

**Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes – 7:30 p.m.
July 21, 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 July 21, 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 and two opportunities during the regular session.

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 July 13, 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 Liz Homan, Susanne Lovisolo, Ed O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole, Steve Sasso and Amy Wilczynski and Mayor Bernstein

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Raymond Wiss, Borough Attorney
Linda Louise Cervino, Municipal Clerk
Ron Kistner, Director of Operations/Administrative Officer
Michael Dillon, Chief of Police
John Gil, Director of Communications
Tyler Yaccarino, Webmaster and IT
Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips

COMMENDATION: Police Officer, Alex Helmer.

On behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, the Mayor Presented Police Officer, Alex Helmer with a Certificate of Commendation in Recognition of Assisting in the Delivery of Baby Amelia on June 5, 2022.

Mayor Bernstein stated what was explained to him involving that night which was while on patrol, Officer Helmer was flagged down by the baby's father who was rushing to get home to meet his wife who was in active labor. When Officer Helmer arrived at the home, baby Amelia was making her arrival into the world. Officer Helmer used his training to help the mom deliver a baby girl. Police Officer Helmer explained that it was his last hour of patrol, coming down Forest Road approaching the border of Mahwah and this car was

screaming at him. The police officer turned down McIntyre and the car turned behind him, the officer pulled over and the car pulled up next to him and rolled down the window. He was on the phone with 911 and stated that his wife was having a baby. Mayor Bernstein asked the police officer to come up and receive his Certificate of Commendation.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Alex Helmer

Officer, Allendale Police Department

in recognition of

Assisting In the Delivery of Baby Amelia

June 5, 2022

Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips stated to Officer Helmer that he has a proclamation from the State of New Jersey. He further stated that he is proud to represent Allendale. This is from my colleagues, Senator Corrado, Assemblyman Rooney and myself. This is signed by the president of the Senate, Nicholas Scutari and the speaker of my house and General Assembly, Craig Coughlin. It says, what you are, which is a hero. You helped deliver this baby, but you, in fact, delivered this baby. A very modest man. This community thanks you and it's amazing what you did. This is not to be understated. This is our gift to you on behalf of the State of New Jersey. Congratulations.

Photos are taken.

PROCLAMATION: A proclamation in Honor of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month (September 2022) in the Borough of Allendale. The Proclamation is presented to the Allendale Woman's Club –

Mayor Bernstein read the proclamation and presented it to Marie Caliendo on behalf of the Allendale Woman's Club.

“Proclamation in Honor of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

WHEREAS, ovarian cancer continues to have one of the highest mortality rates of any cancer, and it is a leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, each September especially, we remember the mothers, sisters, and daughters we have lost to ovarian cancer, and we extend our support to those living with this disease; and

WHEREAS, each year, thousands of women are diagnosed with, and go on to battle valiantly against this disease. Yet, ovarian cancer remains difficult to detect, and women are often not diagnosed until the disease has reached an advanced stage. Because early detection is the best defense against ovarian cancer, it is essential that women know the risk factors associated with the disease; and

WHEREAS, during National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and throughout the year, we commend all the brave women fighting this disease and recognize their families and friends’ compassion and encouragement. And in memory of all the brave women who have lost their lives to ovarian cancer, and in support of generations of women to come, let us recommit to reaching a safer, healthier future for all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Allendale Woman’s Club will be placing teal ribbons around trees throughout the Borough of Allendale as part of “Turn the Towns Teal”, a campaign to raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ari Bernstein, on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, do hereby proclaim **September 2022 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month**.

Photos are taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Alexander Gamarello, minor.

I want to thank the Allendale Police Department for the Junior Police Academy.

Good evening, Mayor Bernstein and the esteemed councilmembers. My name is Alexander William Gamarello and I was fortunate enough to attend the Junior Police Academy both years it was available to me. I wanted to speak to you this wonderful Thursday night to tell you a little bit about the program and formally recognize our Allendale Police Department for making this outstanding opportunity available for the fourth year in a row.

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The Junior Police Academy (JPA) provides a challenging, educational, fun and rewarding experience to its recruits. JPA is available for middle schoolers entering sixth and seventh grades. This year sixty “recruits” were able to participate, sorted into three platoons: Alpha, Bravo and Charlie. Platoons participate in daily PT (physical training), field trips and demonstrations during the five-day program before celebrating the JPA graduation.

This year the JPA recruits went to Newark Airport where we learned about how the Port Authority of NJ & NY Police Department work to ensure safe air travel. Recruits also had a visit from the Bergen County Sheriff’s Office to learn how the agency handles dangerous devices. A second field trip to West Point included a leadership tour of the academy and visit to the museum. It was an outstanding tour and five-star experience. Motor unit, SWAT, State Police and K-9 demonstrations rounded out the week. It was an awesome experience.

During JPA, a handful of recruits earn the opportunity to serve in leadership roles as squad and platoon leaders, mirroring an authentic academy experience. Recruits who earn these titles have much to be proud of and enjoy the recognition for their commitment to JPA while striving to meet the challenges of supporting the officers as they teach and keep the recruits in order.

I am grateful to you, our town council, for supporting the Allendale Police Department as they make Junior Police Academy such an exceptional experience for all who are involved. Many thanks to Officer Azevedo, along with each and every officer and intern that was a part of Junior Police Academy. Their dedication and commitment to the program truly leave an impact on the recruits you lead. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak to you this evening. Have a great night and I’ll see you around town.

Mayor Bernstein thanked Alexander William Gamarello and everyone who participated. Police Chief, Mike Dillon, stated that Alex sent a letter to the police department. The chief stated he was very humbled to hear first-hand experience how the JPC was. I’m very proud of our community programs. Our officers are committed to our youth. It’s a great program and I hope to continue. I thank Alex for his comments and his support.

ADMINISTRATION:

A. Agenda Review:

Mayor Bernstein reviewed the Regular Session Agenda, consisting of second reading and public hearing for Ordinances 22-07, 22-11 and 22-12; a resolution to approve a new police officer; and nine resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

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

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B. Council Reports:

Councilman O’Connell – Public Works

Councilman O’Connell said working with the Allendale Police Department with the installation of two pedestrian crosswalks have been completed. The DPW had the pleasure and honor helping the Holiday Observers with the Fourth of July festivities. Everything was done perfectly with great weather. The police station ducts were clean. They found a bird’s nest in there. High Mountain did the trimming at the borough buildings and properties.

Councilman Sasso – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilman Sasso stated things are running along smoothly. He was at Crestwood Lake last night in the late afternoon and recommended just going there to sit and eat around that time. He said the sand looked great. Chief Dillon wrote a great email for recognizing all the work and how good headquarters looks. Thank you.

Councilwoman Wilczynski said our revenue is higher than it was last year at this point and our expenses are down a little. We’ve had great success with our bands. They are free and available to everyone.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

An important message from the water committee is to remind your friends, your neighbors and anybody walking down the street that we are on Phase II water restrictions. We don’t take that lightly. It’s important because there’s only so much water that can be pulled out of wells. There’s only so much water that can be pulled in from our interconnect with Suez. If more water is pulled out than can be supplied then we can have water pressure issues and we don’t want to have that. I do ask that as everyone is going through the town communicate with people about the fact that they need to check the watering schedule and that they adhere to it because together we can keep the water rolling along.

The water committee meets biweekly. We are in the process of selling our water system to Veolia and we do have a date on the calendar for the public meeting on August 10th. That’s just one step closer to the closing for Veolia to own the system which will be good for everyone in Allendale. We are hopeful that all these moving parts can come together and that we will have a November closing. I thank everyone on the water committee; the experts, the lawyers, our engineers, Susanne Lovisolo, Mayor Bernstein and Ron Kistner. There are so many people involved. We all are meeting multiple times a week.

There’s lots of opportunities for us to make improvement with our sewer system and we have been meeting with the North West Bergen Sewer Authority and we’re making progress.

Lastly, it’s wonderful to be celebrating Alex and the birth of a new baby.

Councilwoman Wilczynski - Facilities, Parks and Recreation

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The Capital Budget will be approved this evening. We were working on very, very extensively over the past month reworking the numbers. Everything is going up unfortunately and revenue is just the taxpayer's dollars mostly. There's not a lot of additional revenue coming into the borough so we really want to be cognizant of all the residents to keep the taxes down. I think we did a really great job. We're going to have more equipment for turnout gear for our fire department, increasing improvements for our IT department for the borough, the police; streets and roadwork are in there as well as grants for playgrounds and improvements.

220/230, we're moving forward with our construction plans. We had a town hall last week. We are now going to make the entire building a community center and a recreation center. It's the best value for Allendale. It will also have a commercial kitchen in there. We are looking forward to getting better numbers for this. This whole project will not increase tax dollars as we said from the very beginning. In addition, we did apply for and hopefully will receive a federal grant for the project. I already went through the first phase of the approval process and now it just has to go to Washington and, hopefully, get the final stamp of approval. Councilwoman Wilczynski congratulated Alex.

Councilman O'Toole – Law & Public Safety

The Public Safety Committee met on July 3, 2022 where we discussed the impending Fourth of July Festivities as well as a couple resident concerns which have already been addressed. Then we had the Fourth of July all-day festivities topped off by a fantastic firework show. As chairman of the gate committee for the holiday observers, I was present for the safety briefing held at the police department lead by Sergeant Griffith. This is the second time I've attended and it is of no exaggeration to say this is a massive undertaking coordinating all the different agencies represented to ensure the safety of everyone who attended the fireworks, either as spectators or as participants in the overall production. My heartfelt thanks and I'm sure I speak for the holiday observers as well, to all of the agencies who represented; Allendale Police, Fire, AVAC. We continue to work with the fire department on their equipment addressing their needs; in fact, we have a grant application for fire department equipment on our consent agenda this evening. The police department has been working with vendors to finalize a digital alternative to parking meters, incorporating commuter parking passes and alarm registration into community pass and GovPilot. IT upgrades continue at headquarters as well as preparation for our new police officer. New traffic signs for downtown have been ordered and will be installed as soon possible. Our new blinking pedestrian crossing signs have been installed in front of the AB&G and at the entrance of Crestwood programmed a few days ago. Thank you to Sergeant Griffith again for working with our contractors to set up the timing on the lights.

OEM is working with Director of Operations Ron Kistner to finalize Tropical Storm claim from IDA with FEMA. The borough will be reimbursed 90 percent of costs that occurred during that storm.

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Year to date fire calls 128; EMS calls 430; and year to date police record entries and calls for service, 9,138.

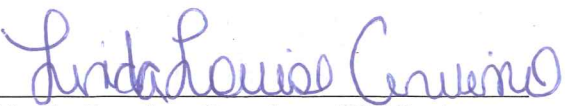
Councilwoman Lovisolo – Land Use and Construction Code

Our Land Use committee met yesterday morning at 8 a.m. Just as a reminder to everyone we meet the morning of Land Use board meetings. At our Land Use board meeting last night, I thanked our committee, which is amazing, Ron Kistner, Councilman Steve Sasso, Mayor Ari Bernstein, our engineer Mike Vreeland, Anthony Hackett, our Code Official. Yesterday morning, we were joined by the borough attorney, Ray Wiss. We have specific situations that go on in town, which the specifics I can't get into with certain cases. Lately, they've been centering around two issues in town; trees, the removal of, the trimming of, trees of obscuring site lines in town, trees uprooting, trees hanging over sidewalks, runoff of water, streams, etc. I just want to take this opportunity to remind all of our residents to review our borough code which is on our website. If you have any questions, reach out to our construction department. I am also happy to answer any non-technical questions. I want to thank Land Use board member Patty Davis who is stepping down from the Land Use Board. Thank you for your input and insight and she will be greatly missed in Allendale.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilman O'Toole and unanimously carried, the work meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Linda Louise Cervino, RMC
Municipal Clerk

10/27/2022
Date Approved



CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

Alex Helmer

Officer, Allendale Police Department

in recognition of

Assisting In the Delivery of Baby Amelia

June 5, 2022

Ari Bernstein, Mayor



Proclamation in Honor of National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

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WHEREAS, during National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and throughout the year, we commend all the brave women fighting this disease and recognize their families and friends' compassion and encouragement. And in memory of all the brave women who have lost their lives to ovarian cancer, and in support of generations of women to come, let us recommit to reaching a safer, healthier future for all our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Allendale Woman's Club will be placing teal ribbons around trees throughout the Borough of Allendale as part of "Turn the Towns Teal", a campaign to raise awareness of ovarian cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ari Bernstein, on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, do hereby proclaim **September 2022 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month** in the Borough of Allendale and thank the Allendale Woman's Club for all their efforts to raise awareness of this disease. I call upon citizens, government agencies, organizations, health-care providers, and research institutions to raise ovarian cancer awareness and continue helping Americans live longer, healthier lives. And I urge women across the country to talk to their health-care providers and learn more about this disease.

Ari Bernstein, Mayor of Allendale

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