

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2018

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Council members Ari Bernstein, Liz Homan, Steve Sasso, and Jim Strauch

ABSENT: Council members Edward O'Connell and Amy Wilczynski

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Ray Wiss
Municipal Clerk Anne Dodd

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 January 25, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Elizabeth White who asked that the 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 one came forward.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White advised that the Minutes of the January 4, 2018 Reorganization Meeting, January 11, 2018 Closed Executive Session, January 11, 2018 Work Session, and January 11, 2018 Regular Session are listed for approval.

With respect to the ordinances which are listed for public hearing and adoption, Mayor White explained that Ordinance 18-01 establishes the salary ranges for the Borough employees listed within the ordinance. She noted that Ordinance 18-02 creates the position of Assistant Fire Official in order to provide coverage for those times that the Fire Official is unavailable. She advised that Ordinance 18-03, which combines the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment, was explained in detail upon introduction. She thanked all individuals who have served on both boards as they are all true professionals who have given their time to serve the community. She expressed her opinion that the decision to combine the boards will be a cost savings, will increase efficiency and increase resident satisfaction. She further commented that the fees will now be adequate as a result of this ordinance and professionals will be involved from the start.

Borough Attorney Wiss explained that the Statute provides for four classes of membership, all of which are mayoral appointments. Although not required, he noted that, in the interest of transparency, a resolution to memorialize these appointments is listed on tonight's agenda.

Mayor White advised that these appointments have been staggered to allow for rotation. She noted that there are four alternates being appointed which should prevent issues with having a quorum.

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She thanked those who are willing to serve, commenting that there are people with a lot of experience coming onto the board.

Mayor White then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. She highlighted Resolution #18-69, noting that this resolution pertains to the note for Orchard Commons Park the annual payment of which is paid for by the Open Space Trust Fund. She advised that they conducted a note sale and this resolution pertains to this note sale, commenting that the rates came in slightly higher than hoped.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor White advised that she along with Councilman Bernstein and Councilwoman Wilczynski met with Congressman Gottheimer this morning to discuss how he can be of assistance to Allendale. She expressed that she looks forward to continuing to work with him to see what returns Allendale can receive on the tax dollars that are being sent outside the State.

Mayor White reported that she met with Cub Scout Pack 252 as they were working on their Civics merit badge. She noted that they were a wonderful group and asked great questions.

Mayor White attended the Library Board Reorganization Meeting. She advised that the library is experiencing issues with book delivery, commenting that this issue is being experienced statewide due to a new delivery service. She noted that approximately 1,200 books from the Borough's collection are missing and explained that the system will not currently allow holds to be placed on books. As circulation numbers are currently down, she noted that this issue is causing additional budgetary impacts. Both BCCLS and the Lee Memorial Library Board are urging the State to address this situation.

Mayor White attended a meeting of the Allendale/Upper Saddle River Coalition. She remarked that they continue to make progress. An email was distributed containing a survey regarding substance abuse issues which will be used in determining the programs that would be beneficial to the community going forward. She asked anyone who received this survey to distribute it to others in the community. The schools were also requested to distribute this survey to parents.

The Northwest Berge Municipal Coalition meeting may need to be rescheduled due to a conflict with an event at Ramsey High School which features the author of *What Made Maddy Run*.

C. Council Reports

Councilman Strauch – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Strauch reported that the next Land Use and Construction Code Committee is scheduled on February 2nd.

With respect to the Allendale Volunteer Goose Patrol Commission, he advised that the first commission meeting was held earlier this evening. He explained that the inspection process was expanded to include the handler, and as a result, there were no complaints lodged against the Goose Patrol this past year. He noted that they have always received good feedback from the Board of Health and have recently received compliments from other Borough officials.

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Mayor White commented that the AVGP has done an outstanding job and is one of the models for the County.

Councilwoman Homan - Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan thanked Ron Kistner, Director of Operations, Mike Vreeland, Borough Engineer, and Alissa Mayer, CFO, as they did a good job of providing a status of the various issues with which the Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee has been dealing. The committee is looking at capital projects to be undertaken as they are dealing with an aging system. She advised that this committee will meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

Councilman Bernstein – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Bernstein advised that the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee met earlier this evening to review the budget. He noted that the budget is very challenging as a lot of numbers are not within the municipality's control. He commented that they are being vigilant when it comes to budget numbers that can be controlled, noting that the Borough has always worked to be financially conservative and responsible. He reported that he participated in Congressman Gottheimer's telephone conference with Mayor and Council members from his district to discuss ways to give charitable tax credits as a solution for residents affected by the new cap on state and local (SALT) deductions. He expressed that the Borough is on board to the extent that this proposal works. He advised that legislation on this matter is awaited as well as guidance and direction as to what actions to take.

Councilman Sasso – Public Safety

Councilman Sasso reported that the Public Safety Committee will hold its first meeting on January 30th. Separate meetings with the Fire Department, Ambulance Corps, and CERT will be scheduled and joint meetings will be held on an as-needed basis. As part of his occupation, he participated in a conference call regarding the use of social media by Public Safety and expressed that, although Allendale is very transparent, he would like to explore how Public Safety can make better use of this form of communication. He and Mayor White participated in a planning call with the NJ DEP to discuss details for the Town Hall meeting scheduled on February 7th at 7 p.m. The subject matter will be the biology, ecology and management of white tailed deer.

Mayor White noted that although governing body members may attend this meeting as members of the audience, this meeting is not a Mayor and Council meeting. She further advised that she will M.C. this event but no action will be taken that evening nor can questions can be answered about action being taken by the Mayor and Council.

D. Staff Reports

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

E. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items.

Adjournment

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There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Strauch, second by Councilwoman Homan, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk