

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Edward O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole, Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan and Steve Sasso

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 June 13, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 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:

Walter Widmer, 38 Hamilton Street, noted that certain towns have displayed the LGBTQ Pride Flag and inquired where the Borough stands on this issue.

Mayor Bernstein responded that the Borough of Allendale is completely in support of the inclusion of everyone which is evidenced by the Borough being designated as a Stigma-Free Zone as well as through the issuance of various proclamations throughout the years. He explained that there has been past practice and policy that, on government property, only the American Flag, New Jersey Flag, POW Flag, and 911 Flag are to be flown.

Mr. Widmer inquired as to the process for purchasing a vehicle and whether the Borough has control over the specifications.

It was explained that there are several different processes by which the Borough can purchase vehicles. Borough Attorney Wiss confirmed that the Borough specifies options to the extent that it is able. He noted that, when dealing with a cooperative or State contract with respect to police or fire vehicles, they typically specialize in having all of the necessary equipment.

Presentations:

A. Proclamation – National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Mayor Bernstein advised that he had authorized a proclamation in honor of National Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 7th. He then read this proclamation into the record:

*PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN
JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY*

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This proclamation declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Borough of Allendale to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

WHEREAS, *every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and*

WHEREAS, *Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other high-income countries; and*

WHEREAS, *protecting public safety in the communities they serve is mayors' highest responsibility; and*

WHEREAS, *support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people with dangerous histories; and*

WHEREAS, *mayors and law enforcement officers know their communities best, are the most familiar with local criminal activity and how to address it, and are best positioned to understand how to keep their citizens safe; and*

WHEREAS, *in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 22nd birthday; and*

WHEREAS, *to help honor Hadiya - and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day - a national coalition of organizations has designated June 7, 2019, the first Friday in June, as the 5th National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and*

WHEREAS, *the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and*

WHEREAS, *anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 7th, the first Friday in June in 2019, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and*

WHEREAS, *by wearing orange on June 7, 2019 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and*

WHEREAS, *we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, *that I, Mayor Ari Bernstein, of the Borough of Allendale declare the first Friday in June, June 7, 2019, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. I encourage all citizens to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.*

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Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda. He noted that the May 23rd Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval. He advised that Ordinance 19-09, which is being introduced this evening, amends the salary range for the Administrative Assistant position. He explained that two positions are being combined which will provide savings to the Borough. He then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda, providing a brief explanation of each. He highlighted Resolution #19-164 which appoints unpaid seasonal interns to the Allendale Police Department and commented on the great opportunity that it presents for college students.

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 Public Safety Committee met this past Thursday and all emergency service agencies were in attendance. There was discussion regarding auctioning the old firetruck as well as maintenance of the new firetruck. The 4th of July festivities were also addressed, and as it is anticipated that the next committee meeting will take place on July 2nd, the final details of this event will be discussed at that time. He reviewed the various training programs that officers and dispatchers have attended. He advised that train parking permit applications are now available through GovPilot and 235 applications have been processed to date. It is hoped to have online payments available in the near future. The Police Department continues to work with Northern Highlands to fill the SLEO III position.

Councilman O'Toole – Public Works

Councilman O'Toole advised that the Public Works Committee met last Friday and reviewed personnel matters as well as Borough equipment needs. Borough lawns were treated this past Tuesday, weeding of the flower beds has begun, and mulch is scheduled to be applied in the near future. Potholes continue to be addressed. There will be coordination with the Allendale Police Department to have potholes at the intersection of Franklin Turnpike and Crescent Avenue filled next week. TSS completed the monthly street sweeping yesterday. The ADA ramp project is about ready to begin with 59 ramps scheduled to be completed along Hillside, Brookside and W. Orchard. Paving of these roads can be begin soon after the completion of these ramps.

Councilman O'Toole advised that Councilwoman Homan is attending the North Jersey Sports Top Team of the Year event this evening at the NJ PAC. He explained that her daughter is a member of the Northern Highlands Girls Soccer team who is one the three finalists for this award. On her behalf, he reported that the Water, Sewer and Public Utilities met on June 11th. The committee has decided to move forward with the replacement of Pump #2 at the New Street Station, proposals for which are currently being accepted. A vendor has been selected to complete the power washing of the Fairhaven Tank and dates for completion of this project will be provided shortly. Ron Kistner and Layne Simon of the DPW have been coordinating with residents and Suez to have water meters replaced as access to the home is required. Residents are asked to contact Suez if they receive an

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estimated bill. Mike Vreeland, Borough Engineer, was given approval from the NJ DEP for an ordinance pertaining to flood damage prevention. This ordinance must be adopted by the governing body by August 28th. Tree trimming has been completed at the Ramsey Tank. Mr. Kistner and the DPW employees have been working to ensure that all hydrants are in working order and plans are in place to replace the remaining four hydrants. The next meeting to review infrastructure needs is on June 17th and next monthly meeting is scheduled on July 16th.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski explained that the Borough is still in the due diligence period with respect to 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue. There will be a meeting with Bob Benecke of Benecke Economics to review the PILOT and redevelopment agreements. Communication continues with the environmental consultant which should be wrapped up in the next few weeks. With respect to Crestwood Lake, Family Night took place and was a huge success. The Newcomers will be holding an event this Saturday for new residents from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. next to the pavilion. The Brookside School band played at the lake for the first time this year and Councilwoman Wilczynski commented that it was a great event. She reviewed upcoming events at the lake which include band performances as well as movie nights. Councilwoman Wilczynski and Mayor Bernstein met with the Library Strategic Committee yesterday to review the results of a community survey to which over 600 responses were received. One of the major needs expressed by the participants is for the Borough to provide more community space. Councilwoman Wilczynski commented that this need should be met by the proposed plans for community space in 220 West Crescent Avenue as well as the plan to turn the current Borough Hall space over to the library so that it can expand. She noted this this committee has both a 5-year as well as a short-term strategic plan for potential additional community services. The ASA met this past week. Mezzaluna is now open for business. Councilwoman Wilczynski commented on the professionalism of the Allendale Volunteer Goose Patrol, noting that the program has been revamped and the changes included having a professional trainer conduct the testing. Councilwoman Wilczynski announced that the Northern Highlands Girls Soccer team won the North Jersey Team of the Year award.

Due to time constraints, Councilman O'Connell's Committee Report was carried to the Regular Session.

D. Staff Reports

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Strauch, second by Councilman O'Connell, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk