

Work Session  
Mayor and Council  
May 26, 2011

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Councilman Schoepflin who announced that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act were met by the required posting and notice to publications.

The following individuals answered roll call: Council members LaMonica, Schoepflin, White and Wilczynski . Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

*Public Comments*

Mr. Schoepflin opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Ms. Lisa Monard of 43 Homewood Avenue said she has been a resident for eleven years. She is quite disturbed about eliminating parking spaces for commuters. She has been commuting for eleven years and every year the commute becomes more difficult. Each year the parking lot gets more crowded and it is more difficult to catch the train. She has a young daughter to get to school and after that she has to rush to get to the train station to try to get a parking spot.

For the past two years she generally has to park behind the A&P which is at least a five minute walk. The bigger problem is that there is no security in the evening and the parking lot is dimly lit and is a hazard. There are times when she has not felt comfortable.

Ms. Monard was disturbed to read that the Mayor said he walked past the parking lot and saw the spots under discussion were vacant. She stated they are never vacant. She asked that more time be spent on this decision to consider the needs of the residents in Allendale. She stated it was unfair to make this decision based on one person's observance on one day. She tries to support the local shop owners and understands their plight, but there are meters in the NJ Transit lot with a two hour limit and they are empty every day.

She suggested more time be spent talking to the residents to find out what is really going on.

Mrs. White said she had not realized any of the metered parking was not being used.

Mrs. Wilczynski said at the time it was presented taking these parking places seemed like a great idea, but she agreed the Council should take another look at the issue.

Ms. LaMonica said she too has commuted for many years and she is sympathetic to the issue of safety. She is less sympathetic to the issue of having to walk additional minutes to reach the more distant parking spaces. The town is aware of when the trains come in and she suggested the Police might think about patrolling the parking lot more frequently.

Mrs. White suggested additional lighting.

Mr. Schoepflin said the Mayor has already spoken to the Police Chief and they are considering additional lighting as well as a camera for security purposes.

Chief Scherb said he is in the process of formulating a response to the Mayor's e-mail concerning this topic.

Mr. Schoepflin said the Council is trying to address what is fair to the total community.

Ms. Monard said the A&P Shopping Center is empty on most days.

Mrs. White said the owner of the Shopping Center is not an Allendale resident and there is a problem with him wanting to support the rest of the businesses in town. The Shopping Center is not Allendale's property.

Mr. Schoepflin said the owner of the Shopping Center has asked the Police to enforce the four hour parking limit there.

Mr. Warren Kaufman of 89 Green Way said he is a 30+ year resident of Allendale. One of the reasons he chose Allendale was because it was on the Bergen County main line. The problem with taking the twenty-two spots is that they are full every day. He takes the train at 7:58 a.m. and by the time the train leaves, those spots are full. The town has already taken twelve spots that were originally train parking places near Allendale Eats and the Allendale Hotel. Today he came home early and when he looked at those spots, five of the twelve were empty. The twenty-two transit spots were full. The line of cars by the train tracks went almost all the way to the end of the lot.

Mr. Kaufman stated that there aren't twenty-two spots to give up and it's not true that these parking places are empty. The west side spots are always full by 7:58 a.m. When Mr. Kaufman comes home at night and if it is raining, dark or snowing, the additional distance he would have to walk if these spots were taken would be a hardship. He made the New Jersey Transit Coalition aware of this ordinance and if it is passed they will take legal action to change it. Mr. Kaufman said he is really angry about this issue. He has a handicapped parking permit but he doesn't use it because there are only two handicapped spots on the East side. If this change is made he will have to use one of those spots.

Mr. Robert Anderson of 45 West Orchard Street said he too is a commuter. He noted that the triangle of parking behind where McDonalds used to be is empty most of the time and suggested shoppers could park there.

He stated that the twenty-two spots under discussion are an outrageously high number. During the week, opening up twenty-two spots for parking will not generate enthusiasm for Allendale as a business center. There are many contingencies that make it difficult for commuters and it feels like the town is beating up on commuters by taking away these additional parking spots.

Mr. Anderson suggested splitting the number of parking spaces between the commuters and the businesses to allow eleven parking places for each.

Mrs. White said would recommend this ordinance be tabled for additional discussion and examination. She thanked all the individuals who attended the meeting to speak on this issue.

Mr. Schoepflin said the members of the public were fortunate that the new Chief of Police was in attendance at the meeting this evening to hear their comments.

*Agenda Review*

Mrs. McCarthy commented that the Resolution 11-187 allows volunteers and their family members to participate in a tuition credit program at no cost to the municipality. In addition:

Resolution 11-188 renews the liquor licenses for five out of six of Allendale's licensed establishments for July 2011 through June 2012.

Resolution 11-190 corrects a typographical error from Resolution 11-149 changing the cost of the Public Health Contract with the County from \$38,873.04 to \$36,873.04.

Resolution 11-194 postpones the date of the Guardian Angel Church carnival to July 20<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup>.

On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn to Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy  
Municipal Clerk