

Work Session  
Mayor and Council  
June 9, 2011

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Mayor Barra 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 Bernstein, Schoepflin, Strauch, Wilczynski and Mayor Barra. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

**Dr. Ryan, President of Bergen Community College**

Dr. G. Jeremiah Ryan, President of Bergen Community College, was present to speak to the Council about the college.

Dr. Ryan said there are 46 Allendale residents who attend Bergen Community College which has three campuses in Hackensack and Paramus and the Meadowlands. The fifth floor of the Meadowlands campus is in the process of being remodeled. That campus now has over 2500 students.

Dr. Ryan said there are many advantages to attending a community college. Tuition costs at BCC are about \$4,000 a year or \$118 a credit and the credits are readily transferable.

A twenty-four million dollar grant was received from the Obama administration to train 5,000 unemployed people for careers in health care over the next five years. Most of these people will be trained for one year certificate programs.

In size the college is the second largest in the state after Rutgers, although it has a small college feel and most classes have twenty or fewer people in them. The college has invested well in academics. More than 100 new faculty members have been added in the past five years to accommodate the enrollment increases. Two-thirds of the classes are taught by full time instructors and one-third are taught by very qualified adjunct faculty.

Bergen Community College has over 1000 students from 100 foreign countries. These individuals come to BCC because of its proximity to New York City and also because of the diversity of Bergen County. The diversity of the student population is also age based with half of the students over thirty years of age. BCC is primarily a minority institution which is unusual for a suburban campus.

More students attend the college at night rather than during the day. Ninety-eight percent of the students work in addition to going to school and a challenge for the college is to try to get students to work less which would benefit their studies. About sixty percent of the students are women.

Mr. Schoepflin asked how successful the BCC graduates are.

Dr. Ryan responded that about half of the students at BCC go on to a four year university. The data they have shows that the BCC students do better in their junior year at a university than the indigenous students. The other half of the students are already employed or are looking to move on to another job.

Dr. Ryan said the college has tried to control costs through collective bargaining and by cutting travel expenses. They try to make sure that every expenditure made by the college is an appropriate one. The County reduced their funding by five million dollars which was unexpected. The college has eliminated twenty-two administrative positions that were vacant.

Over one hundred courses are offered on-line to approximately four thousand students who take these courses. Soon nursing degrees may be obtained on-line. On-line courses have an additional benefit of saving gasoline, commuting time and reducing parking congestion. Interestingly many students take their on-line courses at 1:00 or 2:00 a.m.

Dr. Ryan said although the graduates go on to universities all over the United States, many transfer locally to Ramapo, William Paterson and Montclair.

## **Administration**

### Mayor's Report

Mr. Barra stated that Allendale Housing Inc. closed on the Foreit property on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. He added that Allendale is recognized all over the state for what is happening in the Borough.

The contractor has recommended not demolishing the Foreit buildings in the near future. That would result in a disturbance of the site which would become sloppy if it rains. The contractor suggested putting up a construction fence around the site. Within sixty days from now, demolition should be done and construction will begin at the end of August or the beginning of September. A year from now people should be living there.

Mrs. Wilczynski asked if the final plans are available to look at.

Mr. Barra responded that the architects have sent the elevations to The Record. The elevations can be made available by e-mail, but boards will also be made up to display the plans at the Borough Hall or the Library. He anticipates a rendering will also be put up at the site once it is under construction.

When the property is complete there will be ten developmentally disabled units consisting of six one-bedroom and four two-bedroom units. They will house sixteen developmentally disabled individuals.

Across a courtyard and sharing a community room will be six supportive housing units for people with MS. There will be two, two-bedroom units and four, one-bedroom units.

Across the entrance road on the same site will be six affordable units for sale. These will be attached two-story units. Four, two bedroom units will be in the center with three bedroom units on the ends.

The entire developmentally disabled project, including land will cost around six million dollars.

HMFA is funding this project with \$3.71 million. The Allendale Housing Trust Fund will contribute \$1.1 million. \$600,000 is coming from the Home Program. Bergen United Way is going to bridge loan Allendale Housing, Inc. \$900,000 and they will be repaid from the sale of the Affordable Housing Units. Allendale will also receive a second grant from the Home Program for \$700,000.

Money from the Allendale Trust Fund comes from Developer's Fees. The Allendale residents will not pay any money toward the acquisition, construction or ongoing maintenance of these projects. In addition Allendale will also receive ten rent vouchers from the State to supplement the rent that Allendale Housing, Inc. will receive.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy  
Municipal Clerk