



### 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, **May 7, 2020 at 7:30pm.**

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Kelemen. He then asked for everyone to remember the victims of the coronavirus in a special way. He spoke of Jeff Parente who was a member of the Bogota Auxiliary Police for over 25 years. He worked on emergencies, fires, directing traffic and parade routes, and providing uniform presence for crowd control at sporting events. Mayor Kelemen expressed his sympathy to Jeff's wife Kim and his two sons, Billy and Ryan. He then asked everyone to remember other Bogotians who died who also contributed many years of service to the community including Nick Zampetti, Edna Acito, Regina Carr, Joe and Janice Coniglio, Santiago De La Cruz, and Ann Taylor. He said that he and the Council send their condolences to all the families.

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 May 4, 2020.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Connors, Fede, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong, Borough Administrator Scarpa, Borough Auditor Wielkotz, and Borough CFO Bock.

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

Sherry Solomov expressed her condolences to the families of all that lost loved ones. She said that the Bogota community is doing amazing things to help others. Kayleigh and Kathy Gorman distributed countless snacks to the employees of Holy Name Hospital. She said that St. Joseph's food pantry is well stocked. She wanted to thank her husband Eric Solomov, Tanya Sanchez, Rebecca O'Hagan, Susan Cruz, and Frank Miranda who have gone out and collected over 830 items in four days for the food pantry, and they are still going strong. She reported that the senior citizens are doing well. She thanked the Police Chief and Jim Moore for helping her to reach out to the seniors. She thanked the residents who offered to buy perishable items as well. She said that the Steen PTO sent gift cards out to the Bogota Teachers, and she wanted to send out a thank you to the teachers and the parents who have become teachers during this quarantine. She said that the Friends of the Library will be doing a shoe drive in the next few months, and she thanked Pat Morrone and Daniele Fede for stepping up to the plate with the Friends of the Library. She said that she has 20 or 30 ribbons left, and she thanked the Mayor and Council for all that they do.

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

Councilman Connors thanked and applauded Sherry Solomov and everyone she mentioned. Councilwoman Fede echoed Councilman Connors sentiments and also thanked Jim Moore for assisting in sorting food for the pantry. She said that there are a lot of unsung heroes in Bogota. Mayor Kelemen said that Sherry Solomov's contributions have been great and that she has been very influential during this.

Discussion: - Steve Welsh, grant writer for Bruno Associates, explained the grants he was working on or considering. The AFG grant is for a ladder truck for \$1,200,000 of which Bogota will have to pay \$63,504. There is a police officer hiring grant for one officer for \$125,000 for which the Borough will pay \$122,769. Another grant is with the NJAC for a Pollinator Garden for \$1500

for which no contribution is needed. A SAFER grant will be submitted for the Fire Department to recruit 10 firefighters over 4 years. The application is asking for \$54,640 with no contribution needed from Bogota. A Bergen County Open Space Grant was submitted on March 31<sup>st</sup>. This request is for \$850,000 and the Bogota contribution will be \$3,513,400. The grant writer is looking for other sources of funding for the project.

A Census grant for \$2,000 was awarded, and the Engineer will work on a Municipal Aid grant for road work. There is a new AFG-S grant to help pay for PPE supplies. He needs approval to apply for this grant. He needs to have a list of what is needed, so the administrator suggested the washing machine and dryer that is needed for the fire department. The Gary Sinise foundation offers grants for PPEs as well. The administrator will supply a list of PPEs for this grant. and there is a library improvement grant which requires a 50% match. The administrator said that the library bathroom needs to be repaired. Bullet proof vest grants can be considered. He sent this one to Chief Maye. He also mentioned low interest loans, but the Mayor and Administrator said that bonding might be better than loans. He said there is a loan available for a firehouse which has no expiration date, so it will be discussed next month. The grant for the senior appliances was denied. The appliances can be added to the library grant application since it is part of the library. He will look into Youth group grants as well.

-Swim Club Lease expired in February. Borough Attorney Bossong said that The Swim Club requested that the lease be renewed with lease payments pro-rated based on when the Swim Club opens. It was requested that the payments be made in July, August, and September instead of June, July, and August. After discussion, it was decided to renew the lease for one year and keep the fee at \$10,000.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to renew the lease for one year , \$10,000 fee and pro-rate the payments, and accept the first lease payment 30 days after opening day. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter recusing herself.

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

20-071 Authorize Tax Collector to Prepare and issue Estimated Tax Bills for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 Taxes

20-072 Extending the Property Tax Grace Period

20-073 National Public Works Week Proclamation

20-074 Tax Sale Redemption for block 86, Lot 12

20-075 Tax Sale Redemption for block 85, Lot 02

20-076 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 73, Lot 06

20-077 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 67, Lot 11

20-078 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 55, Lot 06

20-079 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 60.01, Lot 04

20-080 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 60, Lot 02

20-081 Award bid to D&L Paving and Authorize the contract for the 2019 Pascack Valley Road Program

20-082 Authorize Costa Engineering to Advertise bids for 2020 CDBG Road Resurfacing for Central Avenue

20-083 Authorize Costa Engineering to Advertise bids for 2020 Road Resurfacing at Various Locations

20-084 Authorize Costa Engineering to Advertise bids for Open space Grant for Firemen's Park

20-086 Grantee Authorizing Resolution for Firemen's Park CDBG Grant

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to adopt the following Resolution which was Voted on Separately. Motion carried.:

PC20-07 Payment of Claims

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Connors, to open the Public Hearing on Introduced 2020 Budget. Motion carried.

Carmel Birney asked if there will be short fall in the budget due to the coronavirus making it difficult for some people to pay their property taxes. Borough Auditor Wielkocz explained that a budget amendment is

being introduced tonight that reduces some of the revenue created due to the coronavirus. He said that some revenue items were reduced in the amendment, and if tax collection is low in May and November, the Borough will have to seek state help. Some spending is being reduced as well.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Connors, to close the public hearing on the introduced 2020 budget.

Borough Auditor Wielkotz explained that revenue from the municipal court has decreased due to people not driving, so tickets have not been generated. Also, in 2019 there were two emergencies totaling \$69,500 that required emergency appropriation resolutions by state statute. Since those resolutions were not created last year, those appropriations must be included as over-expenditures. Mr. Wielkotz spoke to someone in the NJ Division of Local Government Services to be sure that the amended budget would be accepted before presenting the amendment to the Council for a vote. The amended budget will increase taxes by approximately \$68 to the average homeowner.

Motion was made by Council Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the following Resolution for the budget amendment.

20-085 Budget Amendment for 2020 Introduced Budget-(This budget amendment will be published in The Record on May 14th with Public Hearing May 21st)

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano to approve Mayor Kelemen's request to advance Jared Deutch and Frank Miranda up to members on the Recreation Committee from Alternate members and to appoint Luis Fernandez and Kenny Narvaez as Alternate members. Motion carried.  
- Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the Minutes of 4/16/2020. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter voting NO.

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

Carmel Birney asked if the Recreation summer camp will be running this summer and what the dates will be.

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

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Mayor Kelemen gave the most recent COVID confirmed case and death count for Bogota and for the County. He announced that Bogota was the first community to show a 4 day halt on confirmed cases. He said that Bergen Community College is doing testing on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays starting at 8am and taking 500 cases. New Bridge Hospital is open daily from 8am till possibly 4pm for testing. Bergen County will be starting local mobile testing units. Towns with the highest populations will get the mobile unit first. Mayor Kelemen asked to be on the list for the Recreation parking lot.

He reminded everyone that the Primary will be held on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

He said that there will be no Memorial Day Parade or ceremonies this year, but a 4 page mailer honoring Memorial Day will be prepared and distributed to all residents with input from Walter Croft of the American Legion and Alex Hernandez of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He asked that residents put out a flag on Memorial Day and decorate houses with Red, White, and Blue in honor of those that gave their lives for our freedom and for the United States of America.

He announced that the grace period for filing property taxes has been extended to May 26<sup>th</sup>. After May 26<sup>th</sup> interest will be charged from after May 1<sup>st</sup>. That is state law.

He announced that County and State parks will be opening again with restrictions. There will be no organized sports and police will monitor social distancing. He said that School Superintendent Kennedy is

looking into what the state will allow for high school graduations. The Mayor and Council will give support to the High School and St. Joseph's to help with graduations.

He is waiting to find out what the ruling will be about private pools being installed and about public pools. He thanked the Gormans and Sherry Solomov for collecting and distributing snacks to Holy Name Hospital staff. He thanked many people for collecting food for the food pantry including Police Chief Maye, the Fire Department, Jim Moore, Joe Scarpa, Gordon Kohles, Dan Craddock, Rob Foster, Matt Luciano, Rebecca O'Hagan, Sherry Solomov, Kristen Meberg, Tanya Sanchez, and Susan Cruz and Frank Miranda. He thanked Eric Solomov for cleaning and disinfecting the Recreation Center to make it safe for food drop-offs. He said that the OEM meeting run by Rob Foster and Matt Luciano on Tuesday with all department heads went well. His letter from Congressman Gottheimer concerning CSX said that the train bridge showed no structural risk, he was disappointed to discover that CSX will not do anything about the peeling lead paint which is a health hazard. CSX insists that the lead paint chips are not a health hazard. He requested a copy of the inspection report showing that there is no structural damage.

He gave the town residents an A+ for their cooperation and support during this pandemic.

Councilman Connors said that the Board of Education had a virtual meeting on Tuesday and the school budget was originally voted down. The amended budget will change the tax increase from \$80 to \$37 tax credit. He reported that the Board of Education is considering purchasing the masonic temple for \$750,000 from their Capital budget. He said that virtual learning is continuing, and the teachers are doing a great job. Over 80 lunches a day are being distributed to children with help from the SLEOs. He said that the word from the state is to do virtual graduations. He offered condolences to the family of Santiago De la Cruz.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that May 17 to May 23 is National Public Works Week to honor DPW employees. She said that Nick Barese had a problem with a property on Summit Avenue. A \$500 fine was imposed. She said that the Swim Club did the PPP application and she is working with the bank and Ed Sweeney for the insurance etc. She does not know if the Swim Club will open July 1<sup>st</sup> or August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilman Napolitano said that the senior citizens are well taken care of, and he thanked Jim Moore for his part in that. He offered condolences to the Mayor on the loss of his mother-in-law. He said that the police and the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) are doing a great job with the food pantry. He said that everyone has responded beautifully to the request for food for the food pantry. He congratulated all the students who worked so hard this year in quarantine.

He reported that \$162 million in grant money was given to the County, and hopefully the municipalities will receive it. He collected the Community Center plans from Cresskill. The engineer and administrator are checking with other geo-tech companies to perform borings that could find another way to build without needing the very expensive pilings.

Councilwoman Murphy said that money is coming through for education from CARES increased from \$312 million to \$467 million. She asked if the new boring tests have been done, and Mayor Kelemen said that they were done. She told everyone to stay safe.

Councilman Robbins said that the Teterboro noise meeting was postponed until July 16. There have been no noise complaints in Bogota. He said that Fire Chief Greiner said that the Fire Department has enough PPE materials and the firemen are practicing social distancing.

He said that he saw a high school in Little Falls on his way to work that had a picture of every graduating senior on the lawn in front of the school. He mentioned it to BOE President Kohles. He would like something special for the seniors.

Councilwoman Fede said that on Monday she attended the virtual meeting of the Creative Arts Team. They are working on their by-laws, and they are working on the Creative Assets inventory whereby they determine people, places, and things that are creative assets for our town. They are looking for nominations, and they will have a draft by the end of the month to submit with their Sustainable Jersey application. She said that Chelsea Coleman and Amaru Bustamante are doing a great job. The Community Garden is open. She and Rebecca Youla have taken over the Garden Committee and will make sure that the

garden is clean and neat and social distancing will be followed. Lots are available. She said that it has been a pleasure doing the dispatch work for Birthday Party rides. She said that there were three today and three coming on Monday. They have been very well received. She has a client that makes food products who will arrange for 6 cases of flatbreads for the food pantry. She reported that residents have been very giving and not afraid to ask for help. There were two virtual Rescue meetings. Rescue had two calls on tree issues during the storm.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he will be meeting with Wells Fargo about parking for the Fire Department. The camera, recorder, etc. for broadcasting meetings have been ordered.

He reported that the Borough now has a hiring freeze. The police agreed to wait till next year to hire another officer. The cleaning company has been stopped, and a DPW worker is cleaning the borough buildings. Capital projects are on hold. The state allowed an extension for the tonnage grant report to July 1. He worked with Chelsea Coleman on a library grant for reading materials which she submitted. A pre-construction meeting was held for the 2019 Pascack Valley road program which will get underway on May 21 and 22. He is working with the engineer on the community development grant for Central Avenue road improvement. The outside of Borough Hall will be painted. He is working on quotes for that. Holy Name ambulance had 45 calls in February, 43 calls in March, and 50 calls in April.

He said that for Summer Camp, he and Jim Moore are working on a contingency plan in case the state gives the go ahead to open. The plan is to limit the number of children allowed and to cancel any day that it rains since the Recreation Center is not large enough to hold a lot of people who have to practice social distancing. The running dates for camp are potentially June 29 through August 28<sup>th</sup>.

He explained the need to do another boring study for the new Community Center by another geo-tech company, SESI of Pinebrook. The cost would be \$9,000. Councilman Napolitano explained that there are different boring studies that will show what kind of foundation is needed for different ground conditions. The hope is to be able to put the new Community Center on its original site without using pilings which would cost over one million dollars. He also explained that to move the building across the street would be a cost because new plans would have to be developed for the new site.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve a geo-technical study by SESI of Pinebrook for \$9,000. Motion carried with Council members Carpenter and Murphy voting No.

Borough Attorney Bossong said that there will be a meeting on Monday at 11:00am with Wells Fargo. He will email the meeting information.

Borough Clerk Cook reported that the State said that rabies clinics are essential and should take place. She will work on setting a date for a Rabies Clinic. She reminded everyone to follow the Open Public Meetings Act.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Connors, to go into closed session. Motion carried at 9:50pm.

When the meeting resumed at 10:23pm, Borough Attorney Bossong said that there was a need to eliminate the newest DPW position because of financial reasons caused by the pandemic. Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the following Resolution to terminate the newest DPW employee, Michael Sandman, for financial reasons. Motion carried.

20-087 Resolution to Eliminate the Newest DPW Position for Financial Reasons.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.