

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
September 26, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch 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 September 26, 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:**

Gregory Brew, 18 Canaan Place, explained that, for his Eagle Scout project, he created a sign depicting the location of the fields at Crestwood Lake.

Councilwoman Wilczynski commented that Gregory worked hard to ensure that the sign fit in with the rustic look of the lake and thanked him for choosing Crestwood Lake as the location for his project.

Walter Widmer, 38 Hamilton Street, inquired whether the governing body is still holding Saturday morning meetings with residents.

Mayor Bernstein advised that the Saturday Mornings with the Mayor and Council meetings, which consisted of him and two councilmembers, will resume again next year. He further advised that the members of the governing body are always available to meet or speak with residents regarding any issues that they might have.

**Administration:**

A. Bond Anticipation Note Sale – Determination & Award Certificate

Mayor Bernstein explained that a note sale to roll over prior debts was recently held and four bids were received. Although the winning bid came in at 2.25%, the Borough received a premium which brought the net interest cost down to 1.563%.

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B. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda. He advised that the September 12<sup>th</sup> Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval, noting that Councilwoman Homan was absent and should abstain. He then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

C. Council Reports

**Councilman O'Connell** – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman O'Connell reported that the Land Use and Construction Code Committee will be meeting again in the beginning of October. Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, is working on the review of the Borough Code. Mike Limatola, Property Maintenance Officer, continues to do a great job of enforcing the Borough Code.

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

Councilwoman Homan noted that Suez was able to complete valve changes and address fire hydrants along Franklin Turnpike during the sidewalk and drainage improvements. In order to address the miscommunication that occurred with water shutoffs along Franklin Turnpike, Suez utilized its reverse 911 system to notify residents prior to the next shutoff. Mr. Kistner is investigating whether Pump #2 at the New Street Station can be refurbished. The committee is looking into installing a generator at the New Street Station to ensure that the water tanks continue to be monitored during power outages. Research is being conducted on new water treatments that will be available in the future in order to determine what will work best for Allendale. Councilwoman Homan and Mayor Bernstein will be meeting with Suez on October 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the future needs and treatments as well as capital improvements. An advisory regarding water-driven sump pumps will be included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter water bills to ensure that residents understand how these pumps operate.

**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.

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

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that the due diligence period continues with respect to 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue. The committee has been working with the environmental, redevelopment, and COAH experts. Ancillary documents continue to be reviewed with the municipal agreement being the next major document to be addressed. There will be a meeting with the architect next week. Councilwoman Wilczynski announced that Festival Day will take place on October 5<sup>th</sup> with Tyler Yaccarino serving as chair of this event. She advised that the Borough will have a booth which will promote sustainability. The Borough plans to kick off its Constant Contact campaign. Councilwoman Wilczynski explained that the Borough utilizes SwiftReach for emergencies and Constant Contact will be used for Borough-wide news. Councilwoman Wilczynski recognized Michelle Ryan, Deputy Clerk, for her work on the upcoming Borough Newsletter which is expected to go out tomorrow.

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**Councilman O'Toole – Public Works**

Councilman O'Toole advised that the municipal paving project is underway with Cambridge, Mallison, and Princeton having been completed yesterday. DeMercurio and the Allendale Police Department parking lot will also be paved as part of this project. The Franklin Turnpike Drainage project is coming to a close with the last piece of pipe having been installed yesterday. Potholes are being addressed throughout the Borough. The next Public Works Committee meeting is scheduled on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Strauch – Public Safety**

Councilman Strauch reported that the Public Safety Committee met on September 16<sup>th</sup>. There was some recent activity that involved breaking and entering. The Allendale Police Department received a thank you letter for the department's outstanding response to a 911 call that took place at 3:30 a.m. The next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

D. Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein advised that the scanned Building Department records that had been picked up by Accuscan in May were received and are being uploaded into GovPilot for easy retrieval. Accuscan picked up 10 additional boxes of Building Department records for scanning.

Mayor Bernstein, Councilman Sasso, and Councilman O'Toole met with residents at the Allendale Café on September 14<sup>th</sup>. As good feedback has been received on these meetings, he advised that the Saturday Mornings with the Mayor and Council will continue next year. He attended an Allendale Senior Housing meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>, Land Use Board meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Library Board of Trustees meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Bernstein thanked Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, for coordinating the paving project as well as the residents for their patience with traffic detours.

E. Staff Reports

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, reported that 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue is at a very formative stage with documents being reviewed by all of the parties involved. He worked with Mr. Kistner on zoning, property maintenance, and personnel matters as well as Anne Dodd, Borough Clerk, on OPRA requests. The Borough received a filming request today with the possibility of an ongoing series being filmed in Allendale. He noted that this request entails permit review and ensuring that insurance requirements are met. Borough Attorney Wiss also worked with Alissa Mayer, CFO, and Bond Counsel on the recent note sale.

Due to time constraints, the remaining reports were carried to the Regular Session.

***Adjournment***

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

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Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC

Municipal Clerk