

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
December 27, 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 Raymond 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 December 27, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 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:

Karen Falcke-Smith, 325 Brookside Avenue, thanked Mayor White for her service to the community. She noted that when her mother, Frieda, turned 100 years old, Mayor White attended her birthday celebration and presented Ms. Falcke with a proclamation. She expressed her opinion that, under Mayor White's leadership, the town has never looked better and the Council has wisely governed Allendale. She wished Mayor White well on her retirement from local government.

Presentations:

A. Proclamation – Stiles & Lillian Thomas

Mayor White expressed that the governing body is thrilled to honor Stiles Thomas and his wife, Lillian, this evening. She then read the following proclamation into the record:

**Proclamation in Honor of
Stiles & Lillian Thomas**

Whereas, Stiles and Lillian Thomas, fondly thought of as Mr. and Mrs. Allendale, will be moving out of the Borough; and

Whereas, Stiles was born in Allendale on Christmas Day in 1923 and has been a life-long resident of this community; and

Whereas, Lillian was born on August 15, 1924 and has lived in Allendale since 1946; and

Whereas, Stiles joined the Army in November 1942 at just 18 years of age where he served as a Paratrooper and reached the rank of 1st Sergeant; and

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Whereas, *Lillian and Stiles were high school sweethearts, and upon Stiles' honorable discharge from the Army, they were married in 1946; and*

Whereas, *Stiles and Lillian raised three daughters together, Georgie, Betsy, and Judy, and have many grandchildren and great grandchildren; and*

Whereas, *both Stiles and Lillian have been active in the community, with Lillian having served the Borough as its Welfare Director and as a member of the Board of Adjustment and Stiles serving as an Allendale insurance broker for many years and as the Borough's first Marsh Warden, a position that he held for 27 years; and*

Whereas, *both Stiles and Lillian have been dedicated to protecting the environment, both having been instrumental in working to create and maintain the 107-acre Celery Farm Natural Area; and*

Whereas, *Stiles has been a staunch advocate for preserving nature, and in addition to his stewardship at the Celery Farm, he has introduced dozens of people to the joys of birding, championing the Red-shouldered Hawks of Allendale and putting up dozens of bluebird and barn owl boxes all over Bergen County to provide homes for at-risk species; and*

Whereas, *Lillian was the catalyst for preserving 20 acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands, an area that was renamed in her honor as the Lillian Thomas Natural Area and remains a beautiful and protected sanctuary for plants and wildlife.*

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, *that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale do hereby recognize Lillian and Stiles Thomas for their dedicated service and many contributions to the community and extend heartfelt wishes for continued happiness and success in their new home.*

Councilwoman Wilczynski noted that she met Mr. Thomas over 20 years ago when fighting against the condominiums that were being built at the time. She commented that, because of his help and knowledge as an environmentalist, the number of condos was reduced almost in half from the number initially proposed. She advised that the car in the Memorial Day parade will always be reserved for him.

Mayor White remarked that Mr. Thomas will always be Allendale no matter where he resides.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White advised that the December 13, 2018 Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval. She then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. She noted that Resolution #18-268 schedules the 2019 Reorganization Meeting for January 3, 2019. She highlighted Resolutions #18-275 and #18-276 explaining that both resolutions authorize the leasing of vehicles for the Allendale Police Department. She commented that it is the belief of both the Administration,

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Finance, and Human Resources and Public Safety Committees that leasing will be more advantageous than purchasing vehicles.

Councilman Bernstein advised that members of the Administration, Finance, and Human Resources committee met with Chief Scherb to discuss this matter. He noted that the Allendale Police Department did its due diligence in devising a long-range plan to bring in new vehicles in an economical fashion.

Councilwoman Wilczynski noted that, provided that this plan works out, it will allow for six new vehicles to be added to the fleet in six years. She further noted that, through this cooperative, the buyback amount is \$1 should the Borough wish to purchase the vehicle at the end of the lease.

Mayor White advised that Resolution #18-277 authorizes her to sign an agreement with Hampshire for the sale of 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue. She commented on the number of hours that have been spent in negotiating and reviewing this agreement and thanked the committee members as well as Borough Attorney Wiss and Bouregy who all worked to protect Allendale. She explained that entering into this agreement is the first step in the process and the 45-day due diligence period will commence on January 2, 2019. She expressed that it is hoped that there will be a June closing date but there will many more steps to complete in the process prior to the closing. She commended the governing body for their actions in acquiring this property as it was necessary to protect Allendale.

B. Council Reports

Councilman Strauch – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Strauch reported that the Land Use and Construction Code Committee has not met since the last Mayor and Council meeting but advised that he has sent Mayor-Elect Bernstein a summary of what has been reviewed by this committee throughout the course of the year. He commented that they had a banner year with record revenue from permits. He noted that they are working to address chronic violators while trying to be respectful to those who may be struggling. He finished by commenting on Mayor White's influence over the direction of the Council during her 12 years and thanked her for her many contributions to Allendale.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan advised that the Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee met on December 19th. There was discussion regarding the Water Quality Accountability Act and the steps involved. She commended Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, Mike Vreeland, Borough Engineer, and Layne Simon, Water Projects Coordinator, who have all assisted in moving a major project forward. She commented that the Borough has made great strides in staying ahead of the curve in terms of maintaining its water infrastructure. She noted that residents may have received a letter from Suez with information pertaining to premise-based billing. She explained that owners of rental properties are ultimately responsible for the water utilization billing. She reminded residents to review their water bill to ensure that it is not estimated.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski announced that Direct Install will be working with the Borough again. She explained that the Borough received \$100,000 in equipment and lights through this program

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previously and there will be inspections conducted of Borough facilities to see whether any updates are needed. She advised that the Historical Society has unveiled its new website, noting that Joanne Hart has spent a lot of time to put this website together. She noted that it is planned to have a history wall on display in the new Borough Hall building. She advised that there will be improvements made in the downtown through a NJ DOT grant which will include lighting, landscaping, and pavers. With respect to the mural, the side of the building needs to be repaired before work can begin. Box has been implemented which Councilwoman Wilczynski expressed will be great for future generations as important documents will be stored in this shared file system.

Councilman O'Connell – Public Works

Councilman O'Connell reported that the Public Works Committee has not met. Catch basins continue to be cleaned as well as potholes filled. He advised that there is an ample supply of salt should there be a winter storm.

Councilman Sasso – Public Safety

Councilman Sasso advised that the Public Safety Committee has not met since the last meeting. He noted that there was a fire on Christmas Eve and thanked the Fire Department, Ambulance Corps, Police Department, and six mutual aid towns who responded to this fire. He reported that no one was hurt.

Due to time constraints, Councilman Bernstein's report was carried to the Regular Session.

C. Mayor's Report

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was 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 Councilman Strauch, second by Councilman Bernstein, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk