

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2020

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Liz Homan

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
Acting Municipal Clerk Michelle Ryan

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 February 27, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Ari Bernstein who asked that the Acting 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 from the public came forward.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda. February 13, 2020 Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval with all members present eligible to vote.

Mayor asked Councilman Sasso, a member of the Water Committee, to speak about the introduction of Ordinance 20-02 in Councilwoman Homan’s absence. Councilman Sasso read a prepared statement from Councilwoman Homan regarding the ordinance process. As previously discussed, the rate increase will take effect April 1st. Anyone with questions can contact Councilwoman Homan directly.

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Consent Agenda. Regarding Resolution 20-87, Mayor Bernstein thanked Julia Burdge for agreeing to serve in the capacity of Certified Clean Communities Coordinator and Certified Recycling Professional. Councilwoman Wilczynski spoke about Resolution 20-88, which is a Bergen County Open Space Grant, which will be used to improve the playground area in Crestwood Park this year. She noted that she attended a meeting earlier in the day to discuss this project. Mr. Wiss informed the governing body and public that the Borough has had a monopoly agreement since 1995 with Crown Atlantic and Resolution 20-89 authorizes them on behalf of Verizon to make updates to the monopoly subject to obtaining necessary land use permissions. Councilman Sasso advised everyone that he would be abstaining from voting on this resolution. While he does not have an actual conflict, he is in a related business and feels it appropriate to abstain. Alissa Mayer spoke regarding Resolution 20-92, which authorizes increases to the temporary budget. The Borough operates on a temporary budget and towns are permitted to increase it, as needed, until the actual budget is adopted in April or May.

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B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety

Councilman O'Connell reported that the next Public Safety meeting would be taking place next week. He read a letter from Dr. Barcadepone, Superintendent of Allendale Schools, into the record which recognized Officer Kevin Azevedo and his outstanding efforts with the Allendale students. (See Dr. Barcadepone's letter incorporated herein). Mayor Bernstein echoed the Councilman Superintendent's praise by stating Officer Azevedo is a great ambassador for the police department and Borough. Councilman O'Connell also provided call statistics as of 4:30pm: 2,988 to the police department, 20 to the fire department, 52 to the ambulance corps and 278 to 911. Chief Scherb and Detective Rizzo are in training for public information officers.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso advised of discussions that had taken place at the Land Use Committee meeting which was held the prior Monday at 7:30am. Discussions included short term rentals, significant property maintenance issues that are close to resolution, the progress on Couch Court with some houses now occupied, updates to the noise ordinance which are almost ready and resurrection of lighting and sign updates as well.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilman Sasso read a report for the Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee on behalf of Councilwoman Homan. He informed that the Allendale residents received a letter from Suez as a continuation of the NJ DEP requirements. The letter stated that samples taken from the New Street treatment facility in November and January showed no detectable levels of tetrachloroethylene in the water in Allendale. Suez continues to monitor and make improvements to ensure the safety of Allendale's drinking water. The repairs made last year have worked. Councilwoman Homan thanked the governing body for approving the Mott MacDonald contract. The first meeting with them will be next week with a goal of concluding the study at the end of September. The public will be provided updates and a public meeting will likely be held in October to provide the results. Emergency interconnect agreements, which have been discussed at prior meetings, are being worked on by the borough's attorneys. The agreement with Ridgewood will be ready for the next meeting with Ramsey's following shortly thereafter.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski shared that the Facilities Committee meeting was held earlier in the day and that a review of the Bergen County Open Space Grants was done. She was excited to announce that May 16th would be the Band Shell's Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting with all local bands playing. Preparations are underway for the Crestwood Lake season. The 220/230 due diligence period continues with the review of the insurance policy. She met with three Troop 59 Boy Scouts this past week to discuss projects they can assist the town with as part of their Eagle Scout requirements. She advised that the single use plastic bag reduction ordinance was being well received in the community and expressed her support for it. Councilwoman Homan had recently had a good discussion with Acme. She thanked Linda Garofalo for printing up the "Welcome Wagon Letters" for new residents.

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Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole reported that the Finance Committee continues to seek areas in the budget that can be trimmed. They had a good first meeting with the Financial Advisory Committee, very good suggestions came from it. Mayor Bernstein agreed with Councilman O'Toole and expressed his appreciation of the differing viewpoints offered by the twelve residents in attendance.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch reported that Layne Simon and Bergen County Mosquito Control cleaned brooks in Allendale to help keep streams clear and the mosquito population down. The DPW is busy preparing for the Crestwood season, especially Rich McDowell and Ray Frazier who are scraping the walls. There will be extra street sweeping this month. Allendale is marking its 30th year since establishing a recycling program. George Higbie was the DPW Director and Keith Cauwenburgh was the Deputy back then. He reminisced how far the program has come as it used to consist of sorting by colors to now being dual stream. He noticed that recyclables were blowing around everywhere from the wind earlier in the day and reminded residents to be mindful of how they place their cans at the curb. If residents aren't careful, cans knock over spreading litter everywhere and can be a safety hazard in roadways. He asked that the residents be diligent with their receptacle management and he will be looking into ways to accomplish this in the near future. He will be working with the committee to set up a March meeting date.

C. Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein updated that the Census 2020 grant application was submitted, but Bergen County extended the response deadline to February 25th. Allendale should be hearing what funds will be awarded next week. Orange and Rockland sent out a warning notice for residents to be aware of phony bill collectors calling demanding payment, especially through prepaid debit cards, and threatening immediate shut off of electric and/or gas service. The public should know that Orange and Rockland does not accept such forms of payment and since they are a regulated public utility in NJ and NY, they are required to follow a multi-step process when disconnecting services. They never immediately shutoff electricity or gas. The public should not engage with the scammers! A copy of the warning notice, with steps that can be taken if you receive such a call along with Orange and Rockland contact info, can be found on the Borough's website and social media pages. Prior to the Mayor and Council meeting, the MEL/JIF's Annual Risk Management Seminar for Elected Officials, which primarily covered the topic of preventing child abuse and protecting public entities from liabilities and learning about new legislation was held. Not only was this very informative, but the borough will be receiving a \$250 credit on our insurance assessment for each of our elected officials as well as Administrative Officer Ron Kistner's attendance. As part of the borough's Employee Assistance Program agreement, West Bergen Mental Healthcare will be coming to Allendale each quarter this year to do a presentation on various mental health related topics for employees, volunteers and community organizations. The first quarter program, which will be held on Monday, March 23rd at 10:30am in Borough Hall, will be on "Managing Stress". Future programs are still in the works. The annual cleanup at the Celery Farm is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th starting at 9am at the end of the cul-de-sac on Green Way. All are welcome. For more details, visit the Borough's website. Mayor Bernstein also reported that since the last Mayor and Council meeting, he attended the Financial Advisory Committee and budget meetings as well as a very productive meeting with the Library Board and Councilman O'Toole.

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D. Staff Reports

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, reported that 220/230 continues to move forward with agreements being prepared and reviewed with respect to insurance aspects. Work also continues with the Water Committee to formalize interconnect agreements and memorialize arrangements that are already in place as suggested by the NJ DEP. Labor contract negotiations continue and ongoing land use matters now seem to be resolving. Finally, he has reviewed and prepared contracts some of which are agenda items this evening.

Michelle Ryan, Acting Municipal Clerk, reported that the Clerk's Office has received 18 OPRA requests since the last meeting, which was 9 business days ago. To date for 2020, 79 requests have been received. By comparison, through February 28, 2019, 67 OPRA's had been received.

Alissa Mayer, CFO, reported that she is continuing to work on the budget.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, proudly reported that on March 10th the Borough will receive a \$1,000 check at the Bergen JIF's Breakfast for achieving a perfect score of 100 points in their safety program. Both Mr. Kistner and Mayor Bernstein thanked the employees for their team effort.

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, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk



ALLENDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

100 Brookside Avenue • Allendale, NJ 07401-1795

Phone 201-327-2020 • Fax 201-825-6553

MICHAEL J. BARCADEPONE, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

MARIA L. ENGELEIT
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / BOARD SECRETARY

February 6, 2020

Chief George Scherb
Allendale Police Department
290 Franklin Turnpike
Allendale, NJ 07401

Dear Chief Scherb:

Over the past year, there have been multiple times that I have said to myself, I must write a letter on behalf of Allendale Police Officer Kevin Azevedo (hereinafter referred to as Officer Ace). I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to do so.

Since beginning as the LEAD Officer assigned to the Allendale School District, Officer Ace has fostered an excellent relationship built upon dedication, concern and a mutual respect for our students and staff. Officer Ace is visible to everyone in our buildings, not only his assigned fifth grade students. So much, that even our parents recognize him as Officer Ace.

Our students are enthusiastic to see Officer Ace, spend time with him in the classroom and learn the imperative messages that he delivers. Officer Ace has gone above and beyond with every opportunity that has crossed his path. He continues to seek new experiences for our students and builds upon prior ones like involving the Bergen County Bomb Squad and K-9 units.

Furthermore, Allendale's first Junior Police Academy was an absolute success. Every student who attended had an outstanding time and shared it with their parents and us. It's noteworthy to mention, any time you develop a new program, attendance and success is always a concern. Based upon first year attendance, I would deem the program a tremendous success. Moreover, I would contend that the program's numbers were a direct testament to the relationships that Officer Ace has built with our students. In addition, Officer Ace is even attending this year's Allendale Foundation for Educational Excellence's (AFEE) Annual Auction that occurs on a Friday night. Simply above and beyond!

Therefore, on behalf of the Allendale Board of Education, specifically our students, I would like to personally thank Officer Ace for his professionalism and commitment to our students, staff, and administration. I look forward to working with him further in the future, as well as seeing what other opportunities he will bring to our students and District.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Barcadepone, Ed.D.
Superintendent

cc: K. Azevedo