



Minutes of Virtual Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, held at the Bogota Council Chambers, 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ, on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 9:10pm immediately after the Sine Die meeting.

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 31, 2020.

Mayor welcomed the Special Guests Senator Weinberg and Assemblyman Johnson.

Oath of Office – -Senator Weinberg swore in Councilwoman Murphy and thanked her for the invite. She said that it is great to see the government moving forward during this time of COVID and fulfill its responsibilities-. She said that she was very happy that Councilwoman Murphy was re-elected and thanked her for her continued service. She wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New year.
-Senator Weinberg then swore in Councilwoman Granquist and wished her the best of luck on her new adventure in the first level of service to the residents of Bogota. She said that she is always ready to help and offered her best wishes to Councilwoman Granquist .

Mayor Kelemen congratulated Councilwomen Murphy and Granquist and wished them continued success.

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

Mayor Kelemen again welcomed the Special Guests Senator Weinberg and Assemblyman Johnson.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, 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.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to Elect Councilwoman Carpenter as Council President. Motion carried with Councilman Connors and Councilwoman Fede voting No.

Assemblyman Johnson swore Councilwoman Carpenter in as Council President.

Assemblyman Johnson thanked Councilwoman Carpenter for inviting him and said that he always feels safe in the Borough of Bogota.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to elect Councilwoman Murphy as Class III Member of Planning/Zoning Board. Motion carried with Councilman Connors voting No.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to accept the following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

- 21-001 Adopt the Temporary Budget
- 21-002 Authorizing CY2021 Budget to be Read by Title Only
- 21-003 Standard Tax Sale
- 21-004 Accelerated Tax Sale
- 21-005 Authorize Bank Depositories
- 21-006 Adopt Cash Management Plan
- 21-007 Authorize Official Newspapers, The Record and the Star Ledger
- 21-008 Authorize Signatories for Checks
- 21-009 Authorization for Borough Attorney and Tax Assessor to Settle Tax Appeals
- 21-010 Establish Delinquent Tax Rate
- 21-012 Authorize Collection of Costs for Insufficient Fund
- 21-013 Appoint Daniel Howell as Zoning Official
- 21-014 Appoint Adult School Crossing Guards
- 21-015 Participate in Bergen County Police Mutual Aid Plan
- 21-016 Designation of Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.)
- 21-017 Appoint Jesse D'Amore as Bogota's Wastewater Collection Operator
- 21-018 Appoint Joe Scarpa as Bogota's Certified Recycling Official
- 21-019 Appoint Associated Appraisal Group as Tax Appeal Appraiser
- 21-020 Appoint Public Defender Curt Geisler
- 21-021 Appoint Prosecutor Kellie M. Reyes, Esq.
- 21-023 Re-Appointment of Daniel Craddock as DPW Assistant Superintendent
- 21-024 Hire Frank Fuchs for DPW

Resolutions to be Voted on Separately:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried.

- 21-011 Authorize Interim Payments

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

- 21-022 Approve By-Laws for 2021

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the following resolution. The Resolution did not pass with Councilmembers Connors and Fede voting Yes and Council members Carpenter, Granquist, Murphy, and Robbins voting No.

- 21-025 Appoint Auditor Wielkotz & Company, LLC

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the following resolution after Councilwoman Fede said that Mr Rogut has been the Bond Counsel for many years, and Councilwoman Murphy concurred. Motion carried.

21-026 Appoint as Bond Counsel Rogut McCarthy, LLC

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the following resolution. The Resolution did not pass with Councilmembers Connors and Fede voting Yes and Council members Carpenter, Granquist, Murphy, and Robbins voting No.

21-027 Appoint as Borough Engineer Robert Costa

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the following Resolution. The Resolution did not pass with Councilmembers Connors and Fede voting Yes and Council members Carpenter, Granquist, Murphy, and Robbins voting No.

21-028 Appoint as Risk Manager Alamo Insurance

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried.

21-029 Appoint as Borough Architect Bilow Garret

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the following Resolution after Councilwoman Fede explained that the Florio law firm has 40 attorneys and has served Bogota well. She continued that Craig Bossong, who has served as Bogota's attorney for a number of years, also has experience as Planning Board and Borough Attorney in Real Estate development which will come in handy now that the Borough is hoping to build a new Recreation Center, a new Firehouse, and a Recycling Center. She said that Mr. Betesh's firm, Boggia, Boggia, Betesh and Voytus has four attorneys. Mr. Betesh has some municipal experience and extensive tax appeal experience, but no Real Estate development or planning board experience. The other attorney mentioned in Boggia, Boggia, Betesh and Voytus RFQ has experience but has never attended a Bogota Council meeting. Councilman Connors concurred on the experience issue. Mayor Kelemen noted that the town has so much going on with Atwater, renovations of Fireman's Park, the proposal for purchase on Fairview Avenue, rebuilding a fire house, etc. Mr. Bossong has done a great job and to change attorneys now with so much happening would be a disservice to the Borough. Mr. Bossong is a good non-partisan attorney as both sides get angry with him. The Resolution did not pass with Council members Connors and Fede voting Yes and Council members Carpenter, Granquist, Murphy, and Robbins voting No.

21-030 Appoint as Borough Attorney Florio, Perruci, Steinhards & Cappelli LLC

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the following Resolution. The Resolution did not pass with Councilmembers Connors and Fede voting Yes and Council members Carpenter, Granquist, Murphy, and Robbins voting No.

21-031 Appoint as Alternate Prosecutor Eric Bernstein

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Council Robbins, to approve the following Resolution after Councilwoman Fede reminded everyone that Mr. Grygiel prepared all the redevelopment plans for the Borough. Councilwoman Murphy concurred. Motion carried.

21-032 Appoint as Planner Phillips Preiss Grygiel

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried after Councilwoman Fede noted that she has worked with Mr. Wiss in Allendale and found him to be a true gentleman and a very good attorney.

21-033 Appoint as Labor Counsel Raymond R. Wiss of Wiss & Bouregy, PC

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried after Councilwoman Fede reminded everyone that Phoenix Advisors were instrumental in the negotiations of the pilot with Atwater Development.
21-034 Appoint as Financial Advisor Phoenix Advisors

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried after Mayor Kelemen said that Dino George of Tri-State is doing a great job.

21-035 Appoint as IT Support Tri-State Technical Services Inc.

Mayor Kelemen explained that there is a 30 day statutory holdover with Mayoral appointments.

Mr. Kelemen requested that Borough Attorney Bossong confer the oath of office to Councilman Connors as Police Commissioner which he did.

Mayor Kelemen Appoints the Following to Various Committees/Boards:

Planning/Zoning Board: Class II: Sgt Detective Hector Liriano
Class IV: John Mitchell, Frank Miranda, Thomas Napolitano
Alternate #1: Jesse Frias

Board of Health: Cora Zakrzewski, Maureen Gibney, Andrew Fede

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the Board of Health Appointments. Motion carried.

Recreation Committee: Walter Fowler, Jared Deutch
Alternates: Luis Fernandez

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Connors to approve the Recreation Committee Appointments. Motion carried.

Environmental Commission: Pauline McDonnell

Mayor Kelemen requested approval of the Council Committees which he selected and which the Borough Clerk emailed to everyone at 5:45pm. Motion was made by Councilwoman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the Council Committees. Motion carried.

Correspondence: Borough Clerk Cook read a letter from the 101 Pub requesting to be allowed to have the outdoor dining open until 11pm three nights a week since the Noise Ordinance is 11pm. Council discussed and agreed to allow the 11pm closing three days a week contingent upon the Health Inspector's inspection to ensure it complies with Covid-19 rules. Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to allow the 101 Pub to remain open for outdoor dining until 11pm three nights a week contingent upon the Health Inspector ensuring that all COVID guidelines are followed. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda.

21-036 To Allow the 101 Pub to Remain Open for Outdoor Dining until 11pm Three Nights a Week Contingent Upon the Health Inspector Ensuring that all COVID-19 State Guidelines are Followed.

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

Jorge Nunez wished everyone a Happy and Health New Year. He congratulated Councilwomen Granquist, Murphy, and Carpenter. He wished them a productive year moving the Borough forward. He urged them to get the new Recreation Center built because it is sorely needed. As elected officials, they all have a responsibility to lead the community forward. He said that there is no Democratic or Republican way to lean streets, pave streets or shovel snow, etc. He said that the pandemic has caused a lot of stress. He said that it is a shame what happened yesterday in Washington DC. We are a small community and we can do better. He asked that the group work together with each other and with all the professionals. He said that he is optimistic.

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

Councilwoman Carpenter agreed with Mr. Nunez to move forward. A lot of work was still needed and is being done. She requested that Mr. Bilow come and speak about the updates on the Recreation Center. Mayor Kelemen asked for Mr. Bilow to come to the next meeting concerning the Recreation Center. He also asked for blueprints for the Recycling Center at the next meeting as well as an update on the Fairview Avenue purchase and the Firehouse. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he will be talking to Mr. Bilow tomorrow and the report on the Fairview Avenue purchase will be ready in 5 to 7 days.

Mayor Kelemen said that everyone did a great job tonight. He wished everyone a Happy and Health New Year to everyone.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Granquist, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to Adjourn the Reorganization meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:17pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.