

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Council members Ari Bernstein, Jackie McSwiggan, Jim Strauch, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Council members Liz Homan and Steve Sasso

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Ray Wiss
Deputy Municipal Clerk Michelle Ryan

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 October 26, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Elizabeth White who asked that the Deputy 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:

Neile Weissman, 309 E. 5th Street, New York, requested a letter of support for Complete George, an ad hoc committee that is calling on the Port Authority to widen bicycle paths on the George Washington Bridge as part of the upcoming recabbling.

Mayor White advised that Mr. Weissman’s emails were circulated and discussed at the Public Safety Committee meeting last week. The consensus was to support this request.

Councilwoman Wilczynski asked for confirmation that the construction plans do not include these improvements.

Mr. Weissman advised that the current plans are to restore the pathway to strictly a pedestrian walkway.

As the consensus appeared to be in support of Mr. Weissman’s request, Mayor White advised that a resolution in support of Complete George will be placed on the next Mayor and Council agenda.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She noted that the October 12th Work and Regular Session Minutes are listed for approval.

Mayor White then reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. In terms of Resolution #17-260, approval of the bill list, Councilman Bernstein asked for confirmation that the Borough will be reimbursed by PSE&G for the amount paid to Upper Saddle River Police Department for a PSE&G overtime detail. Mayor White confirmed that that the Borough would receive reimbursement.

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With respect to Resolutions #17-262 and #17-263, Mayor White explained that both resolutions pertain to the 2018 Discretionary Aid grant application for the Donny Brook Drive (Section 2) project. Resolution #17-262 authorizes the submission of the electronic grant application and #17-263 authorizes Capital Alternatives to prepare the grant application. She noted that Donny Brook was selected as it connects two County roads which is one of the criteria for the grant application to be considered.

In regard to Resolution #17-266, Mayor White advised that this resolution authorizes the 2018 Shared Services Agreement with Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority for sanitary sewer services. She noted that the Borough has received an excellent price for these services.

Mayor White explained that Resolution #17-267 authorizes an agreement with Rockland Electric for additional lighting. She advised that, as per the Developers Agreement, Allendale Heights is required to install street lights, the cost of which will be paid for by the developer. Once installed, the Borough will be responsible for the electrical billing for said lights.

Due to the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, and Captain being out-of-state this weekend, Mayor White advised that Resolution #17-268 appoints an Interim Fire Chief to ensure that the Fire Department has coverage should any issues arise.

B. Council Reports.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch reported that the Public Works Committee did not meet this month, but noted that the DPW continues to do a fabulous job. Debris from the recent windstorm was cleared away and it was noted that Allendale had less debris than neighboring towns due to the DPW's proactive maintenance of trees located in the public right-of-way. Equipment is being prepared for the winter and the fields are in the process of being winterized. PSE&G work continues, with tentative plans to mill and pave on November 9th and 10th. Mayor White advised that confirmation was received by PSE&G that the streets will be milled and paved curb-to-curb. Councilman Strauch stated that he is planning to schedule the next Public Works Committee meeting on November 8th.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks & Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski announced that the new emergency generator has been installed and simply needs to be tied in by Orange & Rockland. Three Crestwood Lake pumps have been removed and sent out for maintenance. A new roof has been installed on well #11. The 11th annual ARC 5k will take place this Sunday, the proceeds of which will be donated toward programs that target mental illness. Brookside School will be the recipient of said donation this year. Councilwoman Wilczynski met with Tom Viscardi, Crestwood Lake Director, to discuss the 2017 season. She noted that although there were a few minor issues in the beginning, the overall season was very successful. She advised that tweaks were made to the Aleoop that worked out very well.

Councilwoman McSwiggan – Water, Sewer & Public Utilities

Councilwoman McSwiggan reported that the cleaning and relining of the main water line on Colonial, Dogwood and Surrey is underway and is going very well. Mayor White noted that the contractor has a six-week timeline within which to complete this work. Councilwoman McSwiggan

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advised that Anthony Bruno, the Borough's licensed water operator through Suez Water, and Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, have completed the DEP's required lead and copper report. One emergency excavation was completed this month on the same day that the emergency arose. There was an issue with the water billing through Suez. Although the correct rate was charged, the bills were published with the old rates. A meeting was held with senior Suez employees to ensure that this mistake will be corrected going forward. Suez explained that there was a computer glitch that caused this error and have promised to work on this issue going forward.

Mayor White advised that Suez has written a letter to residents to apologize for this error, a copy of which can be found on their website as well as the Borough website. She thanked Councilwoman McSwiggan, Councilman Bernstein, and Mr. Kistner for attending this meeting with Suez to ensure that this problem does not happen again.

Councilman Bernstein commended Councilwoman McSwiggan and Mayor White for their attention to detail and discerning eye with respect to this issue.

Councilman Bernstein – Administration, Finance, and Human Resources

Councilman Bernstein advised that the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee meeting which was supposed to take place today has been postponed to Monday, October 30th. All open projects have been moving along. The committee will begin to look at the budget numbers in order to close out this year's budget as well as to plan for next year.

C. Mayor's Report

Mayor White reported that Allendale was the first town to be featured by RealSource, a real estate newsletter, which was distributed to over 4,000 realtors nationwide.

The Bergen Volunteer Center is hosting its 5th Friday event tomorrow at the Stony Hill Inn and Mayor White advised that she has been asked to be a member of the panel to discuss affordable housing.

Residents should have received the Borough Newsletter this past weekend. Mayor White noted that it is full of useful information. She commended Michelle Ryan, Deputy Clerk, for spearheading obtaining information for the newsletter as well as ensuring that the deadline was met.

Mayor White acknowledged Mr. Kistner for addressing an issue that arose over the summer with garbage not being picked up downtown.

Mayor White also thanked both the merchants and residents for their patience not only during the W. Crescent Avenue roadwork, but also during the paving of W. Allendale Avenue and W. Maple Avenue.

D. Staff Reports

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

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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 Strauch, second by Councilwoman McSwiggan, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk