



COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Minutes of 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, **December 17, 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 December 15, 2020.

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

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

Sherry Solomov thanked everyone who came to the Tree Lighting and the Menorah Lighting. She thanked Mayor Kelemen and the DPW and everyone who participated. She said that she wanted to give a shout-out to the youth of Bogota. She said that one post was put up requesting youth to shovel the snow for Senior Citizens, and the responses were amazing. She had 40 to 50 addresses and there are only two left to complete. She also thanked everyone involved with the Senior Citizen Packages. The packages included baked goods and brand new mugs, scarfs, slippers, etc. She reported that the Seniors were very happy to receive the packages, and she thanked everyone who helped. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Rob Foster, OEM Coordinator, reported that a Borough Hall employee tested positive for COVID and recommended that Borough Hall remain closed until Monday. He continued that the DPW will completely sanitize Borough Hall on Friday and run the Air Conditioning unit to sanitize the air. He said that when everyone returns to work on Monday, masks should be worn when employees are within 6 feet of each other. He suggested using email and phone calls in place of physical contact.

Jorge Nunez said that the DPW did a superb job cleaning the streets of snow in the Borough. He said that the roads in Bogota were plowed much better than roads in surrounding towns.

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

Councilman Connors echoed Jorge Nunez' comments about the DPW. He said that from driving through other towns, he can say that Bogota DPW is miles ahead of other towns in cleaning the streets from snow. He also said that he cannot say enough great things about Sherry Solomov coordinating for snow shoveling for the Senior Citizens.

Councilman Napolitano said that the Seniors really appreciated how they were taken care of. He said that coordination is key, and he appreciates the effort. He said that the DPW did a great job, and the streets look great. He knows that they worked all night and is glad they had the right equipment to work with.

Mayor Kelemen said that he was reminded of when he was a child when neighbors helped each other. He said that this year has been a magnificent guideline of support. It was a crazy year, but it brought out the good in people. He is proud of the kids, Sherry Solomov, Christopher Michael and everyone who worked to put this together. He is proud of everyone. He thanked the DPW and the small crew and others that came to help with the plowing. He said for everyone to listen to Rob Foster's request to stay out of Borough Hall until Monday. He sends his prayers for a quick recovery to whomever has COVID.

Discussions:

Crossing Guards' Salaries: Councilman Napolitano said that the Crossing Guards received a salary increase including steps for years of service, but the steps were not put in the salary ordinance, so the CFO cannot increase the salaries based on steps. Police Chief Maye explained that he had requested the steps for the long-time crossing guards to make it fair for the crossing guards who have worked for the Borough for a long time. He said that there are steps for the part-time crossing guards as well, and these steps must be put into the salary ordinance.

Holiday Decorating Contest: Councilman Connors apologized for being late for the last meeting and not being more specific about the prizes for the decorating contest. Cash prizes and gift cards cannot be purchased with tax dollars. Gift certificates to local restaurants can be purchased, so the prizes will be purchased from Luka's, La Famiglia, and 101 Pub. Discussion took place concerning receiving donations from potential future professionals. It can appear as a conflict of interest.

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

20-183 Holiday Schedule 2021

20-185 Chapter 159 for CARES Redemption

20-186 Chapter 159 for DDEF (Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund)

20-187 Outstanding Check Resolution

20-188 Tax Refund Due to Duplicate Tax Payment for Block 05 Lot 11

20-189 Tax Lien Redemption for Block 109 Lot 10

20-190 Authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement for the Maintenance and repair of DPW Vehicles by and between the Borough of Bogota and the Borough of Paramus

20-191 Change Order #2 for Leonia Avenue Phase V Program

20-192 Closeout Resolution for 2019 Leonia Avenue Improvements Project Phase V

Resolutions to be Voted on Separately:

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

PC20-19 Payment of Claims

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter abstaining and Councilwoman Murphy voting No.

20-174 Amended Revision to Prior Resolution 20-122 Regarding Appointment of Special Counsel

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

20-182 Yearly Meetings 2021

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

20-184 Renew Contract with Bataglia Associates for 2021

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the following Resolution after Council thanked CFO Bock for explaining the transfers in an email and after Mr. Napolitano pointed out that legal fees did not exceed the budgeted amount for 2020. The increase was due to a settlement from a previous administration. Motion carried.

20-193 Budget Transfers

Public Hearing and Adoption of the Following Ordinance took place:

#1555 Ordinance Amending Chapter 23-1.4 Entitled "Members of the Police Department and Line of Authority

Approvals: - - Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve Minutes of December 3, 2020. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

-Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve Engine Company #1 request for approval of Ryan Smith as an active member. Motion carried.

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

Sherry Solomov apologized for confusion about the prizes. She did not know who the contributors were, so she was not aware of a conflict of interest. She asked what the result was.

Jorge Nunez pointed out that this was Council President Napolitano's last official meeting. He thanked him for his 6 years of service to the community. He said that Councilman Napolitano's professional capabilities and inertia helped with the development on Fort Lee Road which will bring a lot of money to the community and help lower taxes. He said that although they had political differences, he appreciated the time and energy taken over the last 6 years. He wished him luck in his future endeavors.

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

Councilman Napolitano thanked Sherry Solomov and Jorge Nunez for their participation and dedication to the town. He said that what he and Jorge Nunez have in common exceeds their political differences. He said it was a pleasure and an honor to serve the town. He said that at full capacity, the Atwater apartments should take in \$2 million a year. He said that his daughter and son sacrificed a lot for him having to stay with babysitters when he had to attend meetings. His daughter was accepted to NYU pre-med program and his son bought toys to give to charity for Christmas.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen stated that there are now 474 COVID cases reported in Bogota. The number of deaths remains at 15 since February. He sent prayers out to those afflicted and to family and

friends. He had a conference call with Congressman Gottheimer. The estimated Thanksgiving COVID surge did not occur. The vaccines are coming out. He asked that everyone stay safe and be extra cautious during the holiday week. He reminded everyone that the police will be collecting toys until December 23rd which can be dropped off at the Lobby of the Police Station or the Recreation Center. He said that the tree lighting and menorah lighting had to be done virtually this year, and he thanked Sherry Solomov for getting the information out about them. He thanked the DPW for their work as well. He thanked Rabbi Simon who donated the menorah. He also thanked Jim Moore, Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Rebecca Elf. He said that Valley National Bank allowed Bogota to put the small menorah and angel on either side of the electronic board. He thanked the First Responders, the DPW, and the Staff. He thanked Councilman Napolitano for his years of serving the public which is a difficult job. He thanked him for straight talking and moving the town forward with the new Recreation Center and the Atwater project. He thanked Mr. Moore, Mr. McHale, Mrs. Kearns, and Mrs. Miller for stepping forward and serving the community on the Board of Education. He wished everyone the blessings of Hannakuh, Kwanza, and Christmas. He said that the true spirit of the holiday season is to reach out and help each other, even strangers. The food drive, the blue ribbons, grocery shopping, and helping the seniors are a few examples. He welcomed Councilwoman-elect Granquist and wished her good health and happiness. He apologized for not being able to have the Volunteer Dinner.

Councilman Connors thanked Councilman Napolitano for his service and said that people will see his impact for years to come. He attended the Board of Education meeting on Tuesday. Superintendent Kennedy thanked the outgoing Board members for their service to Bogota. He said that the BOE received \$82,000 from the CARES Act. The reopening of the schools is slated for January 19, dependent on the COVID situation. He congratulated parents, students, and staff for their hard work during this time. The BOE is planning remedial classes for those in need because classroom learning is better than virtual. He said that the Superintendent spoke to St. Joseph's about renting the school for 5 years. He is hoping that they make it a Junior High School. He said that the Recreation Committee met on Wednesday, December 9th. They discussed the Holiday decoration contest. He reported that Jim Moore is working on next year's schedule. Mr. Fowler said that Little Ferry is taking registrations for baseball. Anyone can go to Mr. Moore or Mr. Fowler for further information. The Recreation Committee is hoping to have movies in the park and live concerts in the park next year.

Councilwoman Carpenter thanked everyone who participated in the tree lighting and menorah lighting including Mr. and Mrs. Claus, the Elf, and Bogota blog. She said that the DPW had 7 men on the road last night. Three were not DPW workers. A part timer shoveled the sidewalk. A motor blew on a salter and must get fixed. She wished everyone a safe and healthy holiday.

Councilman Napolitano thanked everyone for their kind words. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and the best of luck for 2021. He said that his heart goes out to all those that experienced losses, and he sends prayers to everyone who lost loved ones this year. He said that the Senior Citizens are near and dear to his heart, and he appreciates Jim Moore shopping. He is sure that the Seniors appreciate the snow shoveling and the love and kindness sent to them from Bogota. He said that the police are looking forward to the new officers, and the tow drive is a great thing. He appreciated the transparency for budget transfers. He said Bogota has good professionals doing a great job. The Borough is financially stable which is needed to move forward. He said that Rescue is doing a good job. Daniele Fede and Wayne Sorge are great Rescue volunteers. He said that Rob Foster took on the OEM job and is doing a great job. For Planning/Zoning, he said the South End redevelopment plan is exciting. There are opportunities that could help lower taxes. It could springboard the town to another level. The BOE variance plans

for the masonic temple were approved. He said that the new Recreation Center and the Basketball courts are in the design phase. Needed permits will be gotten for them. He said that he enjoyed working with SESI, Costa Engineering, and Mr. Bilow. He explained that the fee proposal from the architect was not a competitive bid. The engineer's estimate was very different. It was an estimate of what the competitive bids could be. He said that the Atwater project brought in more money than was spent. He said that he enjoyed serving on Council and is looking forward to the future. He will be watching for the new Recreation Center and the Basketball Courts.

Councilwoman Murphy wished everyone Happy Holidays and Safety. She congratulated Councilman Napolitano on his daughter's achievement. She said that she worked with Councilman Napolitano for four of his six years and she is still serving the community and moving forward. She said the Library Board had a meeting on Monday. The Library is running virtual programs. The board reviewed goals for next year. They are examining diversity in terms of books – to make them current to 2020. They will pick and choose a few books from each area like an audit. Passports are still bringing in revenue. The library is financially stable.

Councilman Robbins reported that the Reorganization meeting of the Fire Department will take place on Saturday, December 19 at 7pm. He thanked John Greiner as Chief this year. He commented that it was not an easy year for anyone. He thanked him for running a top-notch fire department. Next year the Chief will be Ken Kalman. Deputy Chief will be Joseph Kleiber, and Battalion Chief will be William Hordern. He thanked the Council for acknowledging Ryan Smith as a full-fledged fireman. He reported that Mike Moran was removed as an active member, but is still a life member after 33 years of service. Lollipop Sunday will be December 20th. He thanked Councilman Napolitano for his 6 years of service, and he told everyone to be safe for the holidays.

Councilwoman Fede wished everyone Happy Holidays and a hopefully a Happy 2021. She attended the Creative Arts meeting. They are working on a place making plan. She asked that the Recreation Committee speak to Chelsea Coleman and Armaru Bustamante of the Creative Arts team if they are planning a Concert in the Park. She said that she brings nine 30 gallon bags of plastic to Englewood every week. She asked that people only bring soft plastic bags – no chip bags, no hard plastic, nothing crunchy. She reported that Bogota was awarded Sustainable Jersey Recertification. She said that she and Rescue Chief Sorge cleaned out planters on Main Street on Friday evening. She thanked Sgt. Cole for training the Rescue workers and Police Auxiliary in CPR. Councilwoman Fede told Councilman Napolitano that he will be an asset to the community even when he is no longer a Councilman. She told him to participate in any way he would like to participate.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the recycling calendar will be mailed out in a week or so. He said that lighting issues will be corrected. He will be meeting with PSE&G. Olsen Park bridge to nowhere, the Recycling Center, and the Swim Club are some of the sites that will be corrected.

Borough Attorney Bossong had no report, but he wished everyone a Happy & Safe Holiday Season.

Borough Clerk Cook reminded the Council that no RFQs were received for a webmaster. She asked if she should advertise again. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to advertise again for a webmaster. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:
20-194 Advertise for RFQs for Webmaster.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to go into Closed Session for 2 Personnel matters and Real Estate. Motion carried at 9:43pm.

When the Virtual Meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to recess the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting recessed at 10:33pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.