

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein
(*in person*)

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole,
Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski
(*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 August 13, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the public was provided via GoToMeeting video and teleconferencing only, with adequate notice of same posted for public viewing. The meeting was called to order at 7:30p.m. by Mayor Bernstein who reminded the public to mute their phones so as not to distract from the business of the meeting. Mayor Bernstein advised the public that they would have an opportunity at an appropriate time during the meeting to be heard.

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."

Public Comment:

Kristen Tsarnas, 74 Heights Road, commented on the excellent storm response. A follow up was asked on the status of the deer culling from her last inquiry. Mayor Bernstein informed her that Chief Scherb reached out to him and Ron Kistner requesting to be included and a part of all discussions with respect to deer culling and this topic will be included in the next Public Safety meeting. Councilman Sasso stated that this is the first he is hearing of this. She then asked for an update on the work being done at 47 Heights Road. Ron Kistner stated that this was the next and final phase of the cleanup of 47 Heights Road. The area where the house was is being cleaned up, the soil on the back left was removed Tuesday and the pile in the rear was removed today. Ron Kistner added that Heights Road paving is now included in the Fall 2020 paving and hopefully will be done in September by D&L Paving. A letter will be sent to Orange & Rockland to see if they will contribute 50% of the project. Kristen Tsarnas thanked the Mayor and Ron Kistner. She asked about the contamination of the soil from 47 Heights Road. Ron Kistner and Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss both informed her that they could not comment until a report is sent and they would share as appropriate.

No other public came forward for comment.

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Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session agenda starting with consideration of the July 23rd Work & Regular Sessions. He advised of everyone's attendance and eligibility to vote.

Next, Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Consent Agenda consisting of Resolutions 20-187 to 20-192. Of particular note, Resolution 20-189/ Authorizing Allendale Chamber of Commerce's 2020 Festival Day. Mayor Bernstein noted that the Chamber of Commerce is hoping to have their Festival Day on Saturday, September 26th from 2pm to 10pm in our downtown. In light of the times, it will be very different from other years, but they are planning a fun event to help our hard-hit businesses and the borough is happy to support them. They will be providing updates on this event as it gets closer. Resolution 20-190/ Appointing Borough Professional – Bertone Piccini, LLC. Councilwoman Amy Wilczynski commented that these are redevelopment experts who will review the Municipal Building Agreement to make sure that the Borough stays within budget, and make sure all the elements are in place to protect the Borough. Resolution 20-191/Approve Notice of Intent to Award a Contract under a National Cooperative Purchasing Agreement – 3M Scott SCBA Equipment – New Jersey Fire Equipment – Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative. Mayor Bernstein commented that the Fire Dept is in need of new self-contained breathing apparatus. Purchase is through the H-GAC Coop and this resolution is a necessary step in the purchasing process. Resolution 20-192/Convey Support of Assembly Bill A108 and Accompanying Senate Bill S2473 to Improve Service Performance by Public Utility Companies in the Public's Interest. Mayor Bernstein commented that this resolution supports the efforts of Assemblymen DePhillips, Rooney, and Johnson as well as Senator Corrado to update the current laws and hold public utility companies more accountable.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor Bernstein commented that it was quite a 9-day period. It seems like there's a before the storm and after the storm. The Mayor thanked our town, elected officials, administration office, DPW. He stated that when the storm hit the Chief of Police, OEM Director, and Ron Kistner immediately met and formulated their 7-point priority list that was sent to Orange and Rockland. They worked nonstop until everyone was brought back to power. The Mayor highlighted the heroic efforts by Mr. Kistner, DPW, and the police as well as neighbors helping neighbors. The Mayor thanked the work of Ron Kistner, Crew Chief Dan Richards and the DPW, Police Chief Scherb, OEM Coordinator Scott Zieber and our Police Department, Fire Chief Rubino and the Fire Department, Chief Daryl D'Amore-Bottaro and AVAC, Kevin Montanye and CERT, the Borough Hall staff and the teamwork to keep the town functioning and our residents safe.

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With so many of their customers being without power, O&R has announced a storm-related food and prescription medicine spoilage reimbursement program. Residential customers impacted by Tropical Storm Isaias may receive reimbursement for up to \$235 with itemized lists, or up to \$540 with receipts, if power was lost for more than 48 consecutive hours. More information and the claim form can be found at www.oru.com to cover spoiled food, medication or perishable commercial merchandise. This information is also on our website. Business owners are eligible for food spoilage reimbursements up to \$10,700 with receipts. You may choose to file a claim with your insurance company to reimburse you for your loss (less your deductible). The Mayor noted that if you decide to go through your own insurance carrier and are reimbursed by your carrier, you cannot also seek reimbursement from O&R/Rockland Electric.

Mayor Bernstein commented that Orange and Rockland's response was inadequate. He noted that mayors served by PSE&G were equally unhappy. The Borough was referring customers to websites that were not updated and they were not responsive to phone calls. The initial projections of a full week without power is unacceptable. Allendale has requested information and has requested assurances that this won't happen again. He assured the residents that your elected and borough administration have been, and will continue to look for answers and to get the assurances to find out what Orange and Rockland are going to be doing differently and to make sure they are prepared. The mayor stated that he has also been in touch with Assemblyman DePhillips, Rooney and Senator Corrado and is seeking their assistance as well.

Mayor Bernstein directed that those who continue to have outages with Verizon and Optimum to visit the borough's website for information on who to call and to call Borough Hall to see if they can be of assistance.

Mayor Bernstein informed that the Compost Area is open to 2020 permit holders and Mr. Kistner stated that the recycling center would be in full service for tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday.

Dine Out in Allendale will be this Saturday, August 15th.

The Mayor stated that 3rd Quarter Property Tax payments were due August 1st. The grace period without penalty was extended until August 11th. If you have not already done so, please make your payment online through our website, mail in your check or drop off your check in the secure mail slot at Borough Hall.

The Borough received a letter to today from Green Acres program that on July 16th they came and inspected the Celery Farm and Orchard Park, the two properties that the Borough used Green Acres funds to acquire. The Mayor was happy to report that both these properties continue to be in compliance. He thanked Marsh Warden, Mike Limatola, and Jim Wright as well as the other volunteers for all their efforts to keep the celery farm in great shape.

Lastly, the mayor praised Officer's Alex Helmer and Sean Hubbard who jumped in performed CPR and mouth to mouth to save the life of a woman choking at Mezza Luna. They will both be honored at the next meeting.

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C. Council Reports

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code
No Report

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski shared that Crestwood is still going strong. She thanked Lake Director Thomas Viscardi and all the staff for keeping up with all the rules as we move towards the homestretch of the last three weeks. 220/230 had the driller on site to test the soil, this is part of the remediation. The soil needs to be tested for the waste classification, it's a requirement for the disposal site. Once the results are returned, they can start the remediation. In the interim, we will be having a pre con meeting in a week or so. The website has been updated on the 220/230 tab up to June and then through August once we are done with this month.

She and Ron Kistner met with the representative for the playground, she hoped that it will be done this year. They will be sending a rendering in the very near future. They were supposed to meet with Neglia Engineering for a pre con meeting for the downtown streetscape but was postponed for a few weeks.

The Councilwoman encouraged all residents to sign up for Constant Contact and to look out for the borough's electronic newsletter in August.

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell reported there have been 10,420 calls to dispatch, 982 "911" calls, 118 fire calls and 250 ambulance calls. Since the last meeting there have been several arrests. He concluded with saying that Allendale steps up and comes together and that there is no better place to live.

Due to time constraints, the committee reports of Councilmen O'Toole, Strauch and Homan were given during the Regular Session meeting.

D. Staff Reports

Due to time constraints, this Agenda item was addressed during the Regular Session meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Wilczynski, second by Councilwoman Strauch, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk