

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
July 11, 2019

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

ABSENT: Councilmembers Edward O'Connell and Jim Strauch

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 July 11, 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:**

Walter Widmer, 38 Hamilton Street, thanked the governing body and Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, for their assistance in having O&R address the intensity of his streetlight.

**Administration:**

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein advised that Ordinance 19-10, which pertains to floodplain management, is listed for second reading and adoption. He explained that this chapter of the Borough Code is being amended to reflect FEMA's updated flood maps as well as to comply with recent changes to federal and state requirements. With respect to Ordinance 19-12 and Ordinance 19-13, both scheduled for introduction, Mayor Bernstein noted that these two ordinances are tied together as Ordinance 19-12 creates the Class III Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO III) position within Chapter 26 of the Borough Code and Ordinance 19-13 amends the salary ordinance to provide for the SLEO III salary. He advised that it is anticipated that William Wright, present in the audience this evening, will be sworn in as the SLEO III at the July 25<sup>th</sup> Mayor and Council Regular Session.

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. He highlighted Resolution #19-182 authorizing the Allendale Woman's Club's Town Wide Garage Sale and noted that there is language included in this resolution to prohibit the issuance of individual garage sale licenses for that weekend. With respect to Resolution #19-183, Mayor Bernstein advised that this resolution authorizes an emergency budget appropriation for repairs to the used ladder truck that was purchased last year. He stated that there is a revision in the language within the resolution to indicate that the amount of the emergency appropriation is not to exceed \$55,000.

Borough Attorney Wiss noted that, when the Consent Agenda is approved, this resolution will include this amendment.

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Mayor Bernstein advised that the purchase of a hydraulic lift, which is being authorized via Resolution #19-186, was discussed and agreed upon at the DPW Committee meeting. He noted that the funds for this purchase are included in the 2019 capital budget.

B. Council Reports

**Councilman O'Toole** – Public Works

Councilman O'Toole reported that the installation of the new transmission for the roll-off truck was completed today. He commented that the DPW has been incredibly helpful in getting ready for all of the recent events including the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities and various events that have taken place at Crestwood Lake. He commended Mike Limatola, Property Maintenance Officer, for doing an incredible job in addressing property maintenance issues within Allendale. The installation of ADA ramps on Hillside, Brookside, and W. Orchard began this morning which Councilman O'Toole noted is the precursor to having these roads paved. There is a scheduled delivery of mulch for Borough properties tomorrow.

**Councilwoman Wilczynski** – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski advised that the Borough is still in the due diligence period with respect to 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue and it is hoped this phase will be wrapped up in the near future. She noted that they had a busy week at Crestwood Lake with a performance by the Nerds and Julius Caesar presented by the Library. She reviewed upcoming events which included Midlife Crisis as well a charity event in support of epilepsy. She reported that revenue is up from last year. She expressed appreciation to Mr. Kistner for having the Borough placed on the 2019 County paving list as the County Executive has indicated that there will be new State regulations with respect to ADA ramps that are anticipated to cause delays in the paving of County roads beginning in 2020.

**Councilman Sasso** – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Sasso announced that the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee has not met since the last Mayor and Council meeting, and as such, advised that he has no report.

**Councilwoman Homan** – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan commented that she is pleased that the governing body will be voting to adopt Ordinance 19-10 which will bring the Borough Code into compliance with floodplain management regulations. She noted that the committee worked with Suez to resolve a number of financial issues in Allendale's favor. Investments into the infrastructure continue to be made as the committee continues to review Suez's list of recommended improvements. The committee will be scheduling meetings with Suez to ensure seamless communication regarding water quality. The next Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee meeting is scheduled on Tuesday morning.

C. Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein reported that the Borough has received the final tax rate from the County and it came in lower than the estimated rate. Final tax bills will be mailed in September. He advised that Shakespeare in the Park, presented by the Library, was a wonderful event. He expressed gratitude

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to Patty Durso, Executive Administrator and Interim Director, as well as the Lee Memorial Library Board of Trustees for organizing this event. He also thanked Mr. Kistner, the DPW, and all emergency services for their assistance with the recent events at Crestwood Lake. He noted that there was a BBQ held today for Borough Administrators and Mayors of neighboring communities which was attended by the County Executive. He expressed his opinion that the park looked great and expressed appreciation to Mr. Kistner and his Administrative Assistant, Julia Burdge, for their efforts in putting this event together. He also thanked the Holiday Observers, DPW, and all emergency services for their respective roles in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration which he commented was a banner day in Allendale.

D. Staff Reports

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, advised that he was involved in contract matters with Crown Castle with respect to the cell tower as well with T-Mobile concerning a lease extension for their pad. As reported at the last meeting, final approval was received with respect to COAH and Borough Attorney Wiss advised that all of the required Supreme Court notices have been sent without any issues or objections. He also worked on personnel matters with Mr. Kistner and Alissa Mayer, CFO. Matters pertaining to 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue are ongoing.

Anne Dodd, Municipal Clerk, reported that 25 OPRA requests have been received since last Mayor and Council meeting and 247 requests have been received to date this year. Her office continues to be busy with garage sales and Crestwood Lake registrations. She noted that her office has also been contacting those who have not yet obtained their Crestwood Lake badge as not having a badge has been causing issues at the gate.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, advised that he has no report.

E. Correspondence

**Letter from Rebecca Ehrhart recognizing Police Officer Kevin Azevedo, L.E.A.D. Program**

Mayor Bernstein recognized Chief Scherb who commented on the great job that Officer Azevedo has been doing with the L.E.A.D. program and connecting with the children in the school community.

Mayor Bernstein then read the following email into the record:

“Dear Officer Ace,

A sincere thank you for coordinating and attending the Boulders game last Thursday night with our Brookside 5th graders. It was a fantastic evening and memorable way to celebrate this year’s L.E.A.D. program. You showed that your dedication to our children extends beyond the moments when you are in uniform.

We greatly appreciate the time, effort and care you have put into educating and befriending our children this year through the L.E.A.D. Program. As parents of impressionable children at a tender age, we are happy to know you are there to support and encourage them. And of course, we know this program could not be successful without the support of Mr. Winkelstein so a huge shout out to him as well.

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Please keep up the amazing work and know that your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca”

Mayor Bernstein thanked Ms. Ehrhart for taking the time to write this email as well as Officer Azevedo for representing Allendale and the Police Department.

Chief Scherb noted that Officer Azevedo will also be taking the lead on the Junior Police Academy which is scheduled to take place during the first week of August, commenting that he has put a lot of time and effort into organizing this program.

***Adjournment***

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Sasso, second by Councilwoman Homan, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC  
Municipal Clerk