

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Susanne Lovisolo, Ed O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole, Steve Sasso, and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney
Michelle Ryan, Acting Municipal Clerk
Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer
Michael Dillon, Chief of Police
John Gil, Director of Communications
Tyler Yaccarino, Webmaster and IT

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 February 10, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Bernstein who 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 an opportunity at an appropriate time during the 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 FFFebruary 8, 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."

Presentation:

Mayor Bernstein announced that Lee Memorial Library Executive Administrator Patty Durso and Library Trustees were in attendance tonight to give an update on the library. Before turning the meeting over to Ms. Durso, Mayor Bernstein thanked them for their commitment to the community and for their extraordinary stewardship of the library, especially during th pandemic.

Ms. Durso, joined by Trustees Jackie McSwiggan, Sarah Dunlavey, Jill Webb and Jim Wright, stated that with a few exceptions, the Lee Memorial Library has been open and operational through the pandemic. She provided a review of 2021 happenings at the library, which included 50,205 visits, 2,360 "porch" pickups and 101,948 items borrowed. She also highlighted services and programs offered such as free virtual tutoring, notary, door-to-door deliveries, access to hotspots, museum passes, digital borrowing, new book clubs and other events and programs. For 2022, they are focusing on pandemic-nimble ideas such as offering remote online notary services, increasing online subscriptions, craft kit borrowing programs, and ESL classes. They have been awarded a grant, "Just for the Health of It", which provides ipads and health-based apps for people to connect to telehealth medicine. They send out weekly e-newsletters and hired a dynamic youth services librarian who is transforming that

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department. One of her ideas was to bring in therapy dogs, which over 2,461 children and adults have read to since last May. For the first time since 2014, they are fully staffed with each employee contributing to the vibrancy at the library. See *presentation attached and made a part of the record hereof.*

The Mayor and Council applauded the library's efforts and expressed their appreciation and support.

Public Comment:

Due to time constraints, public comment was held during the Regular Session.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Due to time constraints, this was held in the Regular Session.

B. Council Reports

Due to time constraints, this was held in the Regular Session.

C. Mayor's Report

Due to time constraints, this was held in the Regular Session.

D. Staff Reports

Due to time constraints, this was held in the Regular Session.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman O'Toole, second by Councilman O'Connell, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk