

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 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 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 May 11, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 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. Notice of this meeting by the May 5, 2017 Sunshine Notice Record, the Ridgewood News, and Star Ledger and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and Borough website.”

**Closed Session:**

The Municipal Clerk read into the record Resolution 17-149.

BE IT RESOLVED in compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale entered into Closed Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

- A. Pending & Prospective Litigation
  - 1. COAH Litigation Update

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Council Chambers to resume this work session.

On a motion from Councilwoman McSwiggan, seconded by Councilwoman Homan, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was recessed to the Closed Executive Session in the Council Chambers 6:35p.m.

The Work Session resumed at 7:35 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Cari Laughman, 41 Harreton Road, advised that she is attending tonight’s meeting on behalf of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. She noted that although she is a supporter of the second amendment, this group is demanding that legislators enact common sense gun reform. She requested that Allendale participate in a national campaign called

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Wear Orange for Gun Violence Awareness and proclaim June 2<sup>nd</sup> as Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Mayor White advised that she has requested that the Municipal Clerk include this proclamation on the May 25<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, expressed concern over the change in polling locations as he believes that there may now be lines with 3 districts being located in the same building.

Mayor White explained that Guardian Angel has advised that their facility will no longer be available to use as a polling place. She noted that, thanks to the Municipal Clerk, Districts 2 and 4 will now be located at Borough Hall.

Municipal Clerk Dodd explained that there will still be two voting machines per district.

Mayor White advised that a notice about this change has been posted to the Borough website as well as Facebook and a SwiftReach message will be sent as well.

**Presentations:**

A. Proclamation – National Nursing Home Week

Mayor White read the following proclamation into the record:

***Proclamation in Honor of  
National Nursing Home Week***

***Whereas***, we honor and respect our elders and citizens of any age with physical or intellectual disabilities who reside in the Allendale Community for Senior Living, a skilled nursing care center located in the Borough of Allendale; and

***Whereas***, skilled nursing care centers throughout our area are holding events in observance of National Nursing Home Week, May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup>, using this year's theme of "The Spirit of America;" and

***Whereas***, all citizens are urged to visit a loved one, family member or friend residing in any care setting and offer a kind word, a personal touch, and time spent participating in various activities as a way to help in all walks of life in need of our continuing love and support; and

***Whereas***, as the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale are committed to quality health care, we take this moment to embrace the spirit of the theme "The Spirit of America" and join all residents, clients, caregivers, nurses, other staff, and visitors in celebrating their special week.

***Now Therefore Be It Resolved***, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale do hereby proclaim the week of May 14, 2017 to May 20, 2017 as National Nursing Home

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*Week, a week to honor our vulnerable citizens who receive care, and the dedicated ones giving care.*

B. Proclamation – 2017 EMS Week

Mayor White noted that it is the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Allendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps 80<sup>th</sup> this year and they will be holding an emergency services open house on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Mayor White thanked all the volunteers, commenting that they are outstanding members of the community. She read the following proclamation into the record:

**Proclamation  
In Honor of 2017  
EMS Week**

**WHEREAS**, *emergency medical services is a vital public service; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and*

**WHEREAS**, *access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and*

**WHEREAS**, *emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and*

**WHEREAS**, *the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and*

**WHEREAS**, *it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; and*

**WHEREAS**, *this year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Allendale Ambulance Corps; and*

**WHEREAS**, *in celebration of 80 years of EMS services in Allendale, AVAC will be hosting a public safety day on May 20, 2017 together with the Allendale Police Department, Fire Department, and CERT .*

**NOW, THEREFORE**, *I Elizabeth White, Mayor of the Borough of Allendale, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 21 - 27, 2017, as*

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK**

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*With the theme, **EMS Strong: Always in Service**, I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.*

**Administration**

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She advised that the April 27<sup>th</sup> Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval.

Councilman Sasso explained that Ordinance 17-08 has been reviewed by the Planning Board and has been found to be consistent with the Master Plan. Mayor White noted that this ordinance grants an extra foot in fence height to be in line with the standard height of most fences.

Mayor White explained that Ordinance 17-09, which is listed for introduction, amends Chapter 53 to include salary ranges for members of the governing body.

She then reviewed the Consent Agenda. Councilman Bernstein questioned the purchase order for General Code, inquiring whether it was for the latest code supplement or if it was to conduct a review of the Borough Code as has been discussed in committee.

Municipal Clerk Dodd confirmed that this invoice was for the latest supplement which updated the Borough Code through Ordinance 17-03.

Mayor White highlighted Resolution #17-151, noting that this agreement will allow Allendale to borrow both emergency and non-emergency equipment from Bergen County if said equipment is available.

In terms of Resolution #17-152, Mayor White advised that these two pieces of proposed legislation are being sponsored by Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi. As municipalities are being pressured into settlement negotiations with respect to their affordable housing obligations, Mayor White expressed her hope that Assemblywoman Schepisi will be successful in having these two pieces of legislation heard by the NJ State Assembly.

In reference to Resolution #17-160 which certifies the 2016 audit, Mayor White thanked Alissa Mayer, CFO, as going through the audit is a difficult process. She noted that two small comments were received; one was to ensure that requisitions are put in prior to a purchase being made and the other is to ensure that all of the proper documents are received prior to the award of a contract. Mayor White confirmed that they are working to address these comments.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor White reported that she participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk to School Day and commented that she was thrilled to be part of the team that left from Memorial Park. She noted that Councilwomen Wilczynski and McSwiggan also participated in this event.

She attended a meeting with the President of Orange and Rockland to discuss a new program that involves radio read meters for electricity. This program will most likely be rolled out in

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2018. She noted that residents will be able to see when they are using the most electricity. She advised that she took the opportunity to acknowledge Orange and Rockland for their work on two recent events in which they were able to quickly restore service.

She also attended the Bergen County League of Municipalities Mayors' Meeting which was attended by County representatives as well as Congressman Gottheimer.

She announced that the closing on 220 and 230 West Crescent Avenue took place on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. She thanked Ray Wiss and Tom Bouregy as well as the entire finance team for their guidance throughout the process.

Mayor White and Councilwomen McSwiggan and Wilczynski worked with the Borough's Affordable Housing Consultant and Borough Attorney Wiss for a number of hours to prepare a plan with respect to the COAH litigation matter. There is a court-ordered mediation scheduled on May 22<sup>nd</sup> with the court-appointed master and Fair Share Housing Center.

Mayor White reported that she has accepted the resignation of David Bonifacic from the Planning Board. She thanked him for serving on this board, commenting that he was a great addition. She noted that she will be working to fill this vacancy.

Mayor White announced that the Memorial Day parade is coming up and commented that she is looking forward to marching with the rest of Council.

She advised that she submitted the governing body's ad and her personal check to the Allendale Boy Scout Troop 59 Centennial Journal. Since the members of the governing body will be paying independently for this ad the members of the Council may reimburse her at their convenience.

C. Council Reports

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

D. Staff Reports

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was carried to the Work 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 Sasso, second by Councilwoman Wilczynski, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC

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Municipal Clerk