PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Susanne Lovisolo,

*(via teleconference)* Matthew O’Toole, Steve Sasso, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: Councilman Ed O’Connell

ALSO PRESENT: Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney

*(via teleconference)* Michelle Ryan, Acting Municipal Clerk

Alissa Mayer, CFO

Michael Dillon, Chief of Police

A Regular Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale was held via Zoom video and teleconference on January 20, 2022 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and an uptick in cases in the month of January. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Bernstein who reminded the public to mute their devices so as not to distract from the business at hand. Mayor Bernstein advised the public that they would have several opportunities at appropriate times throughout this meeting to be heard.

Mayor Bernstein asked that the Acting 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 January 18, 2022 Sunshine Notice was sent to The Record, Ridgewood News and Star Ledger and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and Borough website.”

The mayor led those present in a salute to the flag.

***Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:***

No one came forward.

***Consent Agenda:***

1. **22-69/**Cancel Property Tax Refunds or Delinquent Amounts of less than $10.00
2. **22-70/**Approve 2022 PBA Salaries
3. **22-71/**Approve 2020 – 2023 Contract – UPSEU White Collar Unit
4. **22-72/**Approve 2021 Budget Transfers
5. **22-73/**Approve January 20, 2022 Bill List
6. **22-74/**Authorize Advertisement and Receipt of Bids – Crestwood Lake Concession
7. **22-75/**Appoint Municipal Court Judge – Harry D. Norton, Esq.
8. **22-76/**Approve 2022 Contract – Registrar, Deputy Registrar & Vital Statistics Services – Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission
9. **22-77/**Appoint 2022 Registrar, Deputy Registrar & Alternate Registrar of Vital Statistics
10. **22-78/**Approve Interlocal Agreement – 2022 Well-Baby Clinic – Borough of Waldwick
11. **22-79/**Approve Contract – January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024 – GovPilot, LLC
12. **22-80/**Approve 2022 Public Health Shared Services Agreement – Bergen County Department of Health
13. **22-81/**Refund 2021 Tax Overpayments

Motion by Councilman O’Toole, second by Councilwoman Wilczynski that the Consent Agenda be and is hereby approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Homan: aye Councilman O’Toole: aye

Councilwoman Lovisolo: aye Councilman Sasso: aye

Councilman O’Connell: absent Councilwoman Wilczynski: aye

(See Resolutions 22-69 through 22-81 attached and made a part hereof.)

***Unfinished Business:***

There was no old business.

***New Business:***

There was no new business.

***Council Reports******:***

The reports of Councilwomen Homan and Wilcznyski were given during the Work Session.

**Councilwoman Lovisolo** – Land Use and Construction Code

Councilwoman Lovisolo reported the Committee met yesterday for the first time this year, primarily discussing 5G technology. She thanked Councilman Sasso for his years of service formerly chairing this committee and his continuing contribution to it. The Allendale Green Team, of which she is a member, meets the first Tuesday of every month. She encouraged residents to use the Recycle Coach app or send their recycling questions to [AllendaleGreenTeam@gmail.com](mailto:AllendaleGreenTeam@gmail.com). She echoed Councilwoman Homan’s reminder to start planning for the upcoming plastic bag ban.

**Councilman O’Toole** – Public Safety

Councilman O’Toole reported that Police Chief Dillon is settling in nicely. Officers of the fire department and ambulance corps (AVAC) were sworn-in and a dinner was held to celebrate AVAC’s 85th anniversary. During the Committee’s recent meeting, AVAC Chief Bottaro reported that while they have a full contingent on nights and weekends, they are in need of members who can respond to calls during the day. The Committee will continue to discuss solutions to address this. Council-man O’Toole and Mr. Kistner met with Fire Chief Policht and Asst. Chief Baez regarding a few ongoing issues, the biggest being Ladder Truck 941, which is out of service again. The police department has taken delivery of a new 2021 Dodge Charger and their Durango is now on the road. Officer Helmer is speaking tonight at Alumni in Recovery, a non-profit organization, composed of young adults now living in recovery, whose mission is to provide programs and heighten awareness of drug and alcohol resources for local communities. A big thank you to Sgt. Kroepke for negotiating with the manufacturer to obtain brand new, upgraded duty weapons, at no cost, to replace the department’s current ones, that were purchased in 2012 and have been malfunctioning. Sgt. Kroepke is also working on the department’s re-accreditation. Two new dispatchers have been fully-trained and are now assigned to squads. Fire calls are 21, EMS 52, Police 872 year to date. Finally, towns in the area are experiencing car thefts. The police department, in collaboration with Director of Communications John Gil, will be putting out a social media initiative to remind

residents of the importance of protecting their property, especially by locking their cars.

**Councilman Sasso** - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilman Sasso expressed his delight in rejoining this Committee and working with Council-woman Wilczynski. Though currently snow-covered, the fields are in good hands with Mr. Kistner. The Committee will be upgrading the Crestwood’s registration software and updating the field use policy. Another phase of the playground renovation was completed before the inclement weather.

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Bernstein gave the following report:

It was a great weekend for Allendale. Ambulance Corps celebrated their 85th Anniversary with a wonderful event with a huge turnout on Saturday night. On Sunday, I swore in the 2022 officers of the Allendale Fire Department and Ambulance Corps. at the firehouse. It was truly an honor and on behalf of the Borough, I thank each of them and all their respective members for their dedicated service to our community. It was my honor to present a proclamation to the widow of Art Alsdorf, a former Fire Chief who had a long illustrious career of service in Allendale. All dogs and cats must be licensed for the year 2022.  The deadline to register is Monday, January 31st to avoid the $5 late fee, which goes into effect on February 1st.  For those whose pets need it, we will be hosting a free Rabies Clinic (3 year shots) on Saturday, January 29th from 12pm to 2pm at the Red Barn in Crestwood Park. Dogs must be leashed and cats must be in carriers. Social distancing protocols will be observed and please wear a mask. Dog & cat licenses will also be processed that day for those that need to register pets. Applications can also be completed online at [www.allendalenj.gov](http://www.allendalenj.gov).

The 2022 Garbage & Recycling newsletter was delivered to every home. It has also been posted online and all the dates have been loaded onto our website’s calendar as well as in the Recycle Coach app. Property taxes are due by February 1st with a grace period until February 10th. You can drop in the secure mail slot at Borough Hall, postal mail them, or pay online on our website, [www.allendalenj.gov](http://www.allendalenj.gov). For the safety of our employees and the public due to the uptick in COVID cases, Borough Hall has been closed to the public, but I am happy to announce that it will re-open on Monday, January 24th at 9am. Thanks to our hard-working employees for keeping operations going and to the public for their understanding.

***Staff Report:***

Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney, reported working on contract, personnel, land use and property maintenance matters with Mr. Kistner, OPRA matters with the Clerk’s Office and with Council-woman Homan and the Water Committee on the agreement of sale with Suez.

Michelle Ryan, Acting Clerk, reported the office is busy licensing pets, disseminating renewed insurance certificates, and finalizing 2022 contracts. She wished Mr. Yaccarino a happy birthday.

Alissa Mayer, CFO, advised Gina Wittmaack is working out wonderfully as the new Tax Collector.

Michael Dillon, Chief of Police, reported that his first 17 days in office have been very productive. He thanked the Governing Body and borough staff for all the support.

***Public Comment on any issue:***

Mark Savastano, 22 Vreeland Place, thanked the Governing Body for keeping everyone safe with a

remote meeting. He requested Chief Dillon consider having informal meetings again with the public, to which Chief Dillon responded that he is looking to revamp important community

initiatives such as this one mentioned by Mr. Savastano, and he will also be making a concerted effort to be a part of the Mayor and Council meetings. Mr. Savastano requested information on whose responsibility it is to address a neighborhood sidewalk that is in deteriorating condition. After discussion, it was decided that Mr. Wiss will look into the matter for appropriate follow up.

***Adjournment:***

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motionby Councilwoman Homan, with second by Councilwoman Wilczynski, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Michelle Ryan

Acting Municipal Clerk