



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, **November 12, 2020, at 7:30pm.**

Salute to the Flag was led by mayor Kelemen.

Mayor Kelemen acknowledged Pat Burns who died last week. He recounted her years as a teacher in Bogota Bixby School and mentioned that she created the Week of the Arts which is now directed by her daughter, Cornelia Geraghty, a teacher at Steen School. He said that she and her family, including the Geraghtys and the Rochfords, were a big part of Bogota for many years. He thanked Mrs. Burns for her love, enthusiasm, and commitment to Bogota -may she rest in peace.

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 November 2, 2020.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Connors, Fede, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong, Borough Administrator Scarpa, Borough Auditor Wielkotz, Borough Grant Writer Steve Welsh, Police Chief Maye and Sgt. Cole.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Discussions:

- Steve Welsh gave a monthly update on grants including Police Hiring for \$125,000, an FG-S grant for PPE equipment for \$7,511, and the Bergen County Open Space Grant for \$875,000 for a multipurpose field at Olsen Park.
- John DeLuca talked about Bicycle Safety in Bogota. He requested that Bogota put safety signage on the roads including share the road Signage painted onto the road to make motorists aware of bicycle safety. He said that he would like in the future to have organized activities to encourage outdoor activities at Olsen Park and Fireman's Park. He hopes to eventually have activities in Overpeck Park that encompasses surrounding towns. This will need the cooperation of Bogota and surrounding towns.
- Best Practices for 2020 was discussed. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that it was submitted to the State on time and the Borough will receive all of its funding.
- Police Chief Maye and Sgt. Cole explained that that they did a speed enforcement evaluation with a device that counts the cars on the road and records the speed of each car. The results did not show a large amount of speeding incidents. Sgt. Cole stated that drivers have been educated about proper driving and enforcement takes place when necessary. He also said that speed bumps are expensive and cause extensive wear and tear on vehicles. Councilman Connors will meet with the Police Chief and traffic control officer to discuss ideas to curtail speeding and present the results at a future meeting.

- Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the room was reserved for January for the Volunteer dinner. He suggested moving it to a later month and that was agreed.
- Because Teaneck is building 78 Residential Dwelling units where the old soap factory was off of Leonia Avenue, there is a great concern about traffic increase in Bogota. Police Chief Maye suggested having Teaneck allow access/exit on Leonia Avenue from the property line of Teaneck to the intersection of Pine Street which will be made a one-way street. Bogota will have to then post "Do not enter "signs and "One Way" directional signs. Also, signs for Emergency vehicles entrance usage only will have to be put up. This conversation will be continued since the Teaneck Planning and Zoning board are discussing the matter at their meeting tonight.

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

- 20-158 Certification of the Governing Body on Receiving the Audit
- 20-159 Resolution to Advertise for RFQs
- 20-160 Authorization to Delete Low Balances
- 20-161 Green Purchasing Goals
- 20-162 Sustainable Jersey Grant application
- 20-163 Corrective Action Plan
- 20-164 Budget Transfers
- 20-165 Resolution Authorizing an Application to the DCA for COVID-19 Lost Revenue
- 20-166 Special Emergency Authorization for COVID 19 Revenue Loss
- 20-167 Reimburse Block 18 Lot 07 for double payment of taxes

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

- PC20-17 Payment of Claims

The following Ordinances were Introduced:

- #1553 Ordinance adopting the South End Redevelopment Plan Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et sec., for Property Locate at Block 112, Lots 1 & 2 and Block 113, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8
- #1554 Ordinance Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation N.J.S. 40A:4-53

Public Hearing and Adoption of the Following Ordinances took place:

- #1546 Ordinance Establishing Section 16-5 Entitled "Fire Watch Program"
- #1552 Ordinance Amending Schedule VIII of Chapter 7-6.2 Creating Certain Stop Intersections and Creating an Additional first Responder Parking Spot on west Broad Street

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

- #1549 Bond Ordinance for Acquisition of Real Property Primarily for Use by Fire Department (\$600,000)
- #1550 Bond Ordinance for Handicap Ramps (\$300,000)

- Approvals: - - Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the Minutes for 10/15/2020 and 10/29/2020. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.
- Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to accept Bogota Hose Company 2's request for approval of Robert Dirr as their newest member. Bogota Hose Company 2 also wishes advised the governing

body of the removal of Mohammad Aqduus from Hose Company 2 due to a lack of response.

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

Idalisa Demetriades of 43 Pine Street said that she lives on the corner of Pine Street. She is concerned for two houses there of having no area to exit. She said that an emergency exit could be changed in the future.

Carmel Birney said that the speeding through town will get worse with new buildings in Hackensack and Teaneck.

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

It was explained that the new development in Bogota has a bus stop. Studies did not show a traffic increase from this development. Hackensack and Teaneck have a lot more traffic. Councilman Napolitano suggested contacting Hackensack and Teaneck to discuss traffic problems. Borough Attorney Bossong said that the Teaneck development is being discussed at tonight's planning and zoning meeting in Teaneck, and citizens should go to the meeting to be heard. He said that if an emergency exit is put in place, it cannot be changed. Like a deed, restrictions will remain.

Mayor Kelemen said that they know about the two houses north of the intersections of Pine Street and Leonia Avenue, and they will take care of it.

It was concluded that something positive will come out of the speeding discussion.

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

Mayor Kelemen said he received a support letter from Assemblyman Johnson for the TAP grant. He is waiting for a signature on Assemblywoman Huttler's letter. He thanked the U.S. military members for their dedication – true patriots of the American spirit - and spoke about the Veteran's Day celebration at the VFW hosted by Commander Hernandez. He reported that we are witnessing the second wave of the corona virus. Bogota has 299 cases now. He forwards all the reports from Health Officer Sam Yanovich to the Council, the board of Education, and the Police. He is in constant contact with the Police Chief, the OEM, the School Superintendent, DPW Superintendent Kohles, Fire Chief Greiner, and Rescue. All are following the CDC guidelines and are keeping track of supplies. He explained that Sam Yanovich received a report about a family in need of help. Their child has COVID and they are out of work. Mr Yanovich forwarded it to the Mayor and the OEM Coordinator, Rob Foster. Mr. Foster and his team went out and obtained everything the family needed. Mayor Kelemen thanked Mr. Foster and everyone who helped. He was proud of their efforts. He spoke to Mr. Kennedy who said that parents had the opportunity to allow their children to attend school in house or virtually. There are possible closings expected if the Superintendent feels it is necessary. He thanked the teachers, students, parents and staff for doing a great job. He asked that everyone be smart with the up-coming holidays. He said that the Fire Chief installation ceremony is supposed to take place the first Saturday in December, but they will probably have to change it. He said the OEM, Rescue, and Fire did a great job on Halloween with the closing of Larch Avenue for a few hours. The residents were very grateful that the Borough made this happen. He said that he was sorry the Octoberfest was cancelled, but it was a necessary precaution. He thanked George the painter who did a great job on borough hall. He wished everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving and asked everyone to reach out to help others.

Councilman Connors said that the Board of Education did not have a meeting. He said that the schools have re-opened this Monday after a two-week quarantine, and they are doing well. He attended the Recreation committee meeting yesterday and reported that the after-care program is not happening. The Basketball

program is on hold. The tree lighting and menorah lighting will be done virtually. He reported that the Recreation Committee may do a holiday light decorating contest throughout the town with First, Second, and Third prize. He will reach out to Joe Scarpa about Recreation Trust funds and Celebratory money.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that the DPW is looking for full time employees. She would like a copy of the snow line % report. There are two properties on Palisade Avenue. Stump is removed, and sidewalks are done. Everything is completed. She spoke to Jermaine Ortiz at the County who said that grants are being held and applications should be submitted on time.

Councilman Napolitano thanked the Council for approving the budget transfers and the Emergency Appropriations. He hoped everyone looked over the Corrective Action Plan. He said that the police have two retirees soon. He said that police interviews will be done tonight. He will work with the police on the speeding issue. He said that the Rescue Squad had another training session at the Apache yard and performed some extraction exercises. He sent his condolences to the Burns family on the loss of a wonderful sweet lady who raised a great family. He said this is a lonely time for senior citizens. Try to give a call to a senior that you know. Reach out in some way. The seniors appreciate the shopping that Jim Moore does for them. He said that St. Joseph's food pantry need hams and chickens. He said thank you for the sidewalk repairs.

Councilman Robbins said that TENAC had a virtual meeting following up on the offset procedure of runway 19. Paramus mentioned that a hospital is being built under the plan of the flight path. It will be discussed at the next meeting. Airport traffic has diminished from 124,000 to 63,000 due to COVID. The next meeting is January 27, 2020. There were no complaints from Bogota. He said that the Administrator and Mayor will discuss with the Fire Department the procedure that will be used for chief selection. The Fire Department is working with Atwater on emergencies. They are scheduling regular walk throughs. Chief Greiner asked for a copy of the social media policy. He was unable to attend the Board of Health meeting, but he saw the minutes from the meeting. Dan Dabrowski, the Health Inspector said that the Rabies clinic was a success this year with social distancing. Personal Grooming salons are now being inspected. Bars and Restaurants were given the new requirements from the new executive order. Interstate sports are prohibited at this time.

Councilwoman Fede reported that the Friends of the Library Bake Sale will take place on November 24th. She attended the Creative Team meeting for creative place making plan. The funds from the Health care signs were used to supply the food pantry with the needed food products. They are in need of Spam, canned meats, boxed potatoes, Rice-a-Roni, etc. She thanked Well Fargo for planting four cherry trees on the sidewalks in front and on the side of the bank. She said that Halloween went well with closing down Larch Avenue for a few hours. She reported that they deemed the application from the Board of Education for the Masonic Lodge complete which will be discussed at the next November meeting. She explained that the redevelopment plan must go back to the Planning and Zoning Board once the Council approves it.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the Recreation Director ordered lights for the fields with Musto. Repairs on Borough Hall are complete including the repairs to the cupola and painting the building. Contract terms of agreement for the DPW were sent to the governing body to discuss at the next meeting. The Christmas tree lighting will be done virtually. He will talk to Jim Moore about how that will take place. A lot of Road work has been done and many sidewalks have been done. The underground tank inspection and the building inspection for 31 Fairview Avenue were set up.

Borough Attorney Bossong explained that now that Ordinance 1553 for a redevelopment plan was introduced, it will be sent to the Planning and Zoning Board for approval.

Mayor Kelemen announced that the Corona Virus test will be given on November 14th at Bergen County Special Services at 296 E. Ridgewood Avenue, and flu shots will be available.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to go past 10:30pm. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to go into closed session to discuss personnel and Real Estate. Motion Carried at 10:20pm.

When the meeting reconvened at 12:57am, motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:58am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.