

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Council members Ari Bernstein (arrived at 7:34 p.m.), Liz Homan (arrived at 7:31 p.m.), Jackie McSwiggan, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: None

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 July 13, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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:***

Bruce Rohsler, 40 Meeker Ave & 100 Franklin Turnpike, expressed concern regarding the unprecedented number of deer in the area. He explained the negative effect that they have had on his business and noted that there has been an increase in incidents of lymes disease and car accidents caused by deer. He commented that he is questioning his businesses' viability going forward.

Mayor White advised that she had attended a Northwest Bergen Mayors' meeting on Saturday morning and the possibility of the neighboring towns banding together to address this issue was discussed. Mayor Kurpis of Saddle River has been proactive in addressing this issue and although Saddle River has gone to the NJ DEP to receive permission to use certain methods, permission has not been granted. She noted that there is no prohibition on bow hunting in Allendale and if approval is received from neighbors, one can get a permit to do so from the DEP. She expressed her opinion that there is a lot more support at the local level now to work together to address this issue than in the past.

Mr. Rohsler remarked that he does not want the decision of whether to address this problem to be hinged on Saddle River. He expressed that he would be happy to facilitate a deer management program.

Mayor White explained that deer management will not work unless all the surrounding towns work together. She expressed her opinion that the County also needs to become involved but, to date, they have been adamantly opposed.

Councilwoman Wilczynski stated that there is no easy solution and they have attended several seminars and continue to research to try to find the best way to address the issue.

Councilwoman McSwiggan added that, in attending a seminar at Duke Farms, they learned that the effort needs to be made County-wide, and although Saddle River is leading the charge in terms of

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trying to determine which method would be best, it is not an issue that is being ignored by Allendale. She suggested that he share his concerns with the County leadership.

Mayor White noted that there is a survey on the NJ DEP website to which Mr. Rohsler can direct his customers which may prove to be helpful. She expressed that the governing body would be happy to partner with him if he would like to put a County-wide movement together.

Mr. Rohsler also expressed concern over the flooding on Franklin Turnpike. He noted that although he has a driveway with two aprons in need of repair, he does not want to spend money to fix it as the freezing and thawing of the water during the winter will destroy the repair.

Mayor White advised that she met with the County Engineer and County Hydrologist together with Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, and the Borough Engineer. A commitment has been received that additional inlets will be installed and the Borough will be responsible for putting in part of the curb. Mayor White expressed her opinion that even by doing so, it may not address Mr. Rohsler's issue because of where his property is situated. She explained that the County is in the midst of soliciting Requests for Proposals for the additional drainage work on Franklin Turnpike. She further advised that although Franklin Turnpike is on a list of streets to be paved, the County has not gone out for their paving contract yet. After they put in the drainage but prior to paving, she advised that she will request that the County Engineer work with the Borough Engineer to determine whether the height of the road can be reconfigured to address Mr. Rohsler's issue.

Councilwoman Wilczynski thanked Mr. Rohsler for his help in planting donated trees.

**Administration:**

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She noted that the June 29<sup>th</sup> Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval. Councilwoman McSwiggan noted that there was one minor spelling error that has been corrected.

Mayor White then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. She highlighted Resolution #17-201 which authorizes a salary increase for Mr. Kistner. She explained that the Administration, Finance, and Human Resources Committee has proposed this increase in recognition of the excellent work that he has done for the Borough in addition to the fact that he has now obtained his Public Works Manager certification.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor White advised that she attended the Shakespeare Festival's performance of Romeo & Juliet at the Van Houten Pavilion. She thanked Patty Durso, Executive Administrator of the Lee Memorial Library, as this event was outstanding, with at least 200 people in attendance. As it was difficult to hear, Mayor White commented that the band shell that is being sought through a grant would be great for an event of this nature.

Mayor White expressed her opinion that the concert series at Crestwood Lake has been outstanding this season. She remarked that she was happy to see the 4 Brothers Band perform as they are originally from Allendale.

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FEMA will be presenting on proposed flood maps on July 18<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Information on this presentation has been posted to the Borough website and Facebook. She urged anyone who may be in a flooding area to go to this presentation and speak with FEMA representatives. The Engineering Department has reviewed these maps and those properties who are listed have been individually notified.

Mayor White thanked residents for their patience while PSE&G is replacing 16” gas main on Crescent Avenue. She thanked the Police Department for handling the traffic detours as well as ensuring that the children who are attending Aleoop Summer Program are able to get there safely. Updates are being posted to Facebook.

C. Council Reports

**Councilman Strauch** – Public Works

Councilman Strauch reported that the Public Works Committee met yesterday and had a productive meeting. He commented that the entire DPW staff is doing a fabulous job. Inlet repairs and pothole repairs are mainly being completed inhouse. In addition to replacing the gas main on W. Crescent Avenue, emergency repairs were completed on Bonnie Way. Councilman Strauch advised that he will be sending out a calendar invite to schedule the next meeting.

Due to time constraints, the remaining Council Reports were carried to the Regular Session.

D. Staff Reports

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

E. Correspondence

1. BCUA – 2017 BCUA Environmental Awareness Challenge Grant

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

**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,

Anne Dodd, RMC  
Municipal Clerk