



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, **August 20, 2020 at 7:00pm.**

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 17, 2020.

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

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

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

20-117 Shared Services Snow Plow Agreement with Bergen County for 2020-2022

20-118 Authorizing Submission of Strategic Plan for Municipal Alliance Grant

20-121 Tax Sale Redemption

20-123 Donation of 1990 International Harvester Utility Truck

Resolution to be Voted on Separately:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter recusing herself from voting.

20-122 Appointment of Cohn, Lifland, Pearlman Hermann and Knopf LLP as Special Counsel

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the following Payment of Claims Resolution. Motion carried.

PC20-12 Payment of Claims

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to add Adriana Bingen to Creative Arts Team. Motion carried.

- Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the Minutes from 7/16/2020. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees, Borough Administrator, Borough Attorney

Mayor Kelemen reported that the number of COVID cases in Bogota is now 220 cases and 15 deaths. His thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who died. He said there is a 2.9 positive rate increase since last week. Free testing is continuing at New Bridge Medical Center. County figures show 21,300 cases and 1,788 deaths. He met with Jay Levine who works with Arcadia Publishing. They produce books called "Images of America". He would like to produce a book on Bogota. He will speak to Mr. Komorowski about it. He said that he needs actual photographs of Bogota through the years. He said he is sorry that St. Joseph's Academy has closed. St. Joseph's School has always been a highlight of this community. He thanked St. Joseph's for the use of the parking lot for the COVID testing. He received a thank you note from Michele Deargo, the Chief of Staff from Executive Tedesco's office who was very grateful for the testing service in Bogota. There were 643 tests performed as well as over 200 antibodies. He said that the CENSUS letter went out. He thanked Lithotone for their fast work. He was happy to see the street paving started. He received a letter from an energetic student Angela who is part of a group to help small businesses and restaurants as they open their doors. He said that two weeks ago his email was hacked and he extended his apologies to everyone who called. He thanked Dino George for taking care of the problem immediately. He said that Tropical Storm Isis came to Bogota in August, and there was a ton of tree damage and downed wires. Governor Murphy declared a state of emergency and the Borough could get reimbursement. County Executive Tedesco has a website where people can go to get reimbursement for food etc. Mayor Kelemen rode with the Police Chief to see all the damage. He thanked all the services in Bogota that worked so hard during and after the storm, including the Police, the DPW, Fire, and Rescue. He thanked Gordon Kohles and his crew for a great job as well as Chief Maye, Captain Piterski and all the police. He thanked all the volunteers who also did an extraordinary job. A plan was formulated for the new firehouse. Money was bonded for a new Hose 2 truck. New turnout gear is needed soon. Public Safety and Volunteer Safety is important. He reported that in 2018, the borough bonded for a fire truck and generator with bond Ordinance #1511. He heard that the Board of Education donated a generator to the Fire Department when they did the parking lot. The Borough can work on ordering the generator for Engine 1 and Hook and Ladder with that bond money. They had a town hall meeting last night to discuss the future school year. He does not get involved with the Board of Education, but he supports them and understands that this is a very stressful time. He and Councilman Connors met with School Superintendent Kennedy once. He said that he met with Mr. Kennedy concerning a plan for child care alternative so Moms and Dads can go back to work. He said that he and the Superintendent will meet again with the board of education President and Vice President and with the Council President. They will all work together to do the best they can.

Councilman Connors said the Recreation Committee Meeting was postponed. There will be no summer camp or recreation activities. Football was cancelled. There should be a meeting next month. The Board of Education had a town hall meeting, and this Tuesday the BOE will discuss and vote on virtual learning. Governor Murphy's original plan would be a blended model. Virtual for first five or six weeks. The biggest concern seems to be childcare. Mr. Kennedy is asking the town to help out with childcare by providing space. He said that some teachers opted to stay home because of health issues. The Superintendent's recommendation is for virtual learning, so no one is at risk. He asked for virtual through October 19 when it will be readdressed. He thanked the DPW, Rescue Squad, and Fire Department for all the work they did during and after the storm.

Councilwoman Carpenter thanked the DPW, Rescue Squad, and Fire Department for their hard work during and after the storm. She said that the DPW has 8 full timers and 1 part timer. 1 worker is out sick. She said that we need to advertise for more DPW workers.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to advertise for two full time DPW laborers. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda.

20-124 Advertise for two full time DPW laborers

She continued that Nick Barese sent an email that many properties are being fixed. There are 24 vacant properties that all are registered.

Councilman Napolitano said that the vacant property ordinance is assisting Nick. He thanked all the first responders, the police, fire department, DPW, dispatchers, and everyone who helped through the COVID and during and after the storm. A letter was sent by the Board of Fire Officers signed by Chief Greiner commending our new dispatcher Amy Dirr and Detective Rivera for outstanding effort during the storm with power outages etc in managing to coordinate everybody. He researched the Obama pledge with the Mayor and the Police Chief. Along with taking the pledge, the Bogota Police are also part of the NJ Statewide Excellence in Policing Initiative which is through the State Attorney General's office. This was started in December 2019 to emphasize professionalism, accountability, and transparency in the Police Department. Any and all issues are sent to the County Prosecutor's office and the Attorney General's office. There is a website for the Statewide Excellence in Policing Initiative which the public can use to send comments or concerns. He applauded Wayne Sorge and the Rescue Squad for all tremendous amount of work they did cutting down trees and provided generators for people on oxygen that lost power. It is important to make sure they have the best communication system and safety training. The mayor wants to order a generator for the fire department. (Councilman Robbins is waiting for specs from the Fire Department to purchase the right one.) For infrastructure, 2019 paving is done, 2020 paving is underway; Kramer Court will be added to 2020 paving as long as it doesn't go over the 20%. Maybe Roadway could be considered as well. River Road is slated for next year by the County. He would like to talk about downtown redevelopment at the next meeting. He attended a firehouse meeting to discuss options for the new firehouse and went to Montvale to see the firehouse there. The Senior apartments on Leonia Avenue are still experiencing some flooding because inlets get clogged, and gutters need to be replaced by Bergen County Housing. 2019 paving included McDougal, Dunn, Lynn court, Main. Parking expansion outside of borough hall is in the works. 2020 paving includes Oakwood, Walnut, West Broad, and Fairview which was not done properly in 2014. Also included are Queen Anne Road and Maplewood Avenue, and Queen Anne road and __ Avenue. Central Avenue is being done now. The borough needs to apply for the TAP Grant. Last time there were 120 applicants and only 16 received it. He and Steve Welsh will be attending a webinar to help with that.

Councilwoman Murphy said that Library Director Coleman was trying to get trustees to approve the bill list by email and zoom on August 6th. The library opening is going well. It is very well organized. The Library Director sent an email to Council and would like input from the council either Monday, August 24 at 7PM, August 26 at 5pm, and August 29 at 10AM. Council needs to get ideas. She attended the meeting for the firehouse discussion.

Councilman Robbins said that Teterboro TENEC had a virtual meeting. He said from April to May, the FAA amended the environmental study for Teterboro Airport which proposes a new flight plan. The study included the impact of any historical sites throughout the area. There are 796 historical properties. The FAA and the NJ Historical Preservation office determined that Teterboro airport's new flight plan at runway 19 had no effect on the historical sites. Air traffic training was suspended due to COVID. Training and procedure implementation should resume in early 2021.. He attended the meeting about the firehouse with Councilmembers Murphy and Napolitano, Administrator Scarpa, Fire Chief Greiner, Battalion Chief Kleiber, and Fire Captain John Donne. They decided that parking was the biggest issue at the location, so they talked about the building at the corner of West Shore Avenue and Fairview Avenue. There is a parking issue there, and the building will accommodate vehicles and storage. The building could also provide offices for the Fire Chiefs and for OEM office. He commended the first responders and the DPW for services during and after the storm. They did a great job.

Councilwoman Fede asked for work to be done on Communication at Borough Hall because there is problem with WI FI. She said that this year is the 19th straight year that Bogota is part of Tree City USA. and training is completed for 2020. There were two water rescues since the last meeting, and the Rescue Squad spent over 10 hours on Storm response. On Saturday, Rescue volunteered to clean up Olsen Park from tree debris. The sustainable Jersey Application is due September 11th. The Crime Stoppers clothing bin by Quick Chek has received 8,150 pounds of clothing. That means that over 8,000 pounds of textiles have been recycled. That is a fundraiser for Crime Stoppers. Plastic recycling is picking up. The TREX bins are outside the library. Shred Day was successful. She thanked the OEM for the tent which was a great help due to the heat. She thanked the DPW Steve Vogt for his help. Rescue bought a new generator from its annual drive funds because so

many generators were out during the tropical storm, so they thought it was important to get another generator.. There was a request for a recycling center sign even though it is a temporary site. She spoke to the Building Department about outdoor dining at a restaurant was not approved by the Council, and there is some sidewalk sale activity. She asked that ordinances be enforced.

Administrator Scarpa said roads have been milled, but will not be paved until next week. There will be a ribbon cutting at the library for the rest room. He asked that exposed manholes be ramped and cones be put there. He asked if anyone is interested in taking part in a Ribbon Cutting for the new bathroom at the Library. There are hands free sanitizers to be found throughout Borough Hall to help with the COVID situation. A new gate was installed at the DPW because the old one was falling apart. Signs will be ordered for the new gate and for the recycling center. A 98 page draft for the recycling center was submitted by the archeological company that did the survey. Mr. Scarpa is reviewing it with the engineer before it is submitted to the DEP for review which will take between 30 and 60 days. Then the building can begin. The Borough will have to do a funding ordinance for Fireman's Park which can be introduced at the next meeting. Repairs need to be done at Borough Hall. Painting needs to be done, and the rail on the balcony upstairs needs to be replaced as well as the yankee gutter. Work needs to be done on the cupola and the round window. He would like to incorporate those repairs into the funding for Fireman's Park. Holy Name ambulance reported a decrease in ambulance calls. The prior three months averaged about 50 calls, and the month of July had 33 calls.

Borough Attorney Bossong had no report.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Fede to go into Closed Session at 8:38pm. Motion carried.

When the meeting reconvened at 9:34pm, motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to increase the Deputy Clerk's salary by \$5,000. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:

20-125 To Increase the Deputy Clerk's Salary to \$5,000 by way of amending the salary ordinance.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:38pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.