Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale Work Session Meeting Minutes – 7:30 p.m. September 8, 2022

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, New Jersey on September 8, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Bernstein who welcomed everyone who is joining the meeting in the audience and on Zoom Webinar. He reminded the public to mute their devices so as not to distract from the business of the meeting. Mayor Bernstein advised the public that they would have one opportunity during this meeting for public comment and he will advise you at the appropriate time.

Mayor Bernstein 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 and on the Borough Website, 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 6, 2022 Sunshine Notice was sent to The Record, The Ridgewood News and Star Ledger and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and Borough website."

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

Councilmembers Susanne Lovisolo, Steve Sasso and Amy

Wilczynski, and Mayor Bernstein

ABSENT:

Councilmembers Liz Homan, Ed O'Connell and Matthew O'Toole

ALSO PRESENT: Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney

Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk

Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer

Michael Dillon, Chief of Police Tyler Yaccarino, Webmaster and IT

PROCLAMATION:

Proclamation to proclaim September 11, 2022 as Patriot Day in the Borough of Allendale in tribute to all of the victims of the 9/11 attacks and the many who rose to service in response.

Mayor Bernstein said this Sunday is the 21st anniversary of the September 11th attacks of on our great nation. It is truly hard to believe that 21 years have passed. In Allendale and around the country, we will pause to remember those innocent and brave men and women who lost their lives that day and honor the heroes that provided selfless service. We are ever mindful of their sacrifices we will never forget. To the families and friends of those who perished, especially Donald Delapenha of Allendale, we grieve with you.

Mayor Bernstein read the proclamation:

Proclamation

"WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, the peace and security of our great nation was shattered by terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 innocent and brave people at the World Trade Center towers in New York City, at the United States Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and in the fields of Shanksville, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, although the terrorists' goal was to strike a powerful blow to the hearts of all Americans and tear at the fabric of our nation, arising from the very ashes of that tragedy came a remarkable spirit of unity, compassion and determination that will never be forgotten, just as we will never forget those who were lost and injured on that day and in the days and years that followed, and those who rose in service during the rescue and recovery effort and in defense of our nation both here at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the tragic events of that day instantly transformed lives, some through personal loss, and many others through an unfamiliar sense of individual and national vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, an unprecedented, historic bonding of Americans arose from the collective shock, unifying the country in an outpouring of national spirit, pride, selflessness, generosity, courage and service; and

WHEREAS, many brave people heroically, tirelessly, and courageously participated in an extraordinarily difficult and dangerous rescue and recovery effort, in some cases voluntarily putting their own well-being at risk; and

WHEREAS, September 11th will never, and should never be just another day in the hearts and minds of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, September 11, 2022 is the 21th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America; and

WHEREAS, September 11th has been federally recognized as a National Day of Service and Remembrance and has been designated as Patriot Day to call upon all Americans to participate in this observance through moments of silence, the flying of the flag of the United States at half-staff, as well as community service and charitable activities in tribute and remembrance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Mayor Ari Bernstein, on behalf of the governing body and residents of the Borough of Allendale, proclaim September 11, 2022 as Patriot Day in the Borough of Allendale in tribute to all of the victims of the 9/11 attacks and the many who rose to service in response; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that September 11, 2022 will also be observed as a voluntary Day of Service and Remembrance in the Borough of Allendale and call upon our citizens and organizations to consider joining in this observance by engaging in activities of tribute, solemn remembrance and charitable service."

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one came forward.

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ADMINISTRATION:

Agenda Review:

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda, consisting of second reading and public hearing for Ordinances 22-13 and ten resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

No comments from the audience or councilmembers regarding the Agenda Review.

Council Reports:

Councilman Sasso - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilman Sasso thanked Ron Kistner, the DPW and Councilpresident Wilczynski's serving. The Facilities, Parks and Recreation is probably the easiest committee I've ever served on because everything gets taken care of. This past Monday was Labor Day and Crestwood Lake closed. It was another great season. Despite all the incredibly hot and dry weather, the quality of the water remained perfect thanks largely to DPW employee, Rich McDowell, known as the lake commander. All other fields are ready and probably already being used for fall sports. Again, despite the heat and dry weather, the fields look great. Crestwood revenue was up again. Councilwoman Amy Wilczynski said 363 compared to 351 last year. We still have another 16 coming in. Obviously, Crestwood Lake is a not for profit, but we do bring in more revenue than expenses that go out. The surplus goes into our General Fund to pay for improvements on Crestwood Lake or whatever the budget committee decides to spend it on. Crestwood Lake is not costing the taxpayers anything. In fact, it's one of the jewels of Allendale and it's making money for us to do other things and to keep that running.

Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

220/230 we are still moving forward with the construction plans. We are looking to get quotes. Z + is on the agenda today as potential architects if we need them in the future. The ordinance for the redevelopment plan will hopefully get approved today. It's really more for functionary type of admin stuff because we changed it to make it a facility center 100 percent and no borough offices. She also stated that Crestwood Lake was great. 9-11 is this Sunday. Thanks to Councilman Ed O'Connell, I think I may have a trumpet player. Everything else is in order. Our speaker this year is a survivor who was on the 88th floor. He worked with Donald Delapenha who was the Allendale resident who lost his life on 9-11. I'm looking forward to another beautiful candlelight ceremony.

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Councilwoman Lovisolo - Land Use and Construction Code

Councilwoman Lovisolo stated that the Land Use Committee had the August meeting two weeks ago. They will meet again the morning of the next Land Use Board meeting, which is Wednesday, September 21st. As usual, there have been reoccurring property construction and maintenance issues and a few street issues. Trees seem to be an ongoing issue. We keep trying to remind residents that they do need to get a tree removal permit and talk to our code official when they're taking down a tree up to six inches on their property per calendar year. Councilman Sasso said six is the max, but one tree requires a permit. Councilwoman Lovisolo said to please get the necessary authorization before doing so and don't ask for forgiveness later because that's not the right way to do things. We have encouraged our residents to talk to their neighbors if they have concerns about anything before bringing it to the borough.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bernstein stated that the kids are back in school. Back to School Night is tonight for the High School, and K through 8 is next Thursday. Fields look great. Sports have started. I have Northwest Bergen Mayor's meeting this Saturday. That meets once a month in Midland Park. Public Safety met earlier this week. We had a very productive meeting.

Staff Reports:

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, stated Mr. Kistner and I are almost daily contact. Our water utility meetings are no less than three times a week.

Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk, stated that she has nothing to report.

Alissa Mayor, CFO, stated that the tax bills went out for the final for 2022. They are due November 1st.

Ron Kistner, Director of Operations, stated that he has nothing to report.

Mike Dillon, Chief of Police, the anticipated date for the new Hillside and Brookside School SLEO, which is a special law enforcement officer for the protection of our students and staff, is October 3rd. The anticipated roll out for body cams are October 1st. The traffic concerns around town continue to get investigated and addressed appropriately. Year-to-date fire calls, 163; year-to-date EMS calls, 529; year-to-date police record entries and calls for service, 11,296.

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Tyler Yaccarino, Borough Webmaster & IT said myself, John Gil, Amy, Ron and I met regarding pending improvements to the council chamber IT situation. We should have some exciting news about that in the very near future. We're just trying to optimize what we're trying to do for the folks at home and folks here in the building. That's coming very soon. Ron, Claudia Sanchez, a couple other members of the Chamber board and I, met earlier this week regarding formally, Allendale Festival Day, which is now going to be Fall Fest. We're still tightening up a couple details with that, but we should have something formalized by this time next week with regards to the date. We're trying to make something work to get people into the downtown area. In terms of the phone system, the total calls year-to-date for all borough facilities is 110,891.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Wilczynski, second by Councilman Lovisolo and unanimously carried, the work meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Louise Cervino, RMC

Municipal Clerk

11/17/2022 Date Approved



Proclamation

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Mayor Ari Bernstein

September 8, 2022