

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Council members Ari Bernstein, Steve Sasso, Jim Strauch, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Council members Liz Homan and 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 March 10, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:37 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.”

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White advised that the two bond ordinances are scheduled for adoption this evening, noting that there is a 20-day estoppel period before funds can be expended. She thanked the Finance Committee for their work in keeping the Borough's debt down.

Mayor White explained that the purpose of Ordinance 16-06 is to fix the salaries, wages, and compensation for the employees in Chapter 53 of the Borough Code. She explained that the salary resolutions will be listed on the next agenda after the adoption of Ordinance 16-06.

In terms of Ordinance 16-07, Mayor White noted that this ordinance will allow the Police Department to address an issue with commuters parking on First Street rather than using the park and ride lots.

Mayor White then reviewed the remainder of the Regular Session agenda which included the Consent Agenda and an appointment of Alternate #2 to the Planning Board. She advised that Craig Cinelli will be appointed to this position and she commented that she is grateful that he has shown an interest in serving on this board.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor White reported that she will be attending a Northwest Bergen Mayors' meeting this Saturday at Northern Highlands. She explained that mental health is being highlighted in 2016 and this agenda will be featuring a panel to discuss ways to address various mental health issues.

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Mayor White advised that she and Councilwoman Wilczynski will be participating in Meals on Wheels next Wednesday.

The New Acting Prosecutor is having a clergy breakfast at the Fiesta tomorrow morning which Mayor White expressed that she will be attending. She attended the Bergen County League of Municipalities Mayors' meeting on Tuesday morning and learned that the State eliminated bee keeping restrictions.

Councilwoman Wilczynski commented that the elimination of these restrictions will be beneficial to the Celery Farm as it will eliminate the need to notify the residents who surround the Celery Farm that bees will be kept there. She advised that the bees are being kept in the center of the farm and are strictly being kept to make honey.

Mayor White stated that Chairman Tanelli reported that the Bergen County Freeholders will have a 4.5% budget increase. Mayor White voiced her displeasure with this large of an increase as municipalities are limited to a 2% cap.

Mayor White and Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer and Director of Operations, met with the Northwest Bergen Sewer Authority regarding the large increase experienced this year in sewer numbers. It was explained that Mahwah has been reporting its numbers incorrectly. In the spirit of shared services, Northwest Bergen Sewer Authority will be handling any sewer emergencies that arise to eliminate the need to have a sewer standby. Layne Simon, Ron Kistner, and Mike Vreeland will be attending a seminar on March 30th regarding water consumption calculations.

C. Council Reports

Councilman Sasso - Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso advised that the Land Use and Construction Code Committee met this past Friday. They are reviewing the code to eliminate redundancies and out-of-date regulations. He noted that they are working on ordinances to address drones and head shops which will allow the Borough the opportunity for increased enforcement. They are also looking at the future of 24-hour and drive-thru businesses.

In terms of Property Maintenance, Councilman Sasso expressed his opinion that Mike Limatola is working out great. He noted that they are revamping the process for notification of code violations in order to be more customer-oriented.

Councilman Sasso inquired whether the proclamation in honor of Tim Dunn would be on tonight's agenda. Mayor White advised that she will read this proclamation right after the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Bernstein – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Bernstein advised that the Administration, Finance, and Human Resources Committee met on March 3rd. He stated that the Teamsters Local 11 contract has been settled and they will be meeting with UPSEU later this month in the hopes of settling this contract. The committee is working on the vacant property

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registration process. The code books as well as the online code have been updated. The budget is in the final stages and has been sent to the Borough Auditor for approval. The tentative date for introduction is March 24th and adoption is April 28th. Councilman Bernstein noted that a meeting of the Allendale Financial Advisory Board is scheduled for March 21st.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski reported that the fields will be open on March 28th. The sod on West Maple field ~~that~~ has taken nicely and the turf blankets were removed and grass grew has grown. Crestwood Lake is being prepared for the season and the pump has been repaired. The bathrooms will be opened for the Easter Egg Hunt. The first meeting regarding events at the Crestwood Lake took place and a few bands have already been booked. The next Facilities, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch advised that the Public Works Committee met last Wednesday. He thanked Ron Kistner and Steve Sasso and commented that he is very impressed with changes that have been made since he last chaired this committee. The next meeting is scheduled for April 6th. He advised that the DPW will be working on cleaning up the downtown next week. He noted that there will be some issues in the transition from heat to air conditioning in the Municipal Building and care will be taken to ensure that the employees are kept comfortable.

D. Staff Reports

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, advised that although there is no news to report locally, everyone is awaiting the appeal of Judge Troncone's decision in which he found that municipalities are constitutionally mandated to address their obligation for affordable housing projects that they did not build over the past 15 years. The hearing regarding the GRC complaint is scheduled for March 30th and the CFO will be available to attend. The parties in the Northern Highlands Lighting Matter will meet informally on March 24th in the hope of reaching a settlement.

Anne Dodd, Municipal Clerk, reported that she will begin the process of reviewing records to determine which can be destroyed and to better organize the records that must be kept.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, reported that progress is being made.

E. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items.

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Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk