

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole, 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 February 28, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Ari Bernstein 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 Bernstein announced that Robert Benecke, Financial Consultant, is present to discuss Ordinance 19-03 which is scheduled for introduction this evening, noting that the purpose of this ordinance is to adopt a Redevelopment Plan.

Mr. Benecke explained that he and members of his firm put together this plan to help the Borough meet its goals of repurposing 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue. He reviewed the benefits of the proposed redevelopment plan which include satisfying the Borough's affordable housing settlement obligations, providing for workforce and age-restricted housing, expanding the library, and upgrading municipal facilities. He noted that, by implementing this plan, the Borough is obtaining value to offset the acquisition costs and alleviating any issues with service loads and service costs either through tax payments or Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). He explained the process that led to this point which included conducting a redevelopment study, designating the properties as an area in need of redevelopment, receiving Solicitation of Interest/Request for Qualifications from the marketplace, and selecting the most lucrative proposal. He reviewed the purpose and public policy goals of the Redevelopment Plan. He explained the process by which this plan is implemented which begins with introducing Ordinance 19-03 this evening and transmitting the ordinance with the appended plan to the Land Use Board for review and comment. He advised that the governing body can then accept or implement the comments of the Land Use Board if it so chooses. This ordinance will be scheduled for adoption on or about March 28th, and if adopted, the Borough can proceed with its redevelopment agreement.

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Mayor Bernstein thanked Mr. Benecke for all of his assistance and guidance throughout this process as it has been instrumental. He noted that it is anticipated that this ordinance will be introduced this evening and referred to the Land Use Board for consideration at its March 20th meeting. After the Land Use Board's comments are received, the governing body will look to adopt this ordinance on March 28th.

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the remainder of the Regular Session agenda. He noted that the February 14th Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval. He then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

With respect to Resolution #19-89, Councilwoman Wilczynski explained that the Borough donates a family membership to the Allendale Woman's Club Fashion Show every year. She noted that the proceeds from this event will benefit the Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative.

Mayor Bernstein then highlighted Resolution #19-92 which appoints two Police Officers as Humane Law Enforcement Officers. Councilman Sasso commented that this appointment is State-mandated and Police Officer Mike Dillon and Detective Dan Rosendahl will both be appointed to this position.

B. Mayor's Report

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

C. Council Reports

Councilman Strauch – Public Safety

Councilman Strauch reported that the Allendale Volunteer Goose Patrol met last week and Trish Cellary was appointed as Chair of this committee. A letter has been sent to members from last year to see if they are interested in returning. The patrol is entering into its 21st year of operation and has decided to bring in outside dog trainers to assist in the registration and inspection process.

The Public Safety Committee met last Saturday. The Allendale Police Department, together with surrounding communities, have launched a program called the 9 P.M. Routine which will remind residents to take both key fobs and valuables out of their vehicles as well as to lock their vehicles. The APD is also launching a community camera partnership initiative on March 1st wherein residents and businesses with security cameras can voluntarily participate and share footage should a crime occur in their area. Rob Paulius, resident of Allendale, donated outer vest carriers and individual first aid kits to the officers in the APD at the end of 2018 which Councilman Strauch commented is representative of the Allendale tradition of donating and volunteering.

Councilman O'Toole – Public Works

Councilman O'Toole announced that the Public Works Committee meeting needed to be rescheduled to next Friday morning. He noted that the department has been busy with the recent winter storms. A meeting will be held next week to determine the work needed to prepare the fields and Crestwood Lake for spring and summer activities. The tennis courts have been cleaned and are ready to use, weather permitting. Immediately following the Public Works Committee meeting next Friday, there will be a demonstration of a new sweeper that is under consideration for purchase.

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Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski advised that she will be meeting with the Lake Director tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. to discuss new program ideas. The next Facilities, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled next Tuesday. The Bergen County Open Space grant will be repurposed to install a new playground and the 2019 grant application will soon be prepared. Councilwoman Wilczynski, together with other members of the governing body, attended a gun safety panel with the Bergen County Sheriff during which smart initiatives for gun safety were discussed. She met with Neglia Engineering today to begin working on the first phase of the Downtown Streetscape project for which it is planned to install new lighting and trash bins on one side of the street. Feedback was received from Orange & Rockland regarding the intensity of the new street lights. Although a solution is still being sought, the issue is in the process of being addressed.

Councilman Sasso – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Sasso reported that the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee is scheduled to meet on March 6th. There have been meetings solely focused on the budget in the meantime and the committee is working with Department Heads to put together the best budget possible. The Financial Advisory Committee meeting will take place on March 6th at 7 p.m.

Mayor Bernstein commented that it has been a collective effort to balance being fiscally conservative while investing in infrastructure. He commended all who have been involved in this process.

Due to time constraints, the remaining Committee 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 Councilman Strauch, second by Councilman Sasso, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk