

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

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Matthew O'Toole, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilmember Edward O'Connell

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 March 28, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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.

Presentations:

A. Proclamation – Ryan Shute

Mayor Bernstein commented that Ryan Shute, Fire Chief, has served the Borough admirably and honorably for many years, noting that Chief Shute has decided that it is now time to move on. Mayor Bernstein expressed his opinion that, as Chief Shute has been a wonderful asset to the Borough, this moment is bittersweet. He then read the following proclamation into the record:

*Proclamation
In Honor Of
Chief Ryan Shute*

Whereas, Chief Ryan Shute has given many years of dedicated service to the residents of the Borough of Allendale; and

Whereas, Ryan joined the Allendale Fire Department as a junior member in 2002 and became a full member in 2004; and

Whereas, Ryan was awarded the distinguished honor of Fireman of the Year in 2004; and

Whereas, Ryan served as Lieutenant of the Allendale Fire Department in 2007, Captain from 2008 through 2011, Assistant Chief in 2012, and Fire Chief 2013 through 2014 and 2017 to present; and

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Whereas, as a volunteer firefighter, Ryan has spent countless hours in training and has worked tirelessly to protect residents' lives and the economic life of the community from the threat of destructive fire, knowingly and willingly risking his life to protect the lives of others; and

Whereas, Ryan comes from a family of volunteers as his father, John, was an active firefighter, Fire Chief, and life member until he sadly passed away in 2014, and Ryan's sister, Meghan, is also an associate member of the Allendale Fire Department.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, along with his friends, family, and the residents of Allendale, do hereby recognize and thank Ryan Shute for all of his dedicated service to the Borough of Allendale and wish him continued success in all of his future endeavors.

Councilwoman Wilczynski thanked Chief Shute for all of his years of service to Allendale. She commented that he has always been willing to help whenever requested and has done so with an enthusiasm. She expressed her hope that this change will bring wonderful opportunities for him.

Councilman Sasso remarked that it has been his pleasure to work with Chief Shute on the Public Safety Committee and expressed his admiration for Chief Shute and the other first responders who run towards situations from which everyone else is running.

Administration:

A. Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III Position

Mayor Bernstein advised that Dr. Beckerman of Northern Highlands is present this evening as well as Chief Scherb and members of the Allendale Police Department to discuss the creation of a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III (SLEO) position within the Allendale Police Department. Mayor Bernstein noted that the Public Safety Committee had a special meeting to discuss this matter and felt that it was important to have this proposal presented to the entire governing body.

Dr. Beckerman explained that this position would be held by a retired police officer who is retired no less than three years and is under the age of 65. This officer would be hired by the Police Department and assigned to the school district. The school district's emergency funding would fund the salary for this position which Dr. Beckerman explained would come from capital reserves and would not affect the taxpayers. Dr. Beckerman noted that money was allocated in the 2019-2020 budget for this position and the Board of Education would reimburse the Borough for the cost of this officer's salary. Dr. Beckerman explained that, earlier in the year, he sent a survey to all of the Superintendents in Bergen County and most school districts have either a SLEO or SRO and almost all regional high schools have both SLEOs and SROs within their school districts. He advised that the school has taken steps to increase security in recent years, and with the addition of the SLEO, it would add the presence of an armed officer in the building for 8 hours each day.

Chief Scherb advised that the SLEO would fall under the Table of Organization and follow the rules and regulations of the Police Department and would be a liaison to the school district. Dr. Beckerman added that, although this officer reports to the Chief of Police, the job description for this position in neighboring municipalities states that reasonable requests from the school districts will not be denied.

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Borough Attorney Wiss explained that there have always been Class I and Class II officers within the statutory ambit and the Class III position was an addition of a further class that is defined as being of assistance to schools.

Dr. Beckerman noted that the amount that has been budgeted would cover the salary, uniform, weapon, training as well as other components and payment to the Borough would be handled as a reimbursement in the same manner as when officer presence is requested for a sporting event. He explained that the Department of Education's tentative 2019-2020 budget included the funding for this position and it was approved unanimously by the Board.

After some discussion regarding logistics of how special events and sick time may be handled, it was the consensus of the governing body to proceed with the creation of this position within the Police Department. Borough Attorney Wiss will draft a resolution to be placed on an upcoming agenda for approval.

B. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda. With respect to Ordinance 19-03, the purpose of which is to adopt a redevelopment plan, he commented that this ordinance was sent to the Land Use Board for review and the board found that this ordinance is not inconsistent with the Master Plan.

Mayor Bernstein advised that Ordinance 19-04, which establishes a cap bank, is a routine ordinance that is adopted every year and allows the Borough to budget up to 3.5% over the previous year's budget appropriations for use if needed. He noted that it is not anticipated that these funds will be used and advised that this amount will be banked if it is not used.

Borough Attorney Wiss explained that, in order to establish an outdoor café, Ordinance 19-05 provides for a four-foot pedestrian right-of-way on any sidewalk. Councilman Strauch added that it had previously been set at five feet which proved difficult for restaurant owners. As four feet allows for the safe passage of two pedestrians and does not violate State regulations, it was decided to make this change in order to be more business-friendly.

Due to time constraints, the remaining agenda items will be addressed during the Regular Session.

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.

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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 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk