants to offset these costs are being pursued. She announced two more Land Use Board Meetings regarding this application on December 14th and December 16th. She thanked Allendale's DPW for installing holiday wreaths downtown and provided an update on the streetscape project, which is completely funded through grants. The Borough was just recently awarded another \$250,000 grant to continue this project. The Councilwoman discussed the sessions she attended during the NJ League of Municipalities Virtual Conference and encouraged everyone to attend the Virtual Water Meeting hosted by Councilwoman Homan. Mayor Bernstein thanked the Councilwoman for her hard work.

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Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources
Councilman O'Toole stated that work on the budget has already begun with departments turning in their initial budget requests. He also advised that the committee has also been working on personnel matters and contracts.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works
Councilman Strauch also encouraged residents to attend the Virtual Water Meeting on December 9th and complimented Councilwoman Homan for all the work she has done. The DPW has winterized all buildings, fields and the sprinkler systems as well as prepared equipment for winter weater and put up holiday decorations downtown. They also took delivery of a new street sweeper, which will now give the Borough more control. He recognized Ron Kistner and his team for delivering services and doing it all under budget. Mayor Bernstein concurred with Councilman Strauch.

Due to time constraints, Mayor Bernstein gave his report during the Regular Session.

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 Strauch, second by Councilman Sasso, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted


Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk