

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
May 12, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Council members Ari Bernstein, Liz Homan, Jackie McSwiggan, Steve Sasso (arrived at 7:37 p.m.), 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 16, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 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.”

***Presentations***

Presentation of Allendale Police Department Accreditation Certificate – Presented by Harry Delgado, Chairman of NJ State Chiefs’ Association Accreditation Committee

Mayor White commented that the governing body is honored to have Harry Delgado present this evening. She expressed her opinion that the Police Department becoming an accredited agency is an outstanding step forward in ensuring that the department is running efficiently.

Mr. Delgado remarked that the Allendale Police Department is one of the best in the State. He noted that 470 police departments are eligible to apply, and to date, only 152 are accredited. He highlighted some of the advantages of becoming accredited and explained that the process takes from one to two years and it is designed to help agencies improve overall performance. He explained that there are 105 standards that are measured and the Allendale Police Department exceeded in many instances. He commented that the way in which the department operates is impressive and pointed out that when the onsite inspection was conducted, they did not find any issues which he noted is very rare.

Mr. Delgado presented Georg Scherb, Police Chief, and Sgt. Bill Kroepke with their Accreditation Certificate.

Chief Scherb thanked the Mayor and Council and remarked that achieving this goal would not have been possible without their support.

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Mayor White commented that that the Mayor and Council have always been so proud of the department as it is outstanding. She thanked Mr. Delgado for attending this evening.

**Proclamations**

A. Proclamation Honor of in Honor of National Nursing 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 8<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>, using this year's theme of ***"It's a Small Word, with a Big Heart;"*** 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 ***"It's a Small World, with a Big Heart"*** 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 8, 2016 to May 14, 2016 as National Nursing Home Week, a week to honor our vulnerable citizens who receive care, and the dedicated ones giving care.

**Public Comment:**

Mike Walters, 56 Cedar Drive, questioned whether the governing body was aware of the judge's most recent decision in response to the motion filed by Northern Highlands Regional High School with respect to the use of the lights.

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, advised that the Borough is aware of the decision.

Donald MacLachlan, property owner of 72 Cedar Drive, provided background on the issue regarding the use of the lights at the high school, noting that the Court carefully considered all of the arguments and decided that the lights are structures that constitute development and require a site plan. He advised that in order to continue the use of the lights, the Court ordered that the high school file an application with the appropriate board at the local level. He further advised that the high school has

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not only continued to use the lights, but have expanded their use and expressed that the filing of a motion for reconsideration does not stop or stay the original order. He stated that he is not aware that the Council has taken any action to request that the high school comply with the law and expressed his opinion that by not taking action, it is selective non-enforcement of the law.

As the time required Council to commence the Regular Session, on a motion by Councilwoman McSwiggan, second by Councilman Bernstein, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned to the Regular Session at 8:01 p.m.

The Work Session was reopened at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. MacLachlan provided further detail on the history of this issue. He commented that it has been three months since the judge rendered his decision and requested that action be taken to enforce the Borough Code. He noted that the Sports Association has a letter on the internet that he feels contains blatant misinformation and requests residents to sign a petition to calls for the governing body to pass an ordinance that would allow the lights. He expressed his opinion that if the governing body were to do so, it would be spot zoning which is illegal. He advised that this information posted on the internet states that the lights are state-of-the art which Mr. MacLachlan feels is untrue; he expressed his belief that the lights would not pass the lighting regulations in Allendale. Mr. MacLachlan provided exhibits to the Municipal Clerk.

Mr. Wiss advised that he has taken extensive notes on points on which he feels Mr. MacLachlan is correct and incorrect. He noted that he will provide his legal opinion to the governing body in Closed Session. When Mr. MacLachlan requested that Mr. Wiss share his opinion, he advised that his opinion would fall within attorney-client privilege and Mr. MacLachlan may have to discern his opinion by the actions of the governing body.

**Administration:**

A. Agenda Review

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not addressed.

B. Mayor's Report

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not addressed.

C. Council Reports

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

D. Staff Reports

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

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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 Homan, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC  
Municipal Clerk