



COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, held at the Bogota Council Chambers, 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ, on Thursday, **September 3, 2020, at 7:30pm.**

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Kelemen.

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law have been satisfied as notice was sent to two newspapers and posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board on August 31, 2020.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Connors, Fede, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Substitute Borough Attorney Peck and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Sherry Solomov wanted to thank Peggy Levinson and Elizabeth Montivalo for helping a Senior Citizen who needed to get to a doctor's appointment. They are working to help that Senior with other appointments. She thanked the DPW for helping a senior citizen get her garbage cans in front of the house. She said that these are trying times for the senior citizens and she thanks the community, the Mayor and Council, and the DPW for reaching out to them.

Carmel Birney reminded everyone that some trees were lost in the storm. She asked what the schedule would be for tree trimming in town as the town tree in front of her house is on the list.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Fede said that we have many lists for sidewalk repair, for tree trimming, and tree takedowns. She said that the Borough Administrator can explain the scheduling. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the Borough will be going out to bid for price quotes for the trees in a few weeks. The Borough may have to shift expenditures to Emergency Appropriation for pruning and tree takedown. He said that by shifting the current expenditures to Emergency Appropriations, money will be freed up for the list. Councilwoman Fede said they might be able to do some in the fall and the rest in February. At the next meeting, they will discuss this more. Councilman Napolitano said that some people have been requesting sidewalk repair for years. He asked that it be reviewed periodically. He said he is proud of this community coming together in hard times. Mayor Kelemen said that a lot has been accomplished with sidewalks. During this last storm, many trees came down in Olsen Park. Some trees in town are 70, 80, and 90 years old. Tree removal is expensive. He complimented Administrator Scarpa, DPW Superintendent Kohles, and Hardwood Trees who have been working on tree removals. He complimented Cariturra Construction on fixing so many sidewalks at affordable prices. He said that the Senior Citizens are our priority and he makes sure they are taken care of.

Discussions: -Fire Marshall Lou Kern discussed the proposed "Fire Watch" Ordinance which will enhance the Uniform Fire Code. He explained that this ordinance will help the residents at 297 Palisade Avenue and at the Atwater apartments. If the sprinkler system goes down in one of the buildings, the Fire Department will monitor the building until the problem is rectified. He suggested a fee of \$40 per hour for the monitors which the landlord will pay to the Borough as well as a 15% Administrative fee. The ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting.

-Proposing Ordinance for Limitation on Borough Employment for former Elected Officials: Discussion took place about having a waiting period for former elected officials from taking a position as an employee of the Borough. Mr. Scarpa said that Bogota has an ordinance that does not allow employment of a former elected official for three years after term ends. This discussion will be tabled for verification of ordinance.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.:

20-126 Re-Appoint SLEOs

20-127 Tax Sale Reimbursement

20-128 Award Contract to Marini Brothers for 2020 Pine Street Improvement Project.

20-129 Change Order for 2020 Road Program

20-130 Re-Appointing the Crossing Guards

Discussion took place concerning payroll for a Recreation Counselor and payment for an archeological study Councilwoman Fede asked why SESI's procedure had to be voted on and the archeological study did not. She requested consistent procedures. Councilman Napolitano asked for a re-evaluation of the location for the Recycling Center and the costs. Engineering costs were discussed, and Mayor Kelemen requested that a copy of the Engineer's design for the Recycling Center be provided to the Council. Administrator Scarpa said that Police and DPW vehicles that are not used often can be parked there. Councilwoman Carpenter asked for the Architect's bills to be discussed as well.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried.:

PC20-13 Payment of Claims

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to introduce the following Salary Ordinance:

#1545 Amend Salary Ordinance #1538 to increase the Deputy Clerk's Salary

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the Sahara Club's request for approval to have a car show at 24 River Road on September 20, 2020. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to open the meeting up for Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Carmel Birney asked if apartments are being built across from Bowler City, and if a traffic study was done for that area. She also asked about Bogota being sprayed for mosquitos as Bergenfield had the whole town sprayed.

Jorge Nunez asked about the voter roll for elections. He said that in the last election, voters who moved out of town voted in Bogota.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Connors, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that apartments are going up across from Bowler City. Councilman Napolitano said that there was an article in the newspaper about the development, but there was no word on traffic coordination etc. from Hackensack. Mayor Kelemen did not hear any information about traffic, and Police Chief Maye said that he did not receive any information about a traffic study. Mayor Kelemen said that he and the Teaneck Deputy Mayor had a discussion last week and will be talking further. He will be meeting with the Teaneck Building Department as well. Mayor Kelemen said that with the apartments going up in Hackensack so close to Olsen Park, it will be a good opportunity to ask the County for money for upgrading Olsen Park's fields, since the fields will be used by everyone. When the freeholders meet again, he and Council President Napolitano and County liaison Councilwoman Carpenter will request money from

the County. The Borough Clerk said that certain areas of Bogota are sprayed every year because of recurring mosquito issues, and residents can call the County Mosquito Control if they have an abundance of mosquitos on their properties. The Clerk explained that every month a report of residents that died is sent to the County, and challengers watch for those who moved. Councilwoman Murphy said that concerns were given to County Clerk Hogan concerning the primary election. She said that two years ago she presented concerns as well.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen thanked Health Officer Sam Yanovich for his reports during COVID 19. He said that there were no new cases this week. Total cases in Bogota were 221 and total deaths were 15. There are no active cases. He said that Bogota continues to give as a community and he asked for prayers for families living through this. New Bridge Medical Center is still offering drive by testing. He said that there are many mental health issues as a result of COVID 19. He recommended that people reach out to an organization called NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. Anyone can text NAMI at 741741, 24 hours a day, for help.

He said that he, DPW Superintendent Kohles, and Code Enforcement Officer Barese reached out to the County about graffiti and were told that CSX will take care of it. He reached out to CSX about the train bridge which is in awful shape, and CSX said that the Borough can paint it. James Conti, the District Director for Congressman Gottheimer, said that the Congressman will meet with the Mayor this month to discuss the condition of the train bridge. He called Fire Chiefs Greiner and Kalman to tell them that the generator was in a bond ordinance and he wants the generator ordered. He will be meeting with Mr. Scarpa, Mr. Kohles, and Recreation Director Moore to start the holiday calendar. Pumpkins, mums, cornstalks need to be ordered. They need to take inventory of Christmas lights. He wants the lampposts checked for electrical issues and repairs and replacements to be made. He would like to see the October fest to bring things back to normal. He would like to see the Recreation Director and the Recreation Committee plan the tree lighting and menorah lighting by next meeting. The Fire Department lot is being constructed across the street for fire department parking only. He reported that a letter went to the entire town about completing the CENSUS. Reverse 911 calls will take place reminding people that everyone needs to be included in the count. Notice will be put on the electronic board as well. Labor Day weekend is coming. He thanked the police for their work and said that he is grateful for the OEM officials Rob Foster and Matt Luciano. He welcomed the teachers and students to a new school year. He stressed that there is a lot going on now for everyone. It is tough for officials, teachers, parents, etc. He wishes the best for the schools to open successfully and safely. He wished everyone love, safety and a Happy Labor Day.

Councilman Connors reported that there was no Recreation meeting since the last Council meeting and there are no Recreation programs at this time. He said that the Board of Education decided that school will be virtual for the first five weeks. He said that students will be taught Monday through Friday virtually, and will revisit entering the school in October. He said that school begins on September 10th and child care will be needed. School Superintendent Kennedy met with Mayor Kelemen and Councilwoman Murphy, and they are trying to address the issue of childcare. They are hoping to have results next week.

Councilwoman Carpenter had no report. She wanted to ask some questions about grants and the plans for the new Recreation Center. Mayor Kelemen told her that this can be put on for discussion for the next meeting.

Councilman Napolitano said that the seniors appreciate all that the Borough is doing for them with grocery shopping and pharmaceuticals. He said that the Seniors are concerned about voting. The Seniors asked if the Senior Center will be open for meetings at all this year or if they can have an outdoor meeting. They asked when the Senior bus will be available. There was a complaint on Elm Avenue about growth from CSX property that is growing over the fence and into people's yards. He thanked the Council for reappointing the SLEOs and the Crossing Guards. He received great feedback from residents about the Excellence in Policing which he talked about at the last meeting. He reported that the police will be hiring a police officer with the \$125,000 grant money.

As for Infrastructure, he thanked the Council for voting for the change order to include Kramer Court and Roadway. He reported that he and Steve Welsh attended a webinar about how to improve applications for grants. They are specifically interested in the Transportation Alternative Program. The grants offered are between \$150,000 and \$1,000,000 and less that \$10,000,000 is given. Costa Engineering is looking to go out to bid for Basketball and Tennis courts when they get the DEP results. He mentioned Sourcewell which is a co-op that allows the Borough to forgo the bidding process and go with a Design-Build Contractor. Everything is provided upfront, so there will be no unexpected expenditures. He would like them to do a presentation at the next meeting. He said that Chief Greiner had mentioned an architect, Robbie Connolly, who did Montvale's firehouse. It might be a good idea to consult with him. He said that he has heard nothing from the DEP about Green Acres. He said that the plans were in compliance to the best of his knowledge, but the Borough needs to hear from the DEP. He said that Recreation Center is preferred over Community Center. He said that the OEM Coordinator put in a request for PPE equipment that he is waiting to purchase. He said that Rescue had 16 members attend the last meeting with two new candidates. They had an extradition drill at Apache, and they worked with the police on finding the body in the river. (Mayor Kelemen said that he would like to plan an outdoor event with the Seniors at Olsen Park.)

Councilwoman Murphy said the Library Trustees have a meeting scheduled for September 12th. The Creative Team was invited. The budget and line items are looking for approval. The Annual meeting is coming up. The library opening is going well. They are getting passports up and running again. She thanked the Mayor for inviting her to the meeting with the School Superintendent, and assured everyone that everything is being done to have a successful school year. The Library is in constant communication with the Borough residents. The library staff has a magical chemistry and Director Coleman is very dynamic.

Councilman Robbins said that at last night's Fire meeting they discussed purchasing the generator. He said they need an electrician to check what type of generator is needed. They will get quotes for the generator and need to know if they need quotes for the installation as well. They will speak to the Borough Administrator for the next step. They are waiting for a report back from the Mayor and Council about the new firehouse re-design. He reported that there were no noise complaints for August for TENEC.

Councilwoman Fede reported that there was an accident and someone was badly hurt. She was with Rescue when they took part in an operation to recover the body from the water. She wanted to commend the Rescue volunteers who train for many rescue situations and feels very proud to be a part of this. She thanked the Police, the Rescue Squad, and Hackensack and everyone involved. She said there is a need for PPE for the OEM. She said that Assembly bill #3971 would allow the Borough up to 30% of budget to pay back in 5 years for COVID related expenditures. She would like the Administrator to talk about an emergency Appropriation to fill the COVID budget line in case of a resurgence in October. The Borough needs a way to find money for this. She thanked the Borough Administrator for getting the Recycling Center sign. The League of Municipalities will be virtual this year. She reported that Mahwah has an end of summer senior barbeque. Council members serve at the barbeque. She would be happy to be a part of that for Bogota.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the ad was placed for a police officer, and interviews will begin soon. The recycling sign will be installed tomorrow. The recycling tonnage grant was submitted on Monday. Construction began on the parking lot across the street. The electrical inspector can help with the generator. He reported that the ribbon cutting for the new bathroom for the Library will take place on September 17th at 6:00pm. He wished everyone a Happy Labor Day. He spoke to Officer Luciano about ordering less PPE. He said there are 10,000 gloves on hand, so 50,000 gloves are not necessary. He will look into the bill that Councilwoman Fede mentioned.

(Mayor Kelemen said that Sourcewell will do a presentation at the next meeting, and Councilman Napolitano will send the available information about Sourcewell to the Mayor and Council before the next meeting.)

The substitute Borough Attorney had no report.

Borough Clerk Cook reported that the Conference in Atlantic City will be virtual. She said that the website has information about the election. She said that the general election will be vote-by-mail-only. All three locations will be used with one machine for handicapped voters only. There will be a drop box at each voting location for people to put their mail-in-ballots in. She said that a phone conference will take place with the County next week, so she will have more information about the General election after that conference.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to go into Closed Session to discuss Real Estate and Personnel – Crossing Guards. Motion carried at 9:50pm.

When the meeting reconvened at 10:32pm, motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following resolution. Motion carried.

20-131 Authorize Entry into Negotiations for the Purchase of a Parcel at 31 Fairview Avenue

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to Adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:33pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.