

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Work Session Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein
(in person)

PRESENT: Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O'Connell, Matthew O'Toole,
Jim Strauch, and Amy Wilczynski
(via teleconference)

ABSENT: Councilman Steve Sasso

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
Acting Municipal Clerk Michelle Ryan

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 April 15, 2021. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, access to the public was provided via GoToMeeting video and teleconferencing only, with adequate notice of same posted for public viewing. 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."

Public Comment:

Edward Grimes, Hanover Rd, East Hanover, New Jersey, representing SativaCross.org spoke as an advocate for medical marijuana for the disabled and shared the difficulties of the disabled communities in purchasing medical marijuana. Mayor Bernstein stated the Land Use and Public Safety committees have been discussing this issue and no action will be taken today.

Administration:

A. Agenda Review

Mayor Bernstein thoroughly reviewed the Regular Session agenda starting with Ordinances 21-04 through 21-06, all scheduled for second reading and public hearing. He then reviewed Resolutions 21-119 through 21-125 that appeared on the Consent Agenda. Of note, 21-119 awards a new garbage contract to Suburban Disposal and 21-121 renews the Registrar, Deputy Registrar, and Vital Statistics contract for 2021 with Northwest Bergen Regional Health Commission.

Mayor's Report:

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Mayor Bernstein gave the following address to the public:

Last week, Allendale lost a pillar in our community, Vincenzo “Vinnie” Bottaro, President of the Allendale Ambulance Corps, who passed away unexpectedly last Friday, April 9th. Vinnie is also the husband of the Allendale Ambulance Corps. Chief Daryl D’Amore-Bottaro. On behalf of the entire Borough, we send our deepest and sincerest condolences to Daryl and the entire Bottaro family on this great loss. Both Vinnie and Daryl’s service to Allendale has been tremendous and words alone cannot express our appreciation for their dedication to our community. Councilman O’Connell and I met with Vinnie a couple of months ago talking about all the things that he did, not bragging, just a long list. And for Daryl, I know at the OEM meetings, she has been on over 200 calls during COVID. They are selfless acts and they have done it for many years. As I was reading the outpouring of tributes, “great guy”, “wonderful” and “the best” were used over and over fittingly used to describe Vinnie. He was devoted to family, country, and Allendale, and today, our community came together to give him a fitting last call procession. Thank you, Vinnie, and may you rest in peace. I would also like to send condolences to the entire Ambulance Corps – I know you are a family and you are all grieving at this time. You are also in our thoughts and prayers and we thank you all for your service as well. During the Regular Session, we will be having a moment of silence after the Salute to the Flag in Vinnie’s memory.

On April 25th, the Bergen County Utilities Authority will be having their tire and electronics recycling event at Campgaw in Mahwah. Details can be found on their website, bcua.org.

The Allendale Woman’s Club is having their townwide garage sale on May 15th. Details can be found on their website, allendalewomansclub.org. Also on May 15th, the BCUA will be having their Household Hazardous Waste Collection event at Campgaw. Visit bcua.org for all the details.

On May 22nd, we will be having our annual Free Paper Shredding Day, which is sponsored by the BCUA. This year, it will be taking place at Crestwood Park from 9am to 1pm. Details of this event can soon be found on our website allendalenj.gov.

Though we are seeing decreases in the number of cases in Allendale, Bergen County still remains in the high activity category for the week ending April 3rd, although as more people get vaccinated the cases are decreasing in the county as well. We need to continue to do our part and take the necessary precautions to stay healthy. Our OEM and Public Safety teams continue to meet regularly to monitor the situation in Allendale. And, as I have mentioned at prior meetings, in conjunction with our Board of Health and public/private partnerships, the Borough can now help facilitate the scheduling of COVID-19 vaccines for our at-risk residents. If you are 65 years of age or older and have not been able to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination, please contact the Board of Health at healthdept@allendalenj.gov. More details of this program can be found in the April newsletter that has been emailed out through Constant Contact as well as on our website allendalenj.gov. If you are not signed up to receive Borough information through Constant Contact, I encourage you to visit our website today to register. Effective April 19th, all New Jerseyans age 16 and up will

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be eligible to receive the vaccine. More information on that can be found at [COVID19.NJ.GOV](https://www.COVID19.NJ.GOV).

Council Reports

Councilman O'Connell – Public Safety Committee

Councilman O'Connell expressed his condolences to the Bottaro family. He reported that the COVID/OEM meetings are now being held every other week. There have been 3,800 calls to dispatch, 428 "911", 25 fire, and 105 ambulance calls to date. APD continues their training. He advised that a full-time dispatcher is leaving and will be replaced by a part-time dispatcher, creating the need for an additional part-timer. The Junior Police Academy will be held July 12th through 16th with 60 kids signed up and 20 on a waiting list.

Councilman Sasso – Land Use and Construction Code
Councilman Sasso was absent.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan sent her condolences to the Bottaro family and praised the dedication of Vinnie and Daryl to Allendale. She then updated the Council on the status of the Water RFB, which will be opened Friday, May 21st. While that RFP is out, the Water Committee is still working and moving forward on steps for the New Street PFAS treatment facility. She stated that while the RFPs are out they will be holding off on any activity relating to shared services. She notified the council that she attended a seminar on 1,4 dioxane and PFAS treatment and that the work that has already been done is right on target. She concluded by recognizing Councilwoman Wilczynski's work on the Parks, Rec, and Facilities Committee.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski gave an update on the 220/230 project including that remediation has been completed. A claim was filed with the insurance company and a DEP grant was awarded to help pay for the remediation. She reported the next big step would be to close on the warehouse and that the next Council meeting would have several items pertaining to that. Next, she reported on the work being done at Crestwood Lake in preparation for opening. She has been working with the Lake Director going through all the precautions that were done last year and following Executive Orders. Registration will be open on May 3rd with a slight increase in rates. The playground is coming along nicely and will open on Memorial Day. With the 20th anniversary of 9/11 approaching, residents can purchase pavers and benches. Finally, she gave her condolences to the Bottaro family praising the service of both Vinnie and Daryl.

Councilman O'Toole – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman O'Toole conveyed his condolences to the Bottaro family and the entire Ambulance Corp. He reported that the Administrative, Finance, and HR committee has met a few times since the last council meeting discussing assessments, appeals, a grant that the library is pursuing, and the budget. The Finance Advisory Committee met and gave some ideas on areas to explore to possibly bring taxes down. He advised

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that the Borough is still awaiting guidance on how the funds from the American Rescue Plan can be used.

Councilman Strauch – Public Works

Councilman Strauch shared his condolences to the Bottaro family and the entire Ambulance Corp. Next, he discussed the renewal of the disposal contract with Suburban Disposal and stated that even though nothing has changed, Ron and his team spent a lot of time reviewing various options to make sure that we're delivering the best service to the residents at the most competitive price. He thanked everyone involved. Ron Kistner has been working with the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority on cleaning out our sewer mains and various other locations in town. He also complimented Mr. Kistner for his work with Bergen County to make sure the catch basins on the county roads are taken care of.

Due to time constraints, the balance of the reports were given in the Regular Session.

Staff Report:

Due to time constraints, the balance of the reports were given in the Regular Session.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilman Strauch, second by Councilwoman Homan, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk