

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2018

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Councilmembers Ari Bernstein, Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: None

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 May 24, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor 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:

Tony Manahan, 69 Heights Road, expressed concern regarding the condition of the property located at 47 Heights Road and inquired the status of the construction.

Mayor White advised that she would request information from the Director of Operations and Borough Engineer and would report back.

Kristen Tsarnas, 74 Heights Road, inquired whether the fact that Saddle River's plan to sterilize deer was rejected affects what can be done in Allendale. She further inquired how residents can assist the Council in implementing a deer management plan.

Mayor White advised that Saddle River has expressed interest in partnering with Allendale on a deer management plan. She noted that although hunting with bows and arrows is currently permitted in Allendale, no hunting is permitted in Saddle River. She explained that arrangements may be made to put a deer management plan into place in September and a public announcement would be made at a Mayor and Council meeting in the fall should the Borough decide to proceed.

Councilwoman Wilczynski noted that Saddle River would need to adopt amendments to the Borough ordinances prior to implementing a deer management plan.

Mayor White added that Ramsey and Upper Saddle River would also like to partner with Allendale, noting that this subject has been discussed at the Northwest Bergen Mayors' meetings for the past three years.

Ms. Tsarnas requested that the NJ DEP presentation be broken down into talking points that can be communicated to the public so that the impact of the deer population can be fully understood.

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Carol Holder, Chair of the Franklin Lakes Environmental Commission, advised that she has been working with the Environmental Club at the Bergen County Academies to say no to plastic bags. She detailed some of the ways in which they plan to inform the public on the dangers of plastic bags and provided the governing body with some information on this topic.

Councilwoman Wilczynski advised that the governing body is looking to put out information to the public regarding recycling and noted that they do currently have a bin to recycle plastic bags at the recycling center.

Morgan and Brendan Mundahl, 707 Franklin Turnpike, explained that they are attending tonight's meeting in order to earn their Communications merit badge with Troop 59. They advised that they are both sophomores at Northern Highlands Regional High School.

Administration:

A. Communication Guidelines

Councilwoman Wilczynski reviewed guidelines for communicating information to the public which she commented were already being followed but have now been more formalized. She discussed the forms of communication being implemented which include social media, the Borough website, and SwiftReach and explained the type of information being posted to each format and the people who are responsible for posting this information. She noted that reverse 911 messages through SwiftReach will be reserved for emergency information.

Mayor White commented that the use of SwiftReach has been donated to the Borough and greater use will be made of it. She further advised that the Borough's Facebook and Twitter feeds are linked to the Borough website.

Councilman Bernstein advised that the potential of posting the agenda to Facebook was discussed by the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee.

Mayor White expressed her opinion that people should be directed to the Borough website for the agenda as the website is the vehicle to disseminate Borough news and Facebook is a social platform.

It was agreed that the meeting dates would be posted to Facebook and the public would be directed to the website to view the agenda. It was noted that the governing body members are accessible via email or phone should residents have any questions or concerns.

Councilwoman Wilczynski advised that she and Councilman Sasso met with the Police Chief and discussed sharing each other's posts on social media.

B. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She highlighted the portion of the agenda pertaining to the Bergen County Open Space grant application and requested that Councilwoman Wilczynski provide more information on this application.

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Councilwoman Wilczynski explained that funding is being sought to restore and enhance the trails that are located behind Field 5. She noted that there has been a lot of support from the community and schools for this project as these trails can be used for both fitness and nature walks. She commented that the goal would be to make these trails ADA compliant.

C. Mayor's Report

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

D. Council Reports

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

E. Staff Reports

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

F. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items.

Adjournment

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 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk