

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Council members Ari Bernstein, Liz Homan, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch (arrived at 7:35 p.m.), and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilwoman Jackie McSwiggan

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 27, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 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:**

Christina Montanye, 227 Orchard Park, requested that the resolutions be placed on the website in advance of the meeting in order to enhance transparency.

Mayor White advised and the Borough Clerk confirmed that the agenda materials are currently being posted the day prior to the Mayor and Council meetings.

**Administration:**

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. The July 13<sup>th</sup> Work and Regular Session Minutes have been listed for approval.

Mayor White then reviewed the resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda. She highlighted Resolution #17-210 which authorizes participation in a program in which the Police Department may acquire property from the Defense Department.

Councilwoman Wilczynski inquired whether there will be a resolution needed to acquire property.

Councilwoman Homan explained that should there be items not being utilized by the Defense Department that could be of use to the Police Department, the Police Department may have the ability to acquire these items for free through this program. She expressed her belief that this program offers a great opportunity for the Borough. She noted that the committee has discussed putting a policy in place through which input and approval is sought by the Public Safety Committee before equipment is acquired.

Borough Attorney Wiss confirmed that the purpose of this resolution is to authorize participation in the program. He advised that a formal resolution may or may not be necessary to authorize

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 2017

acquisition of property. He suggested that approval be sought through the committee with a report to the governing of body once approval is given to the Police Department.

Mayor White advised that there will be a need to enter into Closed Executive Session this evening to receive an update regarding the pending COAH litigation matter.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor White reported that there has been misinformation posted on social media regarding Allendale's water quality. She noted that the Borough's water quality is excellent and advised that the water quality report was mailed to every home, is available in Borough Hall and has been posted to the Borough website. She requested that anyone with questions contact the governing body as one should not trust information that is posted on the internet. She read the following statement from Suez, the Borough's water operator, into the record: "At our New Jersey operation, Suez conducted more than 48,809 analyses on about 6,800 water samples in 2016, alone. Customers can be confident that Suez professionals are constantly monitoring and treating the water to ensure that it meets safe water drinking standards. Like other public water suppliers, Suez must provide detailed water quality information in our annual consumer confidence report. This report is posted on mysuezwater.com where we encourage our customers to read it to learn more about their water and the water treatment process. The consumer confidence report is based upon ongoing testing throughout the year. It's important to note that Suez works closely with the EPA and the State of New Jersey to comply with rigorous standards for safe drinking water. These standards are established to ensure that water is safe for people to drink. As a water supplier, Suez shares this commitment to public health and our top priority is to deliver safe drinking water each and every day. We will continue to work closely with environmental regulators and industry leaders regarding standards designed to ensure drinking water safety." Mayor White remarked that the governing body echoes these comments as public health and safety are of utmost importance and a large amount of time is devoted to working on water issues.

PSE&G continues to work to replace the gas main. Mayor White thanked them for the professionalism that they have shown while this work is being performed.

Councilwoman Homan noted that Waldwick paved Hopper Avenue at the same time that the gas main repair was taking place and she suggested that there be communication with surrounding towns when roadwork is being done in order to better coordinate. Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, advised that this paving took place a week earlier than originally scheduled.

Mayor White announced that the railroad crossing at Main Street in Ramsey will be shut down from August 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 12<sup>th</sup>. This information has been posted to the Borough's Facebook page.

C. Council Reports

**Councilman Strauch** – Public Works

Councilman Strauch advised that the Public Works Committee has not met since the last meeting. He noted that he will be sending a meeting invite for August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 2017

**Councilwoman Homan** – Public Safety

Councilwoman Homan announced that the Public Safety Committee will meet on Friday. She commented that the rerouting of traffic has been going well.

**Councilwoman Wilczynski** – Facilities, Parks & Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that the band night with the Nerds was successful with over 1,000 people attending. The triathlon is scheduled on July 30<sup>th</sup> and Carol King tribute band on August 5<sup>th</sup>. She advised that she will be scheduling a Facilities, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on either August 16<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Councilman Sasso** – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso noted that the Land Use and Construction Code Committee has not met since the last Mayor and Council meeting. He advised that the next meeting will take place on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Councilman Bernstein** – Administration, Finance, and Human Resources

Councilman Bernstein advised that the next Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee meeting is scheduled on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

D. Staff Reports

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, explained that he will be providing an update on the statewide COAH litigation matter in Closed Session. He noted that he has been addressing contractual matters and working with the Municipal Clerk on OPRA requests.

Mayor White commented that the Municipal Clerk is such an integral part of how the Borough operates. She noted that Ms. Dodd does an outstanding job of keeping the governing body on track and ensuring that the letter of the law is followed. She advised that today is Ms. Dodd's two-year anniversary with the Borough and presented Ms. Dodd with flowers in honor of this occasion. She further noted that the time that Ms. Dodd spends on OPRA requests is unconscionable, noting that she is immensely professional in how she handles these requests.

Anne Dodd, Municipal Clerk, thanked the Mayor and Council for their kind words and recognition. She advised that she and Mr. Kistner met with two companies to discuss proposals for digitizing the Borough's records. She commented that she believes they have found a company that can meet the Borough's needs and she and Mr. Kistner will be making a recommendation to the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, advised that the DPW is getting ready for winter. They are determining the amount of rock salt to be ordered. They will be ordering a mason dump truck and are checking the existing equipment to ensure that it is ready for winter. Catch basin repairs are underway. The catch basin on Pittis is complete and they are currently working on the catch basin on Donnybrook which is more involved than initially anticipated. The fields are being prepped for the fall.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
July 27, 2017

E. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items.

***Adjournment:***

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Strauch, second by Councilwoman Homan, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC  
Municipal Clerk