

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Elizabeth White and Councilmembers Jackie McSwiggan, Steve Sasso, and Jim Strauch

ABSENT: Councilmembers Ari Bernstein, Liz Homan, and Amy Wilczynski

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 8, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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. Public Comment

No one came forward.

B. Agenda Review

Mayor White reviewed the Regular Session agenda. She asked Councilman Sasso to provide an explanation of Ordinance 16-25 which is listed for introduction this evening. Councilman Sasso noted that although drive-thru businesses are currently permitted in all commercial districts, the proposed ordinance will impose restrictions in all zones, with the exception of C-2, in order to make the downtown more pedestrian-friendly and reduce idling cars and litter. He explained that a business currently having a drive-thru in other zones will be grandfathered; if they sell their property, the new business would need to submit an application to the Board of Adjustment should they wish to have a drive-thru.

Mayor White reviewed the resolutions on the Consent Agenda. With respect to Resolution #16-241, she advised that JIF has requested that this resolution be adopted in connection with the adoption of the Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual. The purpose of this resolution is to affirm the Borough’s civil rights policy. In regard to Resolution #16-242, Mayor White explained that this project is being funded by a two-part grant. Although the contract for the entire project is being awarded via this resolution, the project will not be completed until next spring when all of the funding is in place. Councilman Sasso noted that this material will allow two of the courts to be multipurpose.

C. Mayor’s Report

Mayor White advised that the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony will be held on Sunday at 7 p.m. A Swiftreach notification will be sent out to remind residents of this ceremony. At the

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suggestion of the high school, Brian Clark, a survivor of the attack on the World Trade Center, will be the guest speaker at Sunday night's ceremony.

In terms of the 2016 Paving Program, Mayor White explained that although the timing was not ideal as it coincided with the start of school, the project could not begin until the West Crescent Bridge Project was complete. She noted that the project proceeded with no issues and nine streets were paved yesterday.

Mayor White reported that the West Allendale Pedestrian Walkway Improvements are complete. She advised that although the pavers were more aesthetically pleasing, the Borough's insurance provider strongly recommended that they be replaced as they posed a tripping hazard.

D. Council Reports

Councilwoman McSwiggan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman McSwiggan reported that the Water, Sewer and Public Utilities Committee is scheduled to meet on September 19th. As the Ramsey Water Tank is being shut down due to improvements that are scheduled to take place, testing is currently underway to ensure that water pressure is maintained while the tank is out of service. Residents in that area have been notified and measures will be taken to ensure that there is minimal impact on those residents. She asked that residents continue to be mindful of the water restrictions, especially the period during which the tank will be out of service. Mayor White noted that the tank is scheduled to be drained next week and is anticipated to be out of service for approximately one month.

Councilman Sasso - Land Use and Construction Code

Councilman Sasso advised that the Land Use and Construction Code Committee will be meeting tomorrow at 8 a.m. He noted that they continue to focus on the Construction Code to find areas which can be improved or are in need of updating. They are open to suggestions from the governing body and members of the public on areas of the code which should be reviewed.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch reported that the Public Works Committee met yesterday. He commented that although the DPW is shorthanded, the employees are doing a great job handling the work with less people. He noted that Mike Vreeland, Borough Engineer, and his assistant, Melissa Daly, have been an integral part of the paving project and have done a great job. The next Public Works Committee meeting is scheduled for October 5th.

Mayor White advised that another auction will be held in October and the firetruck will be auctioned at that time. Councilman Sasso commented that the auctions have been very beneficial as they have cleaned up the DPW yard and brought in revenue to for items that were no longer in use.

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On behalf of Councilwoman Wilczynski, Mayor White thanked the Crestwood Lake team for the fabulous summer. Mayor White also added her appreciation to Councilwoman Wilczynski and Tom Viscardi for the outstanding job that they did this season.

E. Staff Reports

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, advised that in terms of the COAH litigation, the motion seeking to amend the pending plan has been filed and is returnable a week from tomorrow. An application to extend the immunity period through the end of the year was also filed. A second mediation with the Fair Share Housing Council and the Court Master is scheduled for October 19th. He advised that the Supreme Court has agreed to fast track the decision on the formula that will be used to determine the municipal obligation. In connection with COAH, Borough Attorney Wiss reported that he has been working with the appraiser with respect to his valuation report for the prospective sites that may have a bearing upon the Borough's plan. With respect to the litigation matter involving the high school, Borough Attorney Wiss advised that draft ordinances are being reviewed by special counsel and it is a work in progress. The planner will also be asked to review said ordinances and provide comment.

Anne Dodd, Municipal Clerk, advised that the new municipal management software that was recently authorized for purchase has been installed and a training session has been scheduled for September 16th at noon. She expressed her belief that this program will be a valuable tool for both employees and residents. She reported that she recently approved the Vote by Mail ballot for printing. The last day to register to vote is October 18th and the Office of the Municipal Clerk will be open until 9 p.m. that day to accept registration applications.

F. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items.

Public Comment:

Ty Pennington, 45 Bonnie Way, questioned when the missing "Welcome to Allendale" signs will be replaced.

Mayor White responded that they are looking into having a more economically-feasible and sturdier sign made that will be more difficult for someone to remove.

Sam Redling, 61 Canaan Place, thanked the governing body for paving his street. He advised that he just completed his Eagle Scout project.

Adjournment:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Dodd, RMC
Municipal Clerk