

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2019

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

ABSENT: Councilman 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 June 27, 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 – National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor Bernstein read the following proclamation into the record:

**Proclamation in Honor of
National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, *ovarian cancer continues to have one of the highest mortality rates of any cancer, and it is a leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States. This month, we remember the mothers, sisters, and daughters we have lost to ovarian cancer, and we extend our support to those living with this disease; and*

WHEREAS, *each year, thousands of women are diagnosed with, and go on to battle valiantly against, this disease. Yet, ovarian cancer remains difficult to detect, and women are often not diagnosed until the disease has reached an advanced stage. Because early detection is the best defense against ovarian cancer, it is essential that women know the risk factors associated with the disease; and*

WHEREAS, *during National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and throughout the year, we commend all the brave women fighting this disease, their families and friends. In the memory of all the brave women who have lost their lives to ovarian cancer, and in support of generations of women to come, let us recommit to reaching a safer, healthier future for all our citizens; and*

WHEREAS, *in support of Ovarian Cancer and to raise awareness, the Allendale Woman’s Club will be placing teal ribbons as part of Turn the Towns Teal.*

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ari Bernstein, on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, do hereby proclaim **September 2019 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.** I call upon citizens, government agencies, organizations, health-care providers, and research institutions to raise ovarian cancer awareness and continue helping Americans live longer, healthier lives. And I urge women across the country to talk to their health-care providers and learn more about this disease.

B. Proclamation – LGBTQ Pride Month

Mayor Bernstein read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, fifty years ago today, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, a courageous group of citizens resisted harassment and maltreatment, setting in motion a series of demonstrations which became known as the Stonewall Uprising and are widely considered to constitute the most important events leading to the gay liberation movement and the modern fight for LGBTQ rights in America.

WHEREAS, while the LGBTQ rights movement has realized much progress, there is more work to be done. As long as the promise of equality for all remains unfulfilled, all Americans are affected. If we can work together to advance the principles upon which our Nation was founded, every American will benefit.

WHEREAS, all people deserve to live with dignity and respect, free from fear and violence, and be protected against discrimination, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. During LGBTQ Pride Month, we celebrate the proud legacy LGBTQ individuals have woven into the fabric of our Nation, we honor those who have fought to perfect our Union, and we continue our work to build a society where every child grows up knowing that their country supports them, is proud of them, and has a place for them exactly as they are.

WHEREAS, Allendale promotes a proud Stigma Free community, accepting people from all walks of life,

NOW THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, NJ, do hereby proclaim June 2019 as LGBTQ Pride Month in Allendale.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda. He advised that Ordinance 19-09 is scheduled for public hearing and adoption this evening and explained that this ordinance amends the salary ranges for the Administrative Assistant position. He noted that there are two ordinances listed for introduction and requested that Councilwoman Homan speak to Ordinance 19-10.

Councilwoman Homan explained that the chapter of the Borough Code pertaining to floodplain management requires amending as FEMA has updated its flood maps. These changes also ensure that the Borough Code complies with recent changes to federal and state requirements in order to allow for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. Councilwoman Homan expressed appreciation to Mike Vreeland, Borough Engineer, who she commented did a fabulous job pulling this ordinance together and obtaining NJ DEP approval.

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Mayor Bernstein advised that Ordinance 19-11 amends the portion of the Borough Code pertaining to awnings, canopies, and marquees. He noted that these changes came out of the Land Use Committee after obtaining feedback from the businesses in downtown. He explained that the committee is attempting to balance the need to maintain the aesthetics of the downtown while allowing businesses to advertise.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, explained that the permitted size of the lettering has been increased from 8 to 12 inches and the requirement that the applicant go before the Land Use Board has been eliminated provided that the awning, canopy, or marquee is conforming with Borough Code.

Borough Attorney Wiss noted that these proposed revisions streamline the process by eliminating the need to file a full site plan to be reviewed by the Land Use Board. He explained that the applicant would only need to go before the Land Use Board if the application is denied by the Construction Code Official.

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. He highlighted Resolution #19-170 and explained that Michael Vreeland, Borough Engineer, has changed firms and this resolution acknowledges this change. He noted that Resolution #19-172 appoints Julia Burdge as the DPW Administrative Assistant and commented that the Borough is pleased to welcome her to the Borough. With respect to Resolutions #19-174 and #19-175, he explained that there are two projects for which NJ DOT grants would be sought.

Councilwoman Wilczynski explained that, in regard to Resolution #19-174, the Borough is seeking a grant to complete Phase III of the West Allendale Avenue Streetscape project. She advised that they are looking to replace the pavers, streetlights, garbage cans and trees in the downtown.

Mayor Bernstein advised that Resolution #19-175 authorizes submission of a NJ DOT grant application to complete improvements on Macintyre Lane from Forest Avenue to Brookside Avenue.

B. Mayor's Report

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

C. Council Reports

Councilman O'Toole – Public Works

Councilman O'Toole reported that a purchase order has been issued for the installation of the ADA ramps on Hillside, Brookside and W. Orchard. He explained that these ramps must be installed prior to paving these streets. A preconstruction meeting for this project is planned for next week. Trees were removed by the County on Brookside Avenue yesterday. Progress is being made on the Franklin Turnpike Drainage project and Labor Day is the target completion date for this project. Potholes continue to be addressed with 3 tons of asphalt being applied today at the intersection of Chestnut and Franklin Turnpike. The DPW is preparing for the Holiday Observers' Fourth of July celebration next week. Monthly street sweeping is scheduled to take place early next week. Landscaping needs are being addressed for all Borough properties.

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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. The committee is working to finalize the financial and redevelopment agreements. The first band night was held at Crestwood Lake and Councilwoman Wilczynski commented that it was a success. The first movie night will be held next week. The Nerds will be performing on July 9th. The band shell project is progressing. The Facilities, Parks and Recreation Committee continues to work with the Holiday Observers on the Centennial Celebration which is scheduled to take place on September 7th. Councilwoman Wilczynski attended the Rotary Club's installation dinner. The judge signed the order granting the Final Judgment of Compliance and Repose with respect to COAH. Councilwoman Wilczynski commented that the process was very long and arduous but noted that the Borough is now immune from builder's remedy lawsuits through 2025. She expressed her opinion that Allendale has done a great job in meeting its obligations and thanked Ray Wiss, Borough Attorney, for his guidance throughout this process.

Mayor Bernstein acknowledged the contributions of Mayors Emeritus Vince Barra and Liz White as they both played an instrumental role in this process.

Councilman Sasso – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Sasso stated that the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee met this afternoon. There was meeting with the Borough IT Consultant to discuss preventative measures to protect the Borough from cyber-attacks. There was discussion this afternoon regarding staffing needs and Councilman Sasso welcomed Julia Burdge aboard. The Organizational Chart was reviewed to ensure that it is clear and consistent and vacation scheduling was discussed to ensure proper coverage.

On behalf of Councilman Strauch and the Public Safety Committee, Councilman Sasso advised that there have been no arrests. Chief Scherb completed interviews for the SLEO III position and a candidate has been selected. This candidate will undergo medical and psychological evaluations in the next day or so. This officer will be placed at Northern Highlands Regional High School and will report to the Police Chief. Councilman Sasso explained that the Borough will receive reimbursement for this salary by the school district.

Mayor Bernstein added that the Police Department Summer Interns attended the Northern Highlands graduation. He commended the Police Department for offering this opportunity to college students who are interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan reported that the different fire hydrant zones are being flushed and noted water flowing from the hydrants is a normal part of this process. The website is being updated as to which zone is currently being flushed. A vendor has been chosen to complete the power washing of the Fairhaven Tank. Fire hydrants are being replaced on an as-needed basis. Suez has been requested to provide a list of infrastructure needs for review by the committee. Valve testing will also be taking place as is mandated by law and the committee is preparing for the possibility of valve replacements as the testing process can cause valves to break.

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Councilman O'Connell – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman O'Connell advised that Ordinance 19-11 came about due to several new businesses opening in the downtown and he noted that these revisions will assist the Construction Official in reviewing and approving applications for awnings, canopies, and marquees. He commented on the great job that Mike Limatola, Property Maintenance Officer, is doing. He advised that Mr. Limatola has made 653 visits to various properties to address property maintenance issues. The next Land Use and Construction Code Committee meeting is scheduled on July 8th and the sign portion of the Borough Code will continue to be reviewed. Councilman O'Connell stated that he attended the Rockland Boulders game last night which was organized by Officer Azevedo through the LEAD program. He noted that the Police Department paid for all who attended and Councilman O'Connell expressed appreciation to Officer Azevedo for a fantastic evening.

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 Councilwoman Wilczynski, 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