

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch (arrived at 7:33 p.m.) 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 April 25, 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:

Kristen Tsarnas, 74 Heights Road, inquired as to her rights as well as the rights of her neighbors to obtain records regarding the construction at 47 Heights Road. She commented that, although verbal information regarding compliance with the DEP guidelines was received from the Bergen County Health Department, she would like to obtain copies of documentation confirming this information.

Borough Attorney Wiss advised that the agencies referenced would be subject to OPRA requests and copies of documents such as plans pertaining to remedial action and field reports can be requested through this channel.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, stated that the water has been pumped out of the hole and approval has been received to backfill, the date for which he will be confirming. He explained that the Bergen County Health Department will be copied on all emails pertaining to this property going forward. He advised that he will raise Ms. Tsarnas’ questions in an email to both Boswell Engineering and the Bergen County Health Department on which the neighboring residents will be copied with the hope that the information and/or documentation may be provided without having to submit an OPRA request.

Mayor Bernstein encouraged Ms. Tsarnas to reach out with questions at any time and assured her that this matter has the governing body’s attention.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda. He advised that Ordinance 19-06, which authorizes capital expenditures, is listed for adoption. He noted that \$809,000 is being financed

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2019

through Bond Anticipation Notes and explained that these funds become available 20 days after publication. With respect to Ordinance 19-07, he explained that \$31,000 is being appropriated for the installation and acquisition of fire hydrants and water meters. Mayor Bernstein requested that Councilwoman Homan explain the action that should be taken if a resident receives a water bill with an estimated reading.

Councilwoman Homan advised that the resident should call the number for Suez on their water bill and request an appointment for a meter change. She noted that when receiving estimated reads, residents do not know how much water they are actually using and would not know if there is a leak that needs to be addressed.

Mayor Bernstein then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. He advised that Resolution #19-120 which appoints a Construction Consultant for the new municipal building will be tabled to May 9th. With respect to Resolution #19-122, Mayor Bernstein noted that Dr. Beckerman, Chief Scherb, and members of the Allendale Police Department attended a recent meeting to discuss creating the Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III position within the Allendale Police Department. He explained that the safety of the children is paramount and this position will be funded by the schools.

Borough Attorney Wiss advised that this position was created through legislation approximately two to three years ago for the specific purpose of school security. This position is held by a recently retired police officer and is a fraction of the cost of a School Resource Officer which is held by a full-time, fully sworn law enforcement officer. He further advised that the cost of school security is outside of the school's budgetary cap. As this position is a municipal position that is funded by the school, it is done through an interlocal agreement.

Mayor Bernstein explained that Resolution #19-123 authorizes the Junior Police Academy which will encourage interface and integration between police officers and students, noting that Officer Azevedo who is spearheading this program is present this evening.

Officer Azevedo outlined the requirements to participate in this program and reviewed some of the activities in which the students will engage.

Borough Attorney Wiss noted that this resolution will bring the program under the Borough's insurance umbrella as it will be considered a Borough-sponsored program.

In terms of Resolution #19-124 which designates a \$4,285,000 Bond Anticipation Note as a "Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligation," Mayor Bernstein explained that these funds are a rollover of a tax-exempt obligation and no new debt is being issued in connection with 220 West Crescent Avenue. With respect to Resolution #19-126, he advised that this resolution waives the fees for use of Red Barn and West Beach for certain non-profit organizations, noting that one of these organizations is the Hemophilia Walk which will be taking place this Saturday.

Borough Attorney Wiss explained that Resolution #19-127 provides him with access to an environmental consultant should environmental issues arise during the course of the project at 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue.

B. Mayor's Report

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

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2019

C. Council Reports

Councilman Strauch – Public Safety

Councilman Strauch announced that the Public Safety Committee met with the new Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief and will be scheduling a meeting with the Ambulance Corps. The next committee meeting will be scheduled on May 21st. There have been three recent arrests. The implementation of GovPilot continues to progress. Interviews of internship candidates will take place on May 20th and 21st.

Councilman Strauch reported that, prior to this meeting, he attended an Allendale Volunteer Goose Patrol Committee meeting. The committee is in the process of finalizing the testing and registration process with which independent trainers will be assisting.

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 Councilman Strauch, second by Councilman Sasso, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk