

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Jackie McSwiggan, Steve Sasso, and Jim Strauch

ABSENT: Councilmembers Ari Bernstein and Amy Wilczynski

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Ray Wiss
Municipal Clerk Anne Dodd

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 January 26, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Mayor White 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:

Kathy MacLaren and Natasha Rodriguez, World Mission Society of God, Ridgewood, inquired whether there are any community service opportunities available for their group in Allendale, noting that the members are CERT trained and have been recognized by the White House for their volunteer efforts.

Mayor White requested that they leave their contact information with the Administrative Officer, commenting that Allendale is very lucky that it has a large number of amazing volunteers within the community, and thanked them for coming to introduce themselves.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, advised that this organization assisted with a number of events when he was County Parks Director and expressed his opinion that they are an excellent organization.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She advised that the January 12th Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval this evening, noting that she reviewed them and had no issues with them. She explained that the purpose of Resolution #17-70 is to amend the meeting schedule to move the March 9th Work and Regular Session to March 2nd. With respect to the ordinances listed for adoption, she advised that the purpose of Ordinance 17-01 is to set the salary ranges for the various positions within the Borough and 17-02 is to appropriate \$14,350,000 to acquire 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue. She then requested that Borough Attorney Wiss explain the need for the reintroduction of Ordinance 17-03 which pertains to the installation of lights on the athletic field areas of Northern Highlands Regional High School.

Borough Attorney Wiss advised that a letter was received from the Planning Board Attorney stating that the Planning Board has approved the ordinance in terms of consistency with the Master Plan.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2017

He explained that a meeting was held with the two parties in an attempt to effectuate a settlement of the litigation and said meeting was highly successful as a concept agreement was reached on all points. The attorneys are working on a draft agreement which should be circulated by early next week. As part of this agreement, a change to the ordinance has been agreed upon raising the maximum height of the lights on the athletic fields from 80 feet to 90 feet to allow for better focus of the lights. Borough Attorney Wiss expressed his opinion that this revision is considered substantive and requires reintroduction of the ordinance and referral to the Planning Board to determine consistency with the Master Plan.

Mayor White commented that the March meeting is being moved up by a week so that this ordinance can have its public hearing and possible adoption on March 2nd.

Mayor White then reviewed the Consent Agenda. She requested that Alissa Mayer, CFO, provide an explanation of Resolution #17-74 which is being adopted in connection with the note sale held last week.

CFO Mayer advised that three banks submitted bids and the successful bidder was Lakeland Bank with an interest rate of 1.43% which increased from last year's rate of 0.85%.

Mayor White then highlighted Resolution #17-77 which authorizes the release of \$20,000 to Eastern Christian Children's Retreat as the Borough's contribution towards the acquisition of 200 West Crescent Avenue. She noted that this acquisition shall serve to provide housing for adults with developmental disabilities, specifically a five (5) bedroom group home to be built at this location.

B. Council Reports

Councilman Sasso - Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso advised that the Land Use and Construction Code Committee is scheduled to meet on February 3rd. He and Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, will be meeting with the Construction Official tomorrow to discuss how to best address outstanding open permits.

Councilwoman McSwiggan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman McSwiggan reported that the Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee will continue to focus on upgrading the infrastructure. A preconstruction meeting for the Fairhaven Booster Pump Improvements was held and went well. She advised that work has begun and there should be little disruption to the neighbor's in terms of water quality.

Mayor White commended Councilwoman McSwiggan for the job she has done in ensuring that this project has progressed.

Councilman Strauch inquired whether a water main break had occurred on the corner of De Mercurio and W. Orchard. Councilwoman McSwiggan confirmed that this location was one of the number of water main breaks that have occurred over the past few weeks. She explained that these breaks are due to the freeze and thaw cycle as well as the population growth and increased traffic, particularly heavy trucks, traveling through Allendale.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2017

Councilwoman Homan - Public Safety

Councilwoman Homan reported that the Public Safety Committee has met twice. The committee is working to enhance safety in the community while also looking at the economic outlay. She advised that she met with the Allendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps just prior to tonight's meeting. She encouraged residents to volunteer as an EMT and thanked all of the volunteers for their service to the community.

Councilman Strauch inquired about an accident in which a pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle.

Councilwoman Homan confirmed that there was an accident involving a pedestrian and noted that they will be conducting an initiative to educate both drivers and pedestrians on crosswalk safety, stressing the need for drivers to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk and pedestrians to cross using the crosswalk.

Due to time constraints, Councilman Strauch's report was carried to the Regular Session.

C. Mayor's Report

Due to time constraints, this item was carried to the Regular Session.

D. Staff Reports

Due to time constraints, this item was carried to the Regular Session.

E. Correspondence

1. Botta

RE: Borough of Allendale Ordinance 17-03 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND, SUPPLEMENT AND REVISE THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF ALLENDALE, ZONING, CHAPTER 270 AND LAND SUBDIVISION AND SITE PLAN REVIEW, CHAPTER 147

This item was addressed during Agenda Review.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Strauch, second by Councilwoman McSwiggan, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2017

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk