



### 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, **March 26, 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 March 18, 2020.

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

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

Carmel Birney thanked the Mayor, Council, DPW, Fire, and Police for maintenance of the town during this pandemic.

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

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

PC20-05 Payment of Claims

20-063 Hire Michael Sandman as full time DPW worker

20-064 Certification of Compliance with the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records In Employment Decisions Under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964"

20-065 Resolution to Cancel Trust Reserve for Vacant Property

20-066 Temporary Capital Budget

20-067 Renew Solid Waste Service Agreement with BCUA for June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021

Discussion took place concerning the 2020 introduced budget. Borough Auditor Wielkotz explained to Councilwoman Carpenter that the anticipated contribution from the developer is between 1.2 and 1.8 million dollars. \$175,000 will be used as revenue and the rest will go to capital for the community center. Councilwoman Carpenter questioned the First Aid being a line item in the budget when the borough no longer has a First Aid Squad. Borough Administrator Scarpa explained that there is a clause in the Holy Name Ambulance contract stating that Holy Name must get reimbursed by the town for clients that do not have health insurance that covers the ambulance fees which totaled \$21,000 last year. He said that Rescue and Ambulance were comingled last year. Councilman Napolitano had Borough Auditor Wielkotz confirm that all revenue is anticipated. Mr. Wielkotz then explained that \$500,000 from the surplus has been used for tax relief. He said that

last year, the Recreation Trust had a deficit of over \$70,000 because money was moved from the Trust Account to the Current Account to cover Recreation salaries. \$8,000 in the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Trust was over-expended. Money had to be moved from other appropriations to the legal line to cover unanticipated costs. There was a reduction in debt service in last year's budget. The bond sale last year caused an increase in debt service for this year. The tax increase this year will be \$68 to the average homeowner. Mr. Wielkotz said that a town should never use more surplus than it thinks it can regenerate in said year. The surplus is 17% of the total budget which is reasonable. He reminded everyone about the pandemic and the fact that less tickets will be issued by the police during this quarantine. Interest rates have dropped. Many people losing jobs will cause hardship for paying property taxes. There were also two sewer emergencies last year that must be paid out of this year's budget. He said that the borough has young police officers who are hitting the steps which is an expense as well. Mr. Scarpa explained that the garbage collection fees and the sewage fees have increased, and the borough is planning to hire another police officer this year. Councilman Napolitano reported that the Moody Report show's Bogota's bond rating is still at A2.

Resolution voted on Separately:

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried.

20-068 Introduction of 2020 Budget

The following Ordinances were introduced:

1540 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal the Municipal budget Appropriations Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

1541 A Multipurpose Bond Ordinance

1542 A Bond Ordinance for Pine Street

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinances took place.:

1538 Salary Ordinance for 2020

1539 An Ordinance Amending Schedule VIII of Chapter 7-6.2 Creating a Stop Intersection

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the Minutes of 3/5/2020. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter voting No and Councilwoman Murphy abstaining because she did not attend the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

Sherry Solomov said that Carmel Birney did a great job in praising all those that are helping maintain the town. She thanked the residents for coming together to help each other, and she asked that they continue to reach out and spread kindness. She thanked everyone again and said that it is a pleasure to live in this town.

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

Councilwoman Fede thanked the extraordinary efforts of the first responders, OEM, Police, elected officials and residents. Councilman Connors asked that everyone look out for Senior citizens that live nearby. Councilman Napolitano gave a shout out to Jim Moore for helping the Seniors with food shopping and medical appointments. He also echoed the praises for the first responders and thanked Mayor Kelemen for being at Borough Hall every day as a true leader. Borough Clerk Cook

reported that the health inspector said that Bogota was the very best town that he works in because everyone has been working together – OEM, Police, DPW, Fire, and Governing Body. He said that Bogota worked fast to implement all that was necessary to keep the residents safe. Councilwoman Murphy sent out prayers to everyone and asked everyone to stay safe.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he is working with the grant writer on the grant application for the multi-purpose field. He said that the borough engineer has sent applications to the state for the required DEP permits. He praised the Borough Crew for a great team effort in protecting the residents and added to the praise of Jim Moore who gets up at 5am three times a week to bring a resident to the hospital. He insisted that Jim not go into the hospital as he himself is an at-risk individual.

Borough Clerk Cook reminded everyone that the petitions for the primary election are due Monday by 4pm. She will be at borough Hall on Friday and also Monday for anyone who wishes to drop off petitions. She thanked Borough Attorney Bossong, Borough IT professional Dino George, and Volunteer Rebecca Youla for helping to set up the virtual meeting and making it work.

Mayor Kelemen thanked the Council, Administrator Scarpa, Clerk Cook, Auditor Wielkottz, Attorney Bossong, CFO Bock, and Rebecca Youla for making this meeting a success. He thanked the DPW and the Police for courageously working every day. He thanked OEM Coordinator Foster and Deputy OEM Coordinator Luciano for working around the clock for the safety of the residents. He said that the website will be updated regularly to keep everyone informed. He urged everyone to check the Bogota website as well as the County website, and he praised County Executive Tedesco and his staff for the great job they are doing. He said it was recommended to rely on the County for updates on the number of casualties. He said to take advantage of Jim Tedesco's Facebook page as well as Hoy Name Hospital and Hackensack Hospital. He said that robo-calls will be made as necessary to inform the residents and urged people to sign up for it on line. He asked people to stay home and remain calm. He said that Bogota is a great town with great residents, police, DPW workers, and volunteers Congratulations to the parents and teachers for the great job they are doing to continue educating the students.

Councilman Napolitano reminded everyone that the budget deadline was extended, so the Borough will be on time.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.