

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
December 17, 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 17, 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. 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 November 12th Work & Regular Sessions. All members were present and eligible to vote. The Mayor then announced that at the Regular Meeting Nicole DiPasquale would be hired via Resolution 20-266 and sworn in as Allendale's newest Police Officer. He announced Ordinances 20-19, 20-20, 20-21, 20-22, 20-23, and 20-24 are scheduled for second reading and public hearing tonight and reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of Resolutions 20-267 to 20-278. He noted a change on Resolution 20-278 amending the 10th line down for the Director of Operations from \$139,528 to \$145,000. Finally, the Mayor stated that at the end of the Regular Work Session that they would be going into closed Executive Session via Resolution 20-279 for the purpose of contract negotiations in the Water Department. No action will be taken on items once they return to the open session.

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B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell provided an update on OEM's activities. At their latest meeting, they discussed the rising numbers and having Mayor Bernstein resume his video messages. The vaccine will be given to essential personnel first and the State's goal is to have everyone vaccinated by May. He encouraged everyone to continue to socially distance and wash hands. There have been 14,737 calls to dispatch, 1,511 "911" calls, 157 fire calls, and 372 ambulance calls to date. He also updated everyone on the status of police training. He concluded by offering his condolences to Scott Zieber's family and listed Mr. Zieber's many accomplishments.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso stated that the Land Use Committee is reviewing draft ordinance amendments and they are eager to tackle the noise ordinance. The Land Use Board would attempt to hold one more meeting by the end of the year, if possible.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan started her report by remembering Scott Zieber and gave condolences to his family. She then gave an update on the Water Committee meeting. In the update, she advised that the water utilization for the last two months has only been Allendale water, which is positive, and she praised the work of Jeff Picinich and Layne Simon. There will be a necessary water rate increase starting Q1 of 2021. She updated on the Community Water meeting that she hosted and thanked the Water Committee for putting together the information and the public for attending. She stated that she received very positive feedback from the meeting. Finally, she gave a status update on setting up a meeting with the NJDEP with other elected officials from the North-West Bergen Mayors group.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski announced that the Land Use Board Meeting unanimously voted to approve Hampshire's 220/230 application. She then gave an overview and background and the positive impact this project will have on the community. She congratulated "Hometown Hero" Heidi Gross whose many accomplishments were recognized and honored by Congressman Gottheimer. One hundred twenty-five goodie bags were assembled and distributed through volunteer efforts. She stated that there was tremendous feedback. The lighting portion of the downtown streetscape project will be done in February or sooner. She offered her condolences to Scott Zieber and his family. She concluded by praising the DPW for spotless roadways after the recent storm and Councilwoman Homan for her efforts on the Water Committee.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole gave an update on the Committee's meeting earlier in the evening. The 2021 budget was discussed as well as some issues that revenues being down have created and exploring upgrades to the Borough's website.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

The Councilman thanked the DPW for working through the night and doing a great job

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to clear the snow from the roadways from the recent storm. He updated the Council on the positive addition of the new street sweeper and informed everyone that a new rooftop heater was installed at the DPW. Councilman Strauch concluded by thanking all the Borough's volunteers. He expressed how Scott Zieber exemplified that service and shared that he will miss him.

C. Mayor's Report

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 meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilman Strauch, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk