



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 21, 2020 at 7:30pm.**

Salute to Flag 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 May 19, 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 and Borough Auditor Wielkotz.

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

Sherry Solomov said that there is a need for someone to pick up food for the Recreation Center on Tuesday at 10am.

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

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

20-089 Authorize Borough Engineer to Prepare Bid specs for 2020 Municipal Road Paving Program
20-090 Supporting Green Purchasing Program

Resolutions to be Voted on Separately:

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the following resolution. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter abstaining.

20-088 Approval of First Amendment to Lease Agreement with Bogota Swim Club

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the following Payment of Claims. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter objecting to Purchase orders #200579, 200651, and 200652.

PC20-08 Payment of Claims

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to open the Public Hearing on the 2020 Budget Amendment. Motion carried.

There were no comments.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to close the Public Hearing on the 2020 Budget Amendment. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to Adopt the 2020 Budget. Motion Carried and Resolution 20-091 was approved.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to introduce the following Bond Ordinance. Motion carried.:

#1544 Bond Ordinance for Leonia Avenue Phase V (Last phase of Leonia Avenue Project with \$205,000 DOT grant)

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the Minutes for 5/7/2020. Motion carried.

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

George Silos said that he was glad that the playgrounds were closed due to the pandemic, but he would like to know when they will re-open because he would like to see them open soon.

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

Mayor Kelemen explained that the playgrounds must remain off-limits until the governor issues an executive order for them to open. He said that tennis courts will be opening soon, but not basketball courts. The Mayor is part of conference calls every Friday and Tuesday and said that some things will change soon.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Mayor Kelemen thanked the Borough staff and Health Officer Sam Yanovich for all their work during the pandemic. He said there were 185 positive cases and 14 deaths in Bogota. He said that department heads are filling requests by residents and personal protection equipment has been distributed as needed. He said the County is taking orders from municipalities to purchase bulk protection supplies. County Executive Tedesco said that towns should continue to file for 75% with FEMA and 25% from CARES. The mayor said that small businesses should look into the CARES Act for assistance. He said that he is still waiting for confirmation on when the Mobile Testing Units will come to Bogota. He said that libraries may open soon, but he did not want to discuss high school graduations. He spoke to School Superintendent Kennedy to make something happen for the graduating Seniors. He said the school year was disappointing with class trips and field trips being cancelled as well as the Annual Mayor's Breakfast. He was asked to do a virtual tour of Borough Hall and to participate in a Virtual Week of the Arts. He said that he married four couples including a couple from Massachusetts and a couple from New York. He said the DPW is doing a great job. He reported that there was a meeting last week regarding renovations at Firemen's Park. A man from town, Donde Rivera, owns a water sprinkler business and offered to donate a sprinkling system. He said a Memorial Wall is being created at the Pavilion in Olsen Park. He thanked Charlie Severino for the suggestion of the Memorial Wall. He said that the County Executive offered

purple ribbons to tie to a tree. Bogota will offer purple for anyone that died, yellow for a Bogota resident that died, and white for anyone who survived. He said that for Memorial Day this year a flier is being created by Lithotone in memory of those that died in service to this country. Everyone should receive the flyer by Friday or Saturday. He asked everyone to hang flags and put up red, white, and blue decorations in honor of Memorial Day.

Councilman Connors said that he attended the Board of Education meeting on Wednesday. The school superintendent asked parents of seniors to be patient, as a virtual graduation is in the works. He said that the teachers' contracts are in the final stages, and grades were frozen in March. There is a plan for summer school. He said that the Recreation Committee will have a meeting on May 27th as they are working on the by-laws. He said that we are waiting for the soil testing to know where the new Recreation Center can be built.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that the Property Maintenance Inspector, Nick Barese, has been in contact with the owner of a property where the wall fell down. She said that the DPW is doing a great job. She said that the Swim Club was blasted and painted, and the DPW will cut the grass.

Councilman Napolitano thanked everyone for adopting the budget. He said that the borough will get a tax relief from Atwater. He reported that the police are doing a great job. A resident told him of a kindness shown by a Bogota police officer for which he was grateful. The police are also helping with the food pantry. He thanked Jim Moore for his help with the seniors. He reported that the Borough is moving forward with the basketball court and the Community Center. Dynamic compaction may be used to get the soil ready for building the center. He said that Bogota is getting a lot of road paving done this year. There were a lot of savings this year due to lower prices for the materials.

Councilwoman Murphy had no report.

Councilman Robbins said that he spoke to Fire Chief Greiner who reported that everything is under control. The Firemen are practicing social distancing and have a decent supply of PPEs.

Councilwoman Fede reported that an executive order from the Governor allows for Community Gardens. She said that Bogota's Community Garden has 8 plots rented and 12 plots available. She said there are a lot of ash trees on Larch Avenue that have to be removed because of disease. She said that the bucket truck should be here soon. She said that the planters on Main Street look messy. She will be on Main Street this weekend to clean out the planters in case anyone would like to help. She reported that the sustainable Jersey application is due on June 14, and it is almost ready to submit. She noticed in the Payment of Claims that the firehouse roof was repaired, and she hopes it helps.

Administrator Scarpa said that he met with the architect about the firehouse which should be a topic of discussion for a future meeting. He said that he is working with Borough Attorney Bossong and Borough Engineer Costa on the parking situation with Wells Fargo. Road resurfacing on Henry Smith Way will be put off until next year since work will be done on the parking this year. He reported that the 2019 Roadwork consisted of McDougal Lane, Dunn Avenue, Lynn Court, and Cane Street. There will be a pre-construction meeting the first week of June. He announced that the grace period for tax payments was extended to May 26th. He said that for Firemen's Park there will be a bronze plaque, benches, a fence, a town clock, and a place for a DPW truck to be able to drive there for repairs etc. He reported that he and CFO Bock completed a County Covid Survey today and submitted it. He said the 2020 Road Program will consist of Oakwood Avenue, Fairview

Avenue, Walnut Avenue, West Broad Street, Queen Anne Road , and Maplewood Avenue. He said that someone noticed 7 or 8 bucket trucks parked behind the football field. He found out that they were with PSE&G for a private contractor. He said that the contractor should have had a hold harmless agreement, and he will address that matter with department heads.

Borough Attorney Bossong said he only had closed session items to discuss.

Borough Clerk Cook announced that the Free Rabies Clinic will be held on Saturday , June 6th. She reminded everyone to follow the Open Public Records Act.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Connors, to go into Closed Session. Motion carried and the Mayor and Council went into Closed Session at 8:39pm.

When the meeting resumed at 9:22pm, Mayor Kelemen announced that Ridgefield Park's Mayor Fosdick had retired, and he wished him happiness. He congratulated the new Mayor of Ridgefield Park, John Anlien.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to authorize Joe Scarpa as the designee for the Mayor and Council to handle a grievance filed by a police sergeant. Motion carried and the following resolution was added to the agenda:

20-092 Authorize Joseph Scarpa to Act as Mayor and Council's Designee for Police Grievances

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.