

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Edward O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole
(*in person*) and Amy Wilczynski

PRESENT: Councilmembers Steve Sasso, Liz Homan and Jim Strauch
(*via teleconference*)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
(*in person*) 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 April 16, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the general public was provided via Webex teleconferencing only, with adequate notice of access information posted for public viewing. The meeting was called to order at 7:07p.m. by Mayor Bernstein who welcomed everyone joining via teleconference. He thanked Tyler Yaccarino, Borough Webmaster, for his assistance in setting up the teleconference.

Mayor Bernstein 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. Notice of this meeting by the April 14, 2020 Sunshine Notice was sent to the Record, the Ridgewood News, and Star Ledger and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and Borough website.”

Mayor Bernstein advised the public that the governing body intended to enter into Closed Executive Session at this time and that the public portion of this Work Session would resume at 7:30pm.

On a motion from Councilman Strauch, seconded by Councilman O’Toole, with all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Executive Session via Resolution 20-114 at 7:10pm to discuss 220/230 West Crescent Avenue Contract Negotiations Update (Attorney-Client Privilege).

(See Resolution 20-114 attached and made a part hereof.)

Minutes were taken of the Closed Executive Session and will be released to the public at such time that the matter is resolved.

On a motion from Councilman O’Connell, seconded by Councilman O’Toole, and unanimously carried, the Closed Executive Session meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm. Due to technical difficulties with the Cisco Webex teleconference the Work Session was resumed at 7:37pm.

Public Comment:

No one from the public came forward.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

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Mayor Bernstein stated that the first item listed on the agenda for approval was the March 26, 2020 Work and Regular Sessions minutes. All members were present and therefore eligible to vote.

Mayor Bernstein discussed the four ordinances up for public hearing and adoption. Ordinance 20-05, 2020 Water Capital Ordinance appropriates \$171,000 for installation and acquisition of meters, hydrants, generators, interconnection improvements, new IT equipment, well upgrades and treatment equipment to keep our water infrastructure operating at optimal level. Councilwoman Homan added that the money collected through the service fees will be used to fund these projects to keep Allendale's water system running at optimal level. Mayor Bernstein advised that Ordinance 20-06 establishes Chapter 26, Section 30.3 of our Code entitled "Special Protection" and sets the provisions and fees for such special police services. Ordinance 20-07 is routinely done prior to adoption of the budget allowing us to exceed the municipal budget appropriation limit and establish a Cap Bank for Calendar Year 2020. Ordinance 20-08 authorizes appropriations of \$1,575,604 for our 2020 General Capital Bond Ordinance which include funds for road improvements; body armor and firearms, radar, IT and communications systems' equipment for our police department; roof replacement at the Firehouse as well as self-contained breathing apparatus, turnout gear, personal protective equipment, radios, pagers and fire suppression equipment for our fire department; a new street sweeper and other equipment for the DPW; playground improvements at Crestwood Lake; and replacement of sewer flow metering equipment at the Ramsey meter pit.

Mayor Bernstein then moved to providing a detailed overview of the entire Consent Agenda. He announced that he and the Finance Committee had reviewed the Bill List for Resolution 20-115. Of particular note on the Consent Agenda, Mayor Bernstein explained that Resolution 20-117 pertains to a mandatory line item in the budget which ensures there are sufficient funds to pay the schools, county and library their share of the tax levy in the event that all taxes are not collected, due to delinquencies or omitted taxes. That amount is usually determined by the previous year's tax collection rate. However, if necessary, an alternate formula can be used and the Borough feels it necessary to utilize this, a three-year average, to limit the total tax rate increase. Resolution 20-118 allows the Borough to combine all three grants awarded from the NJ DOT and move forward with the Downtown Streetscape Project, which will be authorized for bid tonight via Resolution 20-121. Councilwoman Wilczynski described the planned project which will include installation of new pavers, replacing the old, outdated lighting system, placing new garbage cans, and planting trees. The Borough is excited about this project. Resolution 20-119 authorizes the 2020 Junior Police Academy, which was a huge success last year. Resolution 20-120 renews Allendale's participation in the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System for electric supply at our facilities with projected savings of \$59,986 over the next two-year period. The Borough is holding out hope that we'll be able to get the most out of the Crestwood season as possible and approving the 2020 fees on Resolution 20-122, which remain the same as 2019, will help the Borough to be ready when that time comes. Councilwoman Wilczynski will discuss the necessary insurance policy for 220/230 West Crescent on Resolution 20-123 in more detail during her report. The Borough is happy a contract, fair to the taxpayers and DPW employees, will be approved via Resolution 20-124.

