

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2015

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Council members Liz Homan, Jackie McSwiggan, Jim Strauch (arrived at 7:34 p.m.), Steve Sasso, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Council member Ari Bernstein

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 September 23, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 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 September 3, 2015 Sunshine Notice was sent to the Record, Ridgewood News, Star Ledger and has been posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and Borough website.

**Presentations:**

- A. ITN North Jersey – Transportation for Senior Citizens – Presented by John Boswick

John Boswick of ITN North Jersey provided a brief history of his company and explained that they rely heavily on volunteers to drive their members. He noted that the service is strictly available to Bergen County residents who are 60 years of age and older. He explained that the volunteers who drive use their own vehicles and insurance, with requirements for minimum coverages. He further explained that criminal and driving background checks are conducted.

Councilwoman McSwiggan inquired as to the fees.

Mr. Boswick advised that although the yearly membership fee is \$90, in hardship cases, the fee can be converted to a monthly rate, and in extreme hardship cases, the fee can be waived. He noted that a grant is forthcoming that will cover the fees for a certain number of members. If the member is to have someone who will be accompanying them to their appointments, and if this person is a spouse, the spouse is encouraged to become a member; there is no fee charged if the person accompanying them is a caregiver.

Mayor White noted that one of the major issues facing Allendale residents is lack of transportation. She advised that Father Michael of Trinity Church may be reaching

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale  
Work Session Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2015

out to get more information for members of his parish. She further advised that the pastors within the community meet regularly and will be tapping into their parishes to look for volunteers who would like to become involved. Information regarding this service will also be passed along to organizations in town such as the Women's Club and Holiday Observers as well as placed into the upcoming newsletter.

**Administration:**

A. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She noted that the August 27<sup>th</sup> Work and Regular Session Minutes would need to be removed from the table prior to the vote taking place to approve said minutes.

She reviewed the resolutions that were listed on the Consent Agenda. In reference to the change order for the road resurfacing, she noted that it is actually a decrease and commented that the company did a great job.

As Ellen Routh's resignation from the Library Board is being memorialized by resolution, Mayor White thanked her for her service and acknowledged the many accomplishments that she had during her time on this board. Mayor White advised that Cathy Squasoni is being appointed to fill the remainder of Ms. Routh's term and commented that Ms. Squasoni is very involved in Allendale and is a welcomed addition to the board.

Mayor White explained that the Technical Assistant in the Building Department has resigned and remarked that she will be sorely missed. She advised Stephanie Geisler is being appointed to this position and commented that the governing body is very happy to have found her as she is a lovely person. Councilwoman Homan inquired whether Ms. Scutaro agreed to stay on longer as her resignation letter indicated that her last day would be September 11, 2015. Mayor White advised that Ms. Scutaro has agreed to stay on longer to train Ms. Geisler.

In terms of the Ride-Along Program, Chief Scherb explained that he has received requests of this nature in the past. This resolution was prompted by Pastor Jenny who has expressed an interest in this type of program. He advised that they have drafted forms that will be required to be completed in order to participate.

In regard to the resolution to amend the Municipal Shared Service Defense Agreement, Borough Attorney Wiss advised that the Borough of Allendale is involved in statewide COAH litigation in which a consortium of 250 municipalities had retained the services of Dr. Burchell to assist in determining the Borough's fair share number. As Dr. Burchell has had a stroke, this resolution is necessary to obtain a replacement expert. He further advised that the municipalities are banding together to request a 60-day extension. The next meeting of this group is tomorrow afternoon.

B. Mayor's Report

Mayor White reported that she and the members of the governing body have been invited to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Northern Highlands this Saturday as well as

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale

Work Session Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2015

the Trinity Episcopal Church's Renovation & Building Project Dedication Celebration on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm.

She commented that all is going well as there have been many productive meetings and a lot of work is being accomplished. She expressed that she is grateful to all members of the Council for their time and dedication.

***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 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Dodd, RMC  
Municipal Clerk