



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, April 1, 2021 at 7:33pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Kelemen.

After the Flag Salute, Mayor Kelemen spoke about Ted Ehrenburg, the Hackensack City Manager who passed away suddenly on Tuesday night. He sent his thoughts and prayers to Mr. Ehrenburg's family.

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 January 19, 2021.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Connors, Fede, Granquist, Murphy, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh, Borough Administrator Scarpa, Borough Engineer Polyniak, Borough Auditor Lerch, and CFO Bock

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

Presentation: Borough Engineer Polyniak discussed ongoing projects for the Borough. He discussed the emergency boat launch for Rescue which he said would cost about \$95,000. The Council questioned putting a recreational boat launch which would be more expensive than an emergency boat launch. He mentioned the 520 Palisade Avenue Development issues, and explained that the borough requested that NEGLIA perform a sanitary Sewer System Review. The review showed deficiencies that need to be addressed by the developer before Bogota can make a decision on whether or not to allow them to use Bogota's sewer line. He commented that if the Borough says no to using the existing sewer line, then Teaneck will have to construct a line and connect to the sewer on Palisade Avenue. He said that the Bergen County Open Space call for 2021 has 22 projects. The County called for Park Improvement Projects and Land Acquisition Projects. The Letter of Declaration is due April 9, and completion of the application is due May 14. He said that his company is available to help with the mandated Stormwater report for this year if help is needed. He noted that he issued a proposal for a Tax Map update, and he said that there are two optional phases: a tax map update and a Digital Tax Map System could be prepared as well. Engineer estimates for road work improvements will be put together for possible projects this year.

Discussion : Dedicating Second Place after former Mayor Pat Schuber on the 40th Anniversary of his last year as Mayor of Bogota in 1981: Borough Administrator Scarpa explained

that Pat Schuber's father was a Councilman in Bogota. He continued that after serving as Mayor of Bogota, Pat Schuber served on the State Assembly and as County Executive. Mr. Scarpa requested that a sign be placed over the 2nd Place street sign where Pat Schuber lived. Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Connors, to dedicate 2nd Place to Pat Schuber. Motion carried. The following Resolution was added to the agenda.

21-085 Dedicate 2nd Place to former Mayor Pat Schuber

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

21-180 Extension of Temporary Budget

21-182 Hire Two Full-Time DPW Workers and One Part-Time Worker

21-183 Resolution Utilizing Three Year Average Method for Anticipated Revenue

Resolutions to be voted on Separately:

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

PC21-06 Payment of Claims

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter recusing.

21-181 Extend Swim Club Lease 2021

The following Ordinances Were Introduced:

#1558 Amend Chapter 3 of the Bogota Code "Police Regulations" (for Snow Removal)

#1559 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Cost of Living Allowance and to Establish a Cap Bank

(Public Hearing on the above ordinances will take place on April 15, 2021.)

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

#1557 Bond Ordinance Amend the Title and Section 1 of Bond Ordinance #1550 Entitled: "Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Replacement of ADA Curb Ramps on Main Street in, by and for the Borough of Bogota, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, to Appropriate the Sum of \$300,000 to Pay the Cost Thereof, to Make a Down Payment, to Authorize the Issuance of Bonds to Finance Such Appropriation and to Provide for the Issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in Anticipation of the Issuance of Such Bonds", Adopted November 12, 2020

Borough Auditor Lerch explained the budget for 2021 and said there will be a Zero tax increase. Salaries is one of the largest items.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to introduce the 2021 Budget. Motion carried and the following Resolution was approved.:

21-084 Introduce the 2021 Budget

(The public hearing on the budget will take place at the May 6, 2021 Mayor and Council meeting.)

- Approvals: - Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve Morales Pizzeria's application for an outdoor café permit. Motion carried.
- Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve Natalie's Kitchen 2's application for an outdoor café permit. Motion carried.

- Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the Minutes of 3/18/2021. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

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

Rebecca Youla thanked everyone who came out for the Easter Egg Drive Thru. She said that there are still 9 eggs to be turned in for large prizes. She said that people will be at the Recreation Center on Thursday for Football and Cheerleading sign up. She thanked everyone who is working hard to make the Recreation programs a success.

Sherry Solomov piggybacked on what Rebecca Youla said about everyone working hard to make the Recreation program a success. She reported that they have raised \$2,600 from the sale of purple ribbons. She said that Bogota Helping Hands are going door to door, and it is going well. She wanted to thank them for their hard work. She said that the money they receive will help to lower the registration fees for programs. She wanted to thank everyone who is helping with that.

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

Councilwoman Fede said that she enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt. She thanked the police and auxiliary police for their help with it. Councilwoman Carpenter agreed with Councilwoman Fede about the Easter Egg Hunt. She was sorry that not that many children came and said that they need to advertise better. Mayor Kelemen said that the Easter Egg Hunt went well. He thanked Jim Moore and everyone who worked to make Bogota smile.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen reported that there were 813 COVID cases reported in Bogota since last March. He said that Teaneck, Hackensack, Little Ferry, Ridgefield Park, and Bergenfield had much higher numbers. He said that cases in Bogota have increased quickly. He urged anyone who has not received a COVID vaccine yet to apply online at Hackensack Medical Center, Holy Name medical Center, CVS, Walgreens, etc. Anyone who cannot go online can call the clerk and she will help get you registered. He said that April is Mental Awareness month and thought that the Helping Hands could write encouraging notes in Chalk in front of borough hall. He thanked the liaisons, the auditor, the administrator and all who helped to put together a budget with a 0% tax increase. He said that the budgets have been good for the last 4 or 5 years, and so much has been done in town without a tax increase. He said that he received an email from a resident about the Teaneck Greenery Walkway. She said that there are a number of trees that are falling down, and she is afraid that they could cause damage to her house and to people walking on the path. He sent an email to the Deputy Mayor of Teaneck, and the Deputy Mayor and the Town Manager in Teaneck took care of the problem within 4 days. He said that he received \$656,000 from the Atwater developers, and he wants that money to be set aside for the new Recreation Center. He reported that the Borough was awarded an Open Space Grant in the amount of \$462,843 for improvements to Olsen Park from the work of Bruno Associates, last year's grant writer. The Borough has until February 2023 to break ground on the Olsen Park field project which that grant is for. He said that the project is very expensive and he is hoping to get donations and sponsors such as Gatorade, Nike, or Goya. He does not want to raise tax dollars for it. He has high hopes for a beautiful Recreation Center and beautiful fields. He said that doubters do not belong here.

Councilwoman Granquist said that the DPW started cleaning the parks and will be at Borough Hall this Thursday planting and mulching. They just hired two DPW employees and are still looking for summer help.

Councilman Connors wanted to thank Bruno Associates and Steve Welsh for their work on the Open Space Grant. He said that there was not a Board of Education meeting since the last Council meeting. He reported that School Superintendent Kennedy said that spring break will take place next week, and after spring break, schools will return in person with half days. They will be combining cohorts. He said that children that need lunch during the break will be able to pick lunches up at the schools. He is hoping for a good turnout of students to the schools. He said that baseball, track, and softball are underway. High School baseball will be joining Saddle Brook due to a small turnout. He said that the Easter Egg Drive thru was a good compromise, and he thanked everyone who worked on it.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that the Recreation Building needs County approval. She said that water testing was done and it failed the water pressure test. The permit was received for the basketball court and filed the soil conservation. She said that future roadwork will include resurfacing Walnut Avenue from Palisade Avenue to Queen Anne Road, Maplewood Avenue from Palisade Avenue to Queen Anne Road, and Dunne Avenue. There will also be CD roadwork on Linwood Avenue and DOT funded roadwork on Palisade Avenue. She said that she received an email from Chris Sprague who said that the borough will be working with Ashley Taylor now. She said that the grant writer is working on the pollinator garden and the body worn cameras. She said that the paperwork for Fireman's Park is done, and the grant writer will be working on the police grants for DWI and Click it or Ticket because the Police Chief is out on medical leave.

Councilwoman Murphy said that Library Director Coleman asked for diversity audit of their collection to show what they need to improve. She said that Atwater is including a library brochure in its packet to new residents. She said that the Environmental Commission did not have a meeting, and the Planning and Zoning Board approved the Creative Arts plan by resolution because it complies with the Master Plan.

Councilman Robbins said that he attended the Tenac meeting at Teterboro Airport, and there were no noise complaints for Bogota during March. He said that they are still discussing the alternate flight plan for Runway 19 and its impact on the new Paramus Valley Hospital facility. He said that the rain gutters at Hose 2 blew off during the storm and were replaced yesterday. He said that the oil tank from 31 Fairview Avenue was removed, and no fuel or oil was detected. The hole was filled with clean backfill. Borough Attorney Betesh said that the seller will have to obtain a certificate of occupancy, and the seller's attorney will have to create the necessary documents.

Councilwoman Fede said that the Swim Club's first meeting will be April 5th. She said that she and the Mayor and Councilman Connors toured the Atwater and were impressed with how well it was run and decorated as well as the amenities. She said that groundbreaking for the 4th building will take place soon. She reported that there was a lot of interest in the Community Garden this year, and some beds will have to be redone, and fortunately there is a carpenter on the team. She said that the Creative Arts Team is hoping to have a Farmers' Market. She is hopeful that the outdoor barbeque for the volunteers will be able to take place. She is working with the grant writer for appliances for the Senior Center. She said that the Friends of the Library will be meeting on April 10 at 10PM. She said that she attended the Rabies Clinic and helped set up. She said it was a lovely time to see people bring their animals making sure to keep animals safe. Mayor Kelemen added that he has not received an update about the Memorial Day Parade.

Borough Attorney Scarpa said that he meets with the Architect and Engineer every two weeks, and all permits have been submitted. He said that the Borough received an exemption from the County for County board review. He said that Suez did a water test and found that there was not enough water pressure for the sprinkling system. He wants to make sure there is escrow set up with the developer of the Teaneck project for fees for our professionals. He is requesting roadwork on Walnut Avenue, Maplewood Avenue, and Dunn Avenue. He received a notice from the County that the Culvert project