

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
July 26, 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 July 26, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 Manihan, 69 Heights Road, requested an update on the Borough's action with respect to the condition of the property located at 47 Heights Road.

Mayor White advised that the Borough officials are working with the homeowners to address the property maintenance issues, noting that summonses have been issued. She advised that she would get back to Ms. Manihan in the morning with more detailed information.

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, expressed concern regarding the large amount of water present at the property located on Ivers Road and inquired whether the County would be spraying this area for mosquitos.

Mayor White explained that this hole is a detention basin which is meant to retain water. She stated that this property is not Borough-owned and the owner of this property would be responsible for its maintenance.

Mr. Savastano provided Councilman Sasso with a picture of a sidewalk being lifted by a shade tree at the east corner of Myrtle Avenue and requested follow up.

Presentations:

A. Proclamation – National Night Out

Councilwoman Wilczynski read the following proclamation into the record:

**Proclamation
In Honor Of
National Night Out**

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WHEREAS, the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is sponsoring a unique, nationwide crime, drug and violence prevention program on August 7th, 2018 entitled "National Night Out"; and

WHEREAS, the "35th Annual National Night Out" provides a unique opportunity for the Borough of Allendale to join forces with thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative, police-community crime prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, the USRA Coalition plays a vital role in assisting the Allendale Police Department through joint crime, drug and violence prevention efforts in the Borough of Allendale and is supporting "National Night Out 2018" locally; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that all citizens of the Borough of Allendale be aware of the importance of crime prevention programs and impact that their participation can have on reducing crime, drugs and violence in Allendale; and

WHEREAS, police-community partnerships, neighborhood safety, awareness and cooperation are important themes of the "National Night Out" program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale do hereby call upon all Allendale citizens of the Borough of Allendale to join the USRA Coalition, the National Association of Town Watch in supporting "35th Annual National Night Out" on August 7th, 2018.

FURTHER, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale do hereby proclaim Tuesday, August 7th, 2018 as "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT" in Allendale.

Mayor White advised that the Borough will be hosting National Night Out, sponsored by the USRA Coalition on August 7, 2018 at the Van Houten Pavilion located at Crestwood Lake. She noted that this coalition received a \$125,000 grant to combat mental health and addiction issues. First responders from Ho-Ho-Kus, Saddle River, Upper Saddle River, and Allendale will be in attendance and there will be food trucks, giveaways, and games for the children.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She advised that the July 12th Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval. She then reviewed the resolutions that are listed on the Consent Agenda. She highlighted Resolution #18-185 which approves the collective bargaining agreement with the PBA and she commended the officers who were involved in the negotiations, noting that they were professional and thoughtful in the process. She stated that a 1.7% salary increase was agreed upon by the parties.

Mayor White advised that Resolution #18-188 authorizes the renewal of the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund membership. She explained that the municipality has explored obtaining its own insurance through the private market but found that it does not make sense as JIF has been a real bonus for municipalities.

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B. Mayor's Report

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not addressed.

C. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Works

Councilman O'Connell advised that the DPW met with Junior Football to discuss widening the field. Storm drains are being cleared of debris to ensure that the water flows properly during the recent heavy rainstorms. Ron Kistner, Director of Operations, has been monitoring the West Crescent Avenue Culvert project, and despite the rain, progress is being made. Woodland Avenue is scheduled to be paved, but first, the condition of several waterlines will be checked.

Mayor White requested that residents clear debris from storm drains if noticed. She also noted that the West Crescent Culvert Repair project is a County project and is expected to take three to four weeks.

Councilman Sasso – Public Safety

Councilman Sasso advised that he is in the process of scheduling the next Public Safety Committee meeting. The Police Department is hiring Crossing Guards and one Per Diem Dispatcher. Additional signage has been placed to notify motorists of the West Crescent Avenue detour. Councilman Sasso asked residents to be mindful of car thefts and advised that key fobs should not be left in vehicles. An arrest was made in one car theft and some of the stolen merchandise found in the vehicle belonged to an Allendale resident. Residents are encouraged to contact the Allendale Police Department if they notice any suspicious behavior. Councilman Sasso then reviewed the various training activities in which officers have participated.

Councilman Bernstein – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Bernstein announced that the next Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee meeting is scheduled on September 12th. The new tax rate has been determined and it is 2.29 versus last year's rate of 2.28. Councilman Bernstein explained that, on the average assessed home, the municipal increase is \$19.77 over as year and the total increase is \$59.30. He noted that the committee looks at very single line item when preparing the budget as every dollar is important. He commented that certain increases are out of the Borough's control and the committee will continue to explore ways to keep living in Allendale affordable while keeping services at the current level.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that the Crestwood Lake season is going well despite the weather which has caused frequent closures. The softball tournament was held but ended early due to inclement weather.

Councilman Bernstein noted that this tournament is well-attended and commended Councilwoman Wilczynski and George Mamunes for the great job that they have done in putting this tournament together.

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Councilwoman Wilczynski reviewed upcoming events at the lake which included the Carole King Band on August 4th, National Night Out on August 7th, Sunday with Sinatra on August 12th, the Nerds on the rescheduled date of August 28th, and Floyd Pink on September 1st. She advised that she is beginning to plan the 9/11 Ceremony and is working with the history teacher at Northern Highlands to have the reading of the timeline incorporated into the program so that this tradition can continue in perpetuity.

Due to time constraints, the remaining Council Reports were carried to the Regular Session.

D. Staff Reports

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

E. Correspondence

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

Closed Session:

Due to time constraints, the Closed Session was held at the conclusion of the Regular Session.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Bernstein, 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