With no further discussion on Agenda Review items, Mayor Bernstein moved to Council Reports.

B. Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell, Public Safety Committee, advised that OEM continues to email and hold

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conference call meetings as necessary. He has received positive feedback that the Mayor's videos and messages are helpful. To date, there have been 4,907 police calls, 391 calls to 911, 34 fire calls and 112 ambulance calls. All in-person police department training has been cancelled until further notice. Dispatch is being very mindful when people need to enter police headquarters and are taking precautionary measures. The Junior Police Academy still has a few spots open for this year. Those interested can sign up online and then make payment when the program is certain to run.

Councilman Sasso, Land Use and Construction Code Committee, announced that the committee will be holding a virtual meeting on April 20th. He has continued to work on possible amendments to the noise ordinance as well as protocols for wildfire safety.

Councilwoman Homan, Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee, informed that the committee plans to meet on April 21st. She reported that the PFAS treatment study is progressing as well as work with Suez to compile the makeup of all service lines, which is now DEP-mandated. All 423 fire hydrants up and running thanks to Layne Simon and Ron Kistner. Recent water quality test results continue to show compliance and no detectable levels of tetrachloroethylene, however the Borough will be sending out a 3rd letter to residents regarding this, which is a DEP requirement. Notices are actually required for one year. Anyone who has questions should feel free to reach out to Councilwoman Homan.

Councilwoman Wilczynski, Facilities, Parks and Recreation Committee, provided a detailed explanation of the insurance policy being authorized on Resolution 20-123. It is a PLL (Pollution Legal Liability) policy, which is typically purchased when a site has environmental conditions. There were some contaminants identified in a limited area under the parking lot towards the back by the railroad. This area has been identified, delineated and approved by the proper regulatory entities. The policy was negotiated for over 4-5 months and the Borough deliberated over every little detail to make sure all scenarios were covered aside from the one identified area. The Borough feels this is the best policy available. The Borough retained an environmental attorney and along with our Borough Attorneys and 220/230 team made sure the Borough is covered for anything in the future going forward. This policy needs to be purchased as part of the negotiation with the current prospective buyer. With the challenging times and unknown future of the market, the team feels very strongly that this should be purchased. Councilwoman Wilczynski thanked everyone involved. Councilwoman Wilczynski also shared that in this difficult time, she has really seen the spirit of Allendale shine through. There are great stories of people giving, organizing food drives and donations, making meals and masks for the first responders, neighbors helping neighbors and other stories. She thanked the Borough's leadership team, specifically Ron Kistner, Alissa Mayer and Michelle Ryan, for working to ensure that the residents continue to be served. She thanked the DPW for keeping the borough clean and safe and especially thanked the OEM team led by Scott Zieber, police, first responders, fire department, CERT and the Public Safety Committee for all their hard work. She also thanked Tyler Yaccarino for getting all the important information out to the residents. There are now over 2,000 people signed up for Constant Contact notifications.

Councilman O'Toole, Administration, Finance and Human Resources, reported that the committee had met on Tuesday and was looking for programs to provide the Borough relief during this time.

Councilman Strauch, Public Works Committee, expressed his appreciation to the DPW personnel comprised of Dan Davis, Ray Frazier, Rich McDowell, Jim Moritz, John Pasquino, Dan Richards,

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Layne Simon, Lonnie Simon, Julia Burdge and Ron Kistner for being dedicated front line workers. The streets are still being swept, preparations at Crestwood are underway, maintenance of ballfields is continuing. Councilman Strauch and Mark Savastano continue working to present ideas to expand the Borough's recycling program. Allendale Volunteer Good Patrol has postponed its registration until the COVID-19 crisis passes.

C. Mayor's Report

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

D. Staff Reports

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

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk

**RESOLUTION
BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ**

DATE: 04/16/2020

RESOLUTION# 20-114

Council	Motion	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Homan			✓			
O'Connell			✓			
O'Toole		✓	✓			
Sasso			✓			
Strauch	✓		✓			
Wilczynski			✓			
Mayor Bernstein	---	---				

CLOSED SESSION

BE IT RESOLVED that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale entered into Closed Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

A. Attorney-Client Privilege

1. 220/230 West Crescent Avenue Contract Negotiations Update

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved.

I hereby certify the above to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Borough of Allendale on April 16, 2020.



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk