

Work Session
Mayor and Council
June 14, 2012

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:35 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 McSwiggan, Strauch, White, Wilczynski and Mayor Barra. Mr. Bernstein and Ms. LaMonica were absent. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

Public Comments

Mayor Barra opened the meeting to the public for comments.

There were none.

Mr. Barra acknowledged that Matthew Guarnaccia, an eighth grade student was in attendance this evening as part of the requirement for earning his Boy Scout merit badge on Citizenship in the Community.

Administration

Proposed Fire Department Ordinance Change

Mr. Ryan Shute and Mr. Tom Smith were present to discuss proposed changes to the Fire Department Ordinance and Bylaws. Those changes include the following:

- Mr. Smith said there is only one Company in Allendale's Fire Department, so in the future all references will be made to the "Department", and not to "Companies".
- Article I, Section III will be moved to the proper location.
- Article I, Section III, Paragraph 12 will be incorporated into another Bylaw change.
- Section III, Item C. Nominations of officers. A list of eligible candidates for line and association offices will be posted seven days prior to the October meeting.
- Section III, Item E. The percentages for eligibility will be calculated between October 1 through September 30.
- Section III, Item F. Any current officer will be considered a candidate and be subject to all qualifications.
- Section III, Item G. To be nominated for office a member needs to be at least 21 years of age with five years of eligibility or three years as an active firefighter. The candidate must have a NJ state Firefighter 1 certificate and a NJ State level 1 incident management certificate.
- Section III, Item H. No candidate can hold another line position in any other volunteer emergency service organization at the time of assuming their elected position.

- To be eligible as a Lieutenant an individual has to be a member in good standing and meet the above criteria for qualifications.
- To be eligible as a Captain an individual has to be a member in good standing and have served as a Lieutenant.
- To be eligible to be an Assistant Chief an individual has to be a member in good standing and have served as a Lieutenant and Captain.
- To be eligible to be a Chief and individual must be a member in good standing and have served as a Lieutenant, Captain and Assistant Chief.
- Write in candidates must meet the qualifications given above.
- The President will appoint a committee of three members in good standing to review the qualifications of all candidates.
- All candidates must have a permanent residence in Allendale, employment in Allendale or live in a contiguous town.
- In order to vote in the November election an individual must have attended at least 30% of all drills and fires from November 1st through October 31st.
- To be considered a member in good standing an individual must be off probation, have dues paid in full, owe no money to the association and have no pending disciplinary action.
- An applicant for membership can be examined by a licensed medical doctor instead of a designated medical doctor.
- Instead of saying “voted” into membership it will read “approved” into membership.
- Approval of membership will include a background investigation.
- Make any updates in the Bylaws to correspond to the numbering of the Borough Code Book that was revised in 2001.

Mr. Barra said the Borough Attorney will work with the Fire Department to help answer any questions they have on this process. Changes in the Fire Department ordinance will likely be introduced at a July meeting and will be adopted two weeks later.

Agenda Review

Ordinance 12-11 – Police Salary Ordinance

Mayor Barra said three officers have retired from the Allendale Police Department and at this time the Department’s numbers are low. An extensive review of applicants has been conducted and one was selected to begin working on July 1st. The new officer is presently a Police officer in another agency so he will be joining Allendale’s Police force with experience.

This evening a salary ordinance will be introduced and it will be adopted on June 28th. The ordinance will cover the employee who will begin on July 1st as well as another individual who will be hired without prior Police experience. That individual will enter the August class of the Police Academy.

The salary for the experienced officer will be \$54,142 which is the third step on the salary guide. The officer who will go to the academy will come on to the department at \$35,000 annually.

Mayor's Report

Mr. Barra said he recently attended a meeting of the Mayors in the Norwest Bergen area.

They discussed writing a standardized specification for fire engines. By having a standardized specification it is hoped a better price can be obtained and equipment can be standardized. In that way when towns go to a fire they are all dealing with the same equipment.

The Mayors decided to create a committee to work on this standardization process. The committee will consist of three Mayors, two Administrators, two Fire Chiefs, a Councilman/Volunteer Firefighter from Upper Saddle River and a Fire Academy instructor.

Mr. Barra said Allendale has been pressing the County for information on several issues that have existed in Allendale for years. The new Public Works department head at the County has recently provided Allendale with the information that was needed with regard to the scheduling of several road projects.

The West Crescent/Myrtle intersection and traffic signal. The engineering plans are in and approved, easements have been put in place, funding is in place and the bid specifications are out. The matter is scheduled to be awarded at the Freeholders meeting in early July. Hopefully the work will begin on August 1st. Myrtle and West Crescent will be closed during the construction.

Mrs. White said that part of the proposal is that the intersection must be completed in 90 days. There will not be a partial opening of the street, it will be completely closed. It is hoped that the majority of the work will be completed in the first 30 days. The county is aware this intersection is of great importance to all the schools.

Mr. Barra said the bridge at Brookside Avenue and Donnybrook will begin sometime in August. The complete rebuilding of the bridge could take from nine months to a year with the street closed a significant amount of that time. The Forest Road bridge that was recently replaced was considered a minor bridge replacement, whereas the bridge at Brookside Avenue will be a major bridge replacement.

The two projects will not directly impact on one another.

Mrs. White said the Myrtle and West Crescent project has been under discussion for nine years and the Brookside Bridge for five years. We have to go forward with the construction.

Mrs. Wilczynski noted that Upper Saddle River is getting a bridge to replace the one that was washed out during a storm.

The portion of the fence on Franklin Turnpike that came down during the microburst in 2007 will also be addressed. The fence will be replaced with the same type of guardrail that was used on the Forest Avenue Bridge.

The intersection of Brookside and West Crescent which was supposed to be expanded will not be addressed at this time because the County doesn't have the money to make the needed repairs.

Some improvements will be made at West Orchard and Franklin Turnpike. Previously there was a blinking traffic light at that location but it was changed to a red/yellow/green. The County now allows for a right turn onto Franklin Turnpike from West Orchard on red and they will be looking at allowing cars to turn right on red when traveling north on Franklin Turnpike.

There is a history of flooding in the areas near Franklin Turnpike/ Homewood and Midwood. The County will be adding more storm basins to assist with the poor drainage at those locations.

On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mrs. McSwiggan, the Council adjourned to the Regular Session at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy
Municipal Clerk