

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Councilmembers Ari Bernstein, Jackie McSwiggan, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Steve Sasso, and Jim Strauch

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Ray Wiss
Municipal Clerk Anne Dodd
Mayor for a Day Sofia Santiago

Mayor White advised that Sofia Santiago, Mayor for a Day, would be chairing the Work Session this evening.

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 25, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor for a Day Santiago who asked that the 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:

No one came forward.

Presentations:

A. Proclamation – Mayor For a Day

Mayor White read the following proclamation into the record:

*Proclamation
In Honor of
“Mayor Sofia Santiago Day”*

WHEREAS, young people gain valuable citizenship skills by learning about state and local government; and

WHEREAS, in honor of our young citizens, a “Mayor For a Day” event was auctioned at the Allendale Foundation for Educational Excellence 21st Annual Dinner and Auction, an event that helps fund grants to enrich the Pre-K through 8th Grade educational experiences at Hillside and Brookside Schools; and

WHEREAS, the “Mayor for a Day” event is a first step into the world of local politics as the winner sees the inner workings of Borough Hall and other municipal facilities as they follow Mayor White in her duties as the leader of the Borough of Allendale; and

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WHEREAS, by working to educate our young people in the duties, responsibilities, and opportunities of citizenship, this event will contribute to the success of the winner as a future leader of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, Daniela Menghi won the "Mayor for a Day" prize for her daughter, Sofia Santiago, who is going into 5th Grade at Brookside School; and

WHEREAS, Sofia is active in the community, being a member of the Girl Scouts and playing the saxophone in the school band; and

WHEREAS, Sofia hopes to follow in her brother Lucas' footsteps and participate in student government when she reaches middle school.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Elizabeth White, Mayor of the Borough of Allendale, officially proclaim that Thursday, August 25th be recognized as "Mayor Sofia Santiago Day" within the Borough of Allendale; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale encourages all its citizens to work together to prepare our young people to be good citizens.

Mayor White commented that she enjoyed her visit with Sofia and Lucas Santiago, noting that they are two of the most well-spoken, polite, and amazing children that she has had the pleasure to meet. She thanked the Santiago family for supporting the Allendale Foundation for Educational Excellence.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor for a Day Santiago reviewed the items on the Regular Session agenda.

Mayor White explained that due to substantive revisions that have been recommended by the Planning Board, Ordinances 16-22 and 16-23 will need to be reintroduced.

Mayor White reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. With respect to Resolution #16-233, she advised that as part of the Borough's COAH plan, there is an agreement with Eastern Christian Children's Home whereby the Borough has agreed to contribute \$50,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to help them in building the home located at 135 W. Crescent Avenue. This resolution will allow the Borough to request approval of the spending plan from the court so that this contribution can be made.

Borough Attorney Wiss advised that the motion and supporting pleadings are ready to be submitted once this resolution is adopted.

Councilwoman McSwiggan added that the Borough will receive 5 affordable housing credits by making said contribution.

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B. Mayor's Report

Mayor for a Day Santiago advised that the West Crescent Bridge is now open. She asked everyone to be mindful that school will be open soon and asked that everyone drive safely. She requested that everyone look out for Girl Scout posters that are posted throughout the Borough regarding rules for recycling.

C. Council Reports

Councilwoman McSwiggan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman McSwiggan reported that the Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee met earlier this week and continue to work on upgrading the water infrastructure with the main focus at this time being the refurbishment of the Borough's main water tank. As this water tank will be taken offline in the near future, a plan was discussed for ensuring that water service will be uninterrupted while the main tank is out of service. Phase 2 Water Restrictions may be implemented during this period in order to help reduce strain on the system.

Councilman Bernstein – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Bernstein advised that the next Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee meeting is scheduled for September 20th.

On behalf of Councilwoman Homan, Councilman Bernstein advised that there was a meeting on Saturday with representatives from emergency services. He commented that it was a very good meeting and noted that these departments are really a gift to Allendale as they devote a lot of their free time and help to make this Borough a better place.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that the last Band Night will take place on Saturday with a jazz ensemble performing at 8 p.m. Two Boy Scouts are completing their Eagle Scout projects at Crestwood. These projects entail installing a bat house and clearing the paths behind Field 5. Arrangements are currently being made for this year's 9/11 Ceremony which will mark the 15-year anniversary.

D. Staff Reports

Anne Dodd, Municipal Clerk, advised that her office is beginning to prepare for the General Election. The deadline to verify the names of the local candidates for the Vote By Mail Ballot is September 6th. She noted that she will be ordering supplies to help make the transport of the election materials to the polling places easier and more secure. She will also be ordering some better signage for the polling places.

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, reported that in terms of the high school litigation matter, the stay remains in effect. Counsel is working on the opinion letter that was authorized at the last meeting; this letter is anticipated to be received by Labor Day. With respect to the acquisition of 220-230 W. Crescent Avenue, the appraiser conducted his inspection of the property last Friday and his formal report is awaited. In relation to the COAH litigation, he

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advised that he, the Borough's Affordable Housing Consultant, Mayor White, and Councilwoman McSwiggan met with the Court Master and representatives from the Fair Share Housing Council for the initial mediation yesterday. Additional time was requested for the planner to revise the plan that was previously submitted. A second mediation is scheduled by telephone conference on October 19th.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, noted that there will be a meeting with representatives from Bergen County and the contractor to review any outstanding items with respect to the West Crescent Bridge project. There will also be a meeting with PSE&G regarding some additional work that they have completed on the roadway. The West Allendale Pedestrian Walkway Improvements will be complete next week. He thanked the governing body for listing the purchase of the compactor for approval and noted that there will need to be an upgrade to the electric to accommodate this new equipment. He reported that his department is preparing their equipment for winter.

E. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman McSwiggan, second by Councilman Bernstein, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk