

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2017

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

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Timothy 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 June 15, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Councilwoman McSwiggan 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:

Brayden Rutter, 24 Cambridge Drive, advised that he is attending tonight’s meeting in order to earn both his Communications and Citizenship in the Community merit badges.

Councilman Bernstein asked Mr. Rutter’s rank and inquired what the next rank would be and what would be entailed to reach this rank.

Mr. Rutter responded that he is a Star Scout which is 2 levels below the rank of Eagle Scout. He explained that the next level would be Life Scout and in order to reach this rank there are merit badges that are required to be earned and one must be a Star Scout for at least 6 months.

Councilman Bernstein remarked that he had the honor to attend the Boy Scouts Centennial Celebration as well as the Eagle Scout Ceremony. He expressed that it was his privilege to present awards on behalf of the Borough to the Eagle Scouts. He stated that he is in awe of what is entailed in becoming an Eagle Scout and noted that only 5% of Scouts reach the Eagle Scout level.

Councilwoman McSwiggan echoed Councilman Bernstein’s comments and commented that Mr. Rutter should feel free to reach out to the members of the governing body at any time as they are always available.

Ethan Shaw, 143 Green Way, stated that he is working on his Citizenship in the Community merit badge which involves attending a council meeting and taking notes.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2017

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Councilwoman McSwiggan reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She advised that the May 25th Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval. She noted that she and Councilwoman Wilczynski listened to the recording of these meetings, and as a result, are permitted to vote to approve said minutes.

Councilwoman McSwiggan advised that the next item on the agenda is the public hearing and resolution to authorize the submission of an application for a Bergen County Open Space Grant in order to receive funding for a band shell at Crestwood Lake.

Councilwoman Wilczynski noted that Crestwood Lake has had great success with its events over the past four to five years. As there is currently only a small pavilion to hold events, it cannot house some of the bigger bands who play at the lake. After outreach to and from the community, it was decided to apply to obtain a grant for a community band shell.

Councilwoman McSwiggan then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

With respect to Resolution #17-181, which approves the bill list, Councilman Bernstein inquired whether the amount reflected in the purchase order for the Tennis Court project was the full amount or the amount for which the Borough is responsible. Councilwoman Wilczynski advised that although this purchase order reflects the full amount of the project, the Borough will be reimbursed for half of the cost as a grant was awarded for this project.

In regard to Resolution #17-182, authorizing the purchase of a surf rake, Councilwoman McSwiggan noted that this purchase was addressed at the last meeting by Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations. She explained that this piece of equipment will be used to clean the sand as well as to thatch the fields and assist with leaf pickup. Councilwoman Wilczynski added that the rake has already done wonders and expressed her hope that, as a result, less sand will need to be purchased.

Councilwoman McSwiggan advised that Resolution #17-183, which authorizes the purchase of two compactors, was also addressed by Mr. Kistner at the last meeting. She noted that this purchase will replace a garbage truck and will be a cost savings for the Borough. Mr. Kistner explained that it will also save in labor as there will be less trips to the Recycling Center.

Councilwoman McSwiggan reviewed the remaining resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

B. Mayor's Report

On behalf of Mayor White, Councilwoman McSwiggan thanked Anne Dodd, Municipal Clerk, for her work with respect to the election. She noted that the election went smoothly and expressed her opinion that the change in polling places was very well-communicated to the affected voters. Municipal Clerk Dodd agreed that everything went smoothly and commented that she feels that having three of the four polling places in Borough Hall worked out well as she and her staff were just downstairs to quickly address any issues that arose.

Councilwoman McSwiggan reported that both she and Mayor White attended meetings regarding the growing epidemic of opioid addiction. The Mayor attended a Knock Out Opioid Abuse town hall

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2017

meeting on May 31st at Bergen Community College and she attended a summit held by the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office. She commented that the summit was really informative with terrific panels. Gail Cole, an Allendale resident, was one of the panelists and she gave her perspective as a parent who has lost a child as a result of drug addiction.

Councilwoman McSwiggan advised that Councilmembers Sasso and Homan are attending a ceremony this evening honoring Officer Vincent Rizzo for preventing a suicide. She expressed that the governing body is very proud of him and the work that he did.

Mayor White and Councilwoman McSwiggan attended an emergency preparedness presentation given by the Board of Special Services to the special needs population at Orchard Common and Crescent Common. She noted that this presentation was very informative, gave the community the opportunity to ask questions, and reinforced the actions that are necessary to take in the case of several different emergencies.

Councilwoman McSwiggan thanked Commander Ernest Cassidy for a terrific Memorial Day celebration. She remarked that the student speeches were very thoughtful and well-presented. Patty Durso, Executive Administrator of the Lee Memorial Library, also gave a presentation on Allendale's participation in World War I. A copy of her speech is available on the Borough website and approval is awaited from the 7th Grade parents to place the student speeches on the website as well.

COAH negotiations continue with the court appointed master and representatives from the Fair Share Housing Center. Councilwoman McSwiggan and Councilwoman Wilczynski attended a summit held by Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi earlier this evening to discuss COAH and concerns about the impact that the numbers being proposed by Fair Share Housing Center will have on communities. She noted that although they continue to negotiate to attain a number that is palatable to Allendale, no number that has been presented thus far is a great one.

Mayor White attended the Brookside School services project presentation which is the culmination of a yearlong course on Civics and Community Service. The Mayor, Ron Kistner, and Patty Durso spent time working with the students on their projects, one of which was a hemophilia walk held at Crestwood Lake. Mayor White, Councilwoman McSwiggan, Councilwoman Wilczynski, and Councilman Sasso participated in this walk and Councilwoman McSwiggan remarked that it was a wonderful event and was well-attended.

The Special Olympics Torch Run was held last Friday. Councilwoman McSwiggan expressed her gratitude to the Allendale Police Department for their continued support of the special needs population and of the Special Olympics.

Mayor White attended the Northern Highlands Regional High School Awards Ceremony and was impressed with the caliber of the award recipients.

A Department Head meeting was held last Friday in which all departments in the Borough are represented to ensure open communication and preparedness for the upcoming events which included the many events that had been scheduled at Crestwood Lake last weekend.

Councilwoman McSwiggan extended the governing body's hearty congratulations to Troop 59 on its 100th anniversary, a celebration of which was held at the Red Barn on Saturday and was attended by Councilwoman Wilczynski. Councilwoman McSwiggan expressed that she was honored to participate in the Girl Scouts Gold Award Ceremony and noted that it was a terrific event. She

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2017

advised that Erin Hart, Alexa Sirubi, and Alexa Vitti, three young women from Allendale Troop 49, attained this level within the Girl Scouts.

Councilwoman McSwiggan announced that Councilman Bernstein attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony on Sunday. Councilman Bernstein commented that he is always in awe as these young men join in the ranks of those such as Neil Armstrong and Michael Bloomberg. He noted that although nationwide only 5% of Boy Scouts attain the rank of Eagle, the number is higher within Allendale which is quite an accomplishment. The four Eagle Scouts who were honored are Alex Arcasoy, Daniel Patrick, Patrick Shea and Sam Redling. Councilman Bernstein expressed his opinion that they are outstanding young men and we will be seeing and hearing about them again in the future.

C. Council Reports

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch reported that the Public Works Committee and Engineering met last Wednesday and had a productive meeting. A letter was received from the NJ DOT advising that the Borough's application for a Municipal Aid grant for Donny Brook Phase 2 and Safety Improvements on Franklin Turnpike and East Allendale Avenue was denied. Councilman Strauch announced that Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, received his formal certification as a Public Works Manager. The members of the governing body extended their congratulations to Mr. Kistner on this achievement. Councilman Strauch advised that the next Public Works Committee and Engineering meetings will need to be rescheduled, and as such, he does not have a date at this time.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks & Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski advised that the ADA bathrooms at Crestwood Lake will be completed next week. The delittering of the upper pond will also be finished next week and it is hoped that by doing so, the 911 fountains will work again. The tennis courts are complete and Councilwoman Wilczynski commented that she is thrilled with the final product, noting that one court is now a basketball court and pickle ball lines will be added. Approval of a grant is awaited to refurbish the floors and obtain new picnic tables at the Red Barn, notice of which should be received in July. She will be preparing the grant application for the band shell for which the public hearing is being held this evening and this shell will house the events at the lake. Troop 59 had its 100-year anniversary celebration at the Red Barn and Councilwoman Wilczynski read and presented a proclamation on behalf of the governing body. She noted that many Eagle Scout projects are done at the lake such as the bat house and floating dock. Family night was held and it was a great success. There were approximately 50-60 children who attended and there was a bounce house which the kids enjoyed. She thanked Tierney Benvenuto for organizing and running this event. There will be a movie night held this Friday. The Ambulance Corp will be attending and making a few announcements in an attempt to increase membership. They will be having another movie night to celebrate the anniversary of the Ambulance Corps.

As mentioned by Councilwoman McSwiggan, Councilwoman Wilczynski advised that she attended Assemblywoman Schepisi's event on COAH, noting that this issue is not a political issue but one that is affecting the entire state. She explained that they are working to raise public awareness of this issue and expressed her opinion that a legislative solution must be reached.

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2017

Councilwoman McSwiggan encouraged the public to put pressure on legislators and be as vocal as possible when it comes to this issue.

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

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 Wilczynski, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk