

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2019

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole and Jim Strauch

ABSENT: Councilmembers Steve Sasso and Amy Wilczynski

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 October 10, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 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.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda. He noted that the September 26th Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval. He then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. He highlighted Resolution #19-228, explaining that the Borough received a grant and is requesting permission to have it inserted as a revenue item as this amount was unknown, and therefore, not included at the time that the budget was adopted.

B. Council Reports

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan reported that members of the Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee have been speaking with surrounding municipalities to learn how their water is treated in order to see what, if any, improvements can be made. She and Mayor Bernstein met with members of Suez's administration to discuss future needs and possible capital improvements as well as issues that are in need of addressing. She noted that 3rd quarter water bills should have arrived, commenting that they have a different appearance. Hydrant flushing in Zone 2 is scheduled to begin Monday. Ron Kistner, Director of Operations, and Layne Simon, Water Projects Coordinator, are working on scheduling the inspection of one-third of the sewer system. The next Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee meeting is scheduled on October 15th.

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Councilman O'Connell – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman O'Connell announced that the Land Use and Construction Code Committee meeting is scheduled on October 21st at 7:30 a.m. Kevin Quinn, Chair of the Land Use Board, has requested that Use Permits for commercial properties be sent to the board for informational purposes.

Councilman O'Toole – Public Works

Councilman O'Toole advised that the Public Works Committee is in the process of rescheduling its monthly meeting. The Franklin Turnpike Drainage and Municipal Paving projects are complete. Fall lawn treatments were applied today. Borst placed 15 arborvitae at the entrance to Crestwood Lake.

Councilman Strauch – Public Safety

Councilman Strauch reviewed training in which members of the Allendale Police Department have recently participated. He advised that there have been several recent arrests, one requiring two officers to testify before a Grand Jury. The department is meeting tonight to discuss the ARC 5k Run on October 27th. The next Public Safety Committee meeting is scheduled on October 16th at 5:30 p.m.

C. Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein advised that he attended Festival Day which he commented was a great time. He expressed gratitude to the Chamber of Commerce and acknowledged Tyler Yaccarino who was chair of this event. He also recognized Michelle Ryan who worked the Borough table and Suzanne Lovisolio who put the car show together, noting that he had a good time serving as a judge.

He advised that he attended the XYZ Club's monthly meeting.

In addition to being open until 9 p.m. for Late Night Voter Registration on October 15th, Mayor Bernstein stated that residents can also come to Borough Hall to obtain pet licenses and compost permits that evening.

D. Staff Reports

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, reported that he has been working with Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, on contract and personnel matters as well as Anne Dodd, Municipal Clerk, on OPRA requests. Significant time was also spent in meetings and phone conferences regarding 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue.

Anne Dodd, Municipal Clerk, advised that she has received 23 OPRA requests since the last meeting and 390 total requests to date year. Her office will be open until 9 p.m. on October 15th for Late Night Voter Registration as this date is the deadline to register to vote in the General Election on November 5th. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 5th.

Mr. Wiss inquired if voters can still opt out of receiving a Vote by Mail Ballot for this election.

Ms. Dodd explained that, although it is too late to opt out for the 2019 General Election as the Vote by Mail Ballots have already been sent, the form is available on the Borough website for those who wish to opt out for future elections. She noted that this form should be sent to the Bergen County

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Clerk upon completion. Should voters go to the polls instead of casting their vote by mail ballot, she explained that they will only be permitted to vote by Provisional Ballot.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, advised that there was a preconstruction meeting for an O&R project along West Crescent, Franklin Turnpike, and an area of E. Crescent involving placing wires underground from the Allendale Substation at 200 Heights Road. Although there was not proper communication from O&R initially, affected residents have now been notified.

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 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk