

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2018

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

ABSENT: Councilmember 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 August 23, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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:

Erika Leeuwenburgh, 100 Midwood Avenue, inquired whether she has missed any meetings of the Senior Housing Committee.

Mayor White advised that the committee currently meets quarterly. She explained that changes need to be made to the bylaws as it is anticipated that this board will be combined with Allendale Housing, Inc. She commented that she will reach out to Ms. Leeuwenburgh about serving on this board.

Ms. Leeuwenburgh presented several questions regarding the RFQ for 220 and 230 which included which area would be considered environmentally sensitive as referenced in the RFQ, whether there have been any pre-submission site visits, whether there have been any regulations put into place regarding the affordable housing and first responder housing components of this property, and whether a traffic study has been completed.

Mayor White advised that the environmentally sensitive area is the wetlands in the back of the property. She explained this land is planned to be carved out and ownership retained by the Borough with the possibility of being preserved as wetlands or turned into a park depending upon the classification given by the DEP and EPA. She advised that there have been pre-submission site visits but noted that she is unable to disclose who visited or the number of visits as it could potentially affect negotiations. She explained that, with respect to affordable housing, those chosen to be residents are subject to a very rigorous process which is regulated by the State. In terms of the choice for first responders, she expressed her belief that the Borough would most likely engage a third party to handle this aspect. With respect to senior housing, a list is maintained by Shari DePalma from Madeline Corp. Mayor White advised that although a recent traffic study has not been completed, a study may be done depending on the proposals that are received.

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Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session Agenda, providing a brief synopsis of the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. With respect to Resolution #18-207, she advised that this resolution authorizes a second extension of the Developer's Agreement for the property on Ivers. She explained that the Borough Engineer has advised that most aspects of this project are substantially complete with the roadway being the major component that is still outstanding. This extension will allow time for the outstanding items to be completed. She advised that the developer will be submitting paperwork to obtain the first permit in the near future.

Borough Attorney Wiss stated that all bonding will remain in place in the interim.

Mayor White commented that the head wall has been ordered and landscaping has been completed which has helped with the aesthetics of the property.

B. Mayor's Report

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

C. Council Reports

Councilman Sasso – Public Safety

Councilman Sasso reported that the Public Safety Committee met this morning. Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, has proposed that the Borough lease rather than purchase police vehicles as a cost savings measure. This proposal will be forwarded to the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee for review. He noted that police vehicles are subject to a lot of wear and tear, expressing concern that, as police presence is required for utility work, wear and tear on the vehicle is not taken into consideration when reimbursements are made to the municipality. First responders are completing training drills at 200 West Crescent which is owned by Eastern Christian Children's Retreat and will be repurposed into a special needs housing facility. The new school year will be starting soon and the Police Department will continue enforcement efforts, such as crosswalk enforcement, to ensure pedestrian safety. Concerns have been expressed regarding the legalization of marijuana. An ordinance may be introduced on September 13th to restrict recreational marijuana sales and permit the sale of medicinal marijuana through a medical dispensary in the E and EM Zones.

Councilman O'Connell – Public Works

Councilman O'Connell advised that street sweeping, storm drain cleaning and pothole repairs are being completed. The Multipurpose Field is being prepared for fall sports. The DPW is also preparing for the 9/11 Ceremony.

Councilman Bernstein – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Bernstein announced that final tax bills will be mailed next week. The GovPilot demonstration will be held at 3:30 p.m. on September 12th and the process of switching to this program will begin in October to ensure that it will be up and running in January. Accuscan is in the process of scanning and destroying records that had been located at the Water Department.

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Councilman Bernstein advised that there has been a recent request to video stream Council meetings. He commented that, although there has not been an overwhelming number of requests for this medium, the Council is open to evaluating this possibility. He noted that the audio recording is available on the Borough website the day following a meeting. He expressed that there are concerns associated with video recording meetings such as cost, effects on participation, and legal issues. He advised that he and Mr. Savastano met to discuss Mr. Savastano's offer to provide IT services to the Borough at no cost. Mr. Savastano was going to look into the matter further and get back to Councilman Bernstein in a week. The next Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee meeting is scheduled on September 12th.

Members of the governing body requested that members of the public reach out to them with their opinions on video streaming of Council meetings.

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

There were no correspondence items.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilman Sasso, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk