



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, July 16, 2020 at 7:30pm.

Salute to Flag was led by Mayor Kelemen.

Mayor Kelemen then asked everyone to remember John Mitchell Jr, the son of John Mitchell, a former Councilman. Sympathies are extended to John Jr's parents, his aunt, Ann Marie Mitchell, his uncle, James Otis Mitchell, and his daughter, Blair.

He then asked everyone to remember Rick Gil de Leon who was an active member of the Bogota VFW and American Legion. His wife, Rona was a Council member in the 1990s. Sympathies are extended to Rick Gil de Leon's family as well.

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 July 13, 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 Architect Bilow.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Presentation: Borough Architect David Bilow with Matt Spagnola and Matt Bilow, gave a presentation on the drawings for a new Firehouse at the corner of West Shore Avenue and Cypress Avenue. They said that they reviewed the documents prepared by RSC last year, and then met with Borough Administrator Scarpa and Fire Chief Greiner to discuss how they would like to expand on those Documents. They proceeded to show their plans on the screen. Discussion took place concerning the 4 bays. It was suggested that three bays may be better to give more room for parking. Further discussion will take place in the near future.

Borough Architects then gave a presentation on the proposed new community center. Drawings were presented of the floor plan and the exterior of the building. Discussion took place concerning rubber flooring and solar power. The architect explained the need for approval of the concept for the new community center to move forward. Councilman Napolitano motioned to accept the concept and authorize the architect to move forward with the design. Councilman Connors seconded the motion, and the motion carried with Councilwoman Murphy not voting as she was having technical problems with the connection. The following Resolution was added to the agenda.

20-115 To Accept Concept for New Community Center and Authorize the Borough Architect to Move Forward with the Design

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

- 20-109 Change Order #1 for Leonia Avenue Phase V Project
- 20-110 Hire Amelia J. Dirr as a New Police Dispatcher
- 20-111 Tax Redemption for Block 88 Lot 07
- 20-112 Award Contract to AJM Contractors for Road Resurfacing at Various Locations
- 20-113 Award Contract to AJM for 2020 CDBG Road Resurfacing Project at Central Avenue
- 20-114 Hire Two DPW Employees: Tyler Karmazyn and Thomas Dekker

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Napolitano to approve the following Resolution that was Voted on Separately. Motion carried.:

PC20-11 Payment of Claims

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to Approve Micah K. Gibson as a member of Hose Company 2 and Nozomi Motai-Febies, Jared Deutsch, and Juan Escobar as members of Engine Company #1. Motion carried.

-Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the Minutes from June 25, 2020 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

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

John Shuck requested that Mayor sign a Mayor's Pledge that can be found on line that involves reviewing the police use of force policies and seeking a diverse range of input from the community.

Lisa Kohles asked if Borough Administrator Scarpa and the people in finance were aware that FEMA takes up to three years to reimburse towns.

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

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that FEMA usually has a lag time for reimbursement, and it usually is a response to a regional disaster. This situation affects every community throughout the country, so the lag time would be more severe. Councilwoman Carpenter agreed with the Administrator. Mayor Kelemen said that he remembered Hurricane Sandy when he was a Councilman and he remembers that it took two to three years to be reimbursed.

Councilwoman Murphy asked that the Mayor and Council look into the Mayor's Pledge. Mayor Kelemen said that he will look into it and discuss it with the Police Chief. Councilman Napolitano said that the police discuss this often, and he appreciated the comments about diversity. He said that the police are sensitive to those issues.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Mayor Kelemen said he has been working with Debbie Emery of the Bergen Volunteers of Hackensack who offered to come to Bogota to help with the Census. He and the Borough clerk will work on getting the Census letter out to the residents using the grant money that was approved for the Census effort. He said that he heard that Governor Murphy praised the Borough of Bogota on its efforts and success during this COVID. He said he is very sorry for the victims and asked that they be remembered. The Memorial Wall is still in Olsen Park, and people should visit it. He thanked St. Joseph Church for allowing the COVID testing to be done in the parking lot on July 8th. He thanked County Executive Tedesco and Mr. Shrieks as well as the mayor of Ridgfield Park and the Bogota Police and Auxiliary Police. He especially thanked the Bogota OEM officials Foster and Luciano.

He would like to meet with County Executive Tedesco for funding for the Olsen Park Redevelopment plan. He is hoping for grants and sponsorship. He said that Mayor and Council do not make decisions for the Bogota School System. He said that the American flag was not taken down in front of Borough Hall and never will be removed. There have been many Weddings taking place in Bogota. They are done in Olsen Park in the gazebo, and he thanked the DPW Superintendent for cleaning up the area and hanging plants.

Overnight parking rules will go back into effect as of July 31st. He congratulated the Bogota High School 2020 graduates and thanked Councilwoman Carpenter for representing the governing body at the graduation since he was unable to attend due to a funeral.

Councilman Connors reported that the Bogota High School graduation occurred on July 8th in the parking lot. He said that Mr. Kennedy said there will be a town hall meeting on July 28th. A hybrid schedule is one of the possible plans for school in September. Phase I of Fall Sports will begin soon. School Start date will be after Labor Day. He met with Mr. Scarpa in the Council Chambers concerning the Recreation committee and worked out a lot of issues. He reported the results of that meeting to the Recreation Committee. Summer Camp was cancelled. Some football uniforms still have not been returned. The Recreation committee would like Borough emails.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that two DPW workers were hired today. The Administrator and DPW Superintendent are interviewing for temporary help. She reported that the new garbage truck will be delivered in the next 3 to 4 weeks. The Bogota High School graduation was well done. She said that Marianne Dispoto suggested a Welcome Committee with a kit which will be discussed at a future meeting.

Councilwoman Murphy said that the NJ Library Trustee Association had a Zoom meeting today to discuss re-opening of the Libraries. Bogota trustee Joanne attended. There is a bill out called Library Stabilization Fund Act which is cosponsored by both NJ Senators. Library Director Coleman asked for people to reach out to Congressman Gottheimer to support it as well. The library is continuing on-line programs.

Councilman Robbins said that there were no Teterboro noise complaints for the month of June, and the virtual meeting is scheduled for July 22nd. He asked if there was any follow up on generators for the firehouses. He spoke to the fire officials to find out the specifications for the generators and stressed that the governing body needs to make a decision on purchasing generators. He thanked the Council for approving the new recruits and said that the recruiting process seems to be working well. He asked if an ordinance can be drafted to say that the new parking spaces on Broad Street will be for fire department use only. Borough Attorney Bossong said that signs will be created stating that. Councilman Robbins said that a resident asked if a sign could be put in front of Borough Hall that says "Masks save lives".

Councilman Napolitano said that the police received over 1,000 calls. There were 872 general calls, 53 ambulance calls, 13 auto accidents, and 34 gun permit applications. Signatures were completed for the cops grant. Advertising will take place for a police officer thanks to that grant. He said the OEM assisted with the COVID testing in St. Joseph's parking lot, and it was a great success. Overnight parking will begin again August 1st. The food pantry sent a thank you note to the Police Chief thanking the Borough for all the assistance for the food drive during the pandemic. They were overwhelmed by the generosity of the people of Bogota. The letter was signed by Carol Bobat and Patricia Fanning, two of the food pantry workers from St. Joseph's. He is staying in touch with the president of the Senior Advisory Committee. The seniors are staying in touch with each other, doing well and thankful for the help with food and pharmaceutical shopping. The Bogota Rescue Squad participated in the Ridgefield Park 4th of July parade. They handled several tree calls and calls for oxygen due to power outages during the recent storms. There is interest in some of the areas in need of redevelopment. The estimated tax bills went out. He pointed out the many projects being completed or worked on in Bogota this year including road paving, catch basin repair, Fireman's Park, a new recycling center, the new community center, a new firehouse, an open space turf field, and new basketball and tennis courts. He was told that the County will be paving Main Street, and they are looking at the Culvert again due to flooding from the last storm. West Fort Lee Road was not flooded, so the new drainage from the River Club is working.

Councilwoman Fede said that the Swim Club liaisons committee had their meeting Monday pursuant to the lease. She was impressed with the procedures and safeguards being followed by the Swim Club. The next meeting is September 21st. She thanked the Rescue, Fire, and Police for their work on Tropical Storm Fay. There were power lines down, etc. It was great to see all the emergency services working together. The COVID testing went well. She was glad to see the dangerous trees by Fireman's park were taken down, and

she thanked Mr. Scarpa for his help with that. She congratulated the four new fire recruits. She asked everyone to remember the Best Practices Broadcasting resolution that was passed, and reminded everyone not to talk over each other, not to swear, click pens, etc. She requested that everyone appear on video as professionals. She asked if Councilman Napolitano could be given a formalized title of Project manager for all the Capital projects.

Councilman Connors motioned to formalize a title for Councilman Napolitano as Project Manager, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried with Councilmembers Carpenter and Murphy voting No. The following Resolution was added to the agenda:

20-116 Recognition of Councilman Thomas Napolitano As Construction Projects Coordinator

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that the library renovations will be completed in a week. An agreement was entered into with a company in Trenton to do an archeological study of the area for the new recycling center. Shred Day will be Saturday from 9am to 1pm at the Recreation Center. A number of trees were taken down at Fireman's Park which were in bad shape. Eric Solomov refurbished the historic sign there. The bronze plaque will be redone as well. There will be a walkway, benches etc put in with the grant money. Repairs will be made to Borough Hall as well.

Borough Attorney Bossong said that interest in the area in need of redevelopment concerns private developers. It is not something being done by the Borough. Atwater update: Building 5 will be done in September, Building 1 will be done in October, Building 2 will be done in January, and building 3 will be done in the 4th quarter of 2021. He is waiting on the original signature on the easement for the parking for the firemen, so he can send it to the County Clerk. He thanked Mr. Scarpa for getting that moving.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to go into closed session. Motion carried at 10:23pm.

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:29pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.