

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers, Edward O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch (arrived at 7:36 p.m.) and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilmember Liz Homan

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 September 12, 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:

Todd Fliegel, 705 Franklin Turnpike, President of the Holiday Observers, thanked the members of the governing body as well as the Borough Hall staff for their support and assistance with the Holiday Observers’ 100th Anniversary Celebration this past Saturday. He noted that he has received a lot of positive feedback from the community on this event.

Gavin Smith, 260 W. Allendale Avenue, advised that he working towards becoming a 1st Class Boy Scout and is attending this evening as a part of a citizenship requirement.

Members of the governing body provided an explanation as to what they believe it means to be a U.S. citizen.

Vince Barra, Ceely Court, Mayor Emeritus and President and Chairman of the Board of Allendale Housing Inc., explained that one of Allendale Housing Inc’s residents, Brian O’Connor, is being honored this evening. He commented on how proud he is to see these residents give back to the community and how much pleasure it brings him to see the governing body recognize these contributions.

Presentations:

A. Proclamation – Holiday Observers’ 100th Anniversary Celebration

Mayor Bernstein expressed his opinion that the Holiday Observers’ 100th Anniversary Celebration was one of the best days in Allendale. He acknowledged the planning and effort that went into putting this event together and then read the following proclamation into the record:

**Proclamation in Honor of
The Holiday Observers’
100th Anniversary Celebration**

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Whereas, this year marks the 100th anniversary of The Holiday Observers, an organization comprised of volunteer members dedicated to providing and encouraging patriotic observance of holidays, instilling respect for traditions amongst young people, and making Allendale a better community; and

Whereas, on July 4, 1919, twelve publicly spirited citizens led by George M. Potter pooled their fireworks to enjoy a greater display and a friendly get together; and

Whereas, over time, more families joined in until it became a town tradition; and

Whereas, on July 4, 1921, as reported by The Ramsey Journal, "Allendale celebrated Independence Day with old-time noise and honors. Late sleepers were given till 7am, when the Fire Chief blew the siren, the Legion fired a salute of six bombs, and the firemen rang the fire hoops. The flag was raised in the park by the Boy Scouts...about fifty families gathered in Memorial Park to witness a fine display of fireworks and to dance to music provided by Bijou's band from New York"; and

Whereas, by 1923, a standing committee of 30 members had been established and appointed by the Mayor to conduct the annual Independence Day celebration offering activities such as a 7am flag raising ceremony and cannon blast at Memorial Park, parade, athletic contests and field events including baseball, horseshoes, rolling pin toss, food, band music, and fireworks displays; and

Whereas, many of those same activities have remained unchanged throughout the years; and

Whereas, the Holiday Observers strive to make Allendale a better place and to bring joy to all residents, especially the children; and

Whereas, through the years, activities directed toward the welfare and enjoyment of Allendale residents have been added to include Christmas Gifts from Santa (1930), Labor Day Family Water Festival (1944), Halloween Poster Painting Contest and Costume Parade (1947), and Easter Egg Hunt (1954); and

Whereas, the Holiday Observers' became incorporated on May 21, 1946 "to preserve the memories and incidents of the history of our nation and community; to foster and perpetuate 100% Americanism; to provide the means for the proper observation of the anniversaries of National and Local Holidays, and to promote social, intellectual and physical culture for the citizens and residents of the Borough of Allendale through organization and combined action to exert the maximum for the good of all the people;" and

Whereas, the Holiday Observers have also greatly contributed to the Allendale community by constructing a WWII Honor Roll of residents serving in the US Military, sending care packages to Allendale service personnel on active duty which now include drawings from the third-grade classes, and helping less fortunate families during the Thanksgiving and December holidays; and

Whereas, the Holiday Observers is an Allendale institution, one of the oldest and most popular organizations in Bergen County, and as Stiles Thomas so accurately expressed to the New York Times on May 7, 1995, "the key (to Allendale's strong sense of community) is the Allendale Holiday Observers."

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Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale do hereby recognize the Allendale Holiday Observers for its many contributions to the community and extend heartfelt congratulations on its 100th Anniversary.

B. Recognition of DPW Seasonal Employee – Brian O’Connor

Mayor Bernstein presented Brian O’Connor, DPW Seasonal Laborer, with a Certificate of Commendation to recognize his outstanding service to the Borough.

Councilwoman Wilczynski commented that she worked with Brian over the summer and noted that the Crestwood Lake managers all spoke highly of Brian’s work ethic. She expressed her hope that he will come back to work for the Borough again next summer and presented him with a pizza, his favorite food, to thank him for his hard work.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, stated that he has worked with Brian previously and expressed that Brian is an amazing worker.

Rich McDowell, DPW Laborer, remarked that Brian was the eyes and ears at Crestwood Lake, noting how much Brian cares about what he does.

Maryanne O’Connor, Brian’s mother, thanked the governing body for honoring her son and for welcoming him into the community.

Administration:

A. General Code – Editorial & Legal Analysis

Mayor Bernstein advised that the Editorial & Legal Analysis of the Borough Code had been previously distributed. He asked that this document be placed on upcoming committee agendas for review. Once complete, it will be decided whether revisions will be done piecemeal or en masse.

B. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda. He noted that Ordinance 19-14, which repeals the Shade Tree Commission, was discussed in detail upon introduction. He then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

C. Council Reports

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

D. Mayor’s Report

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 Councilman Sasso, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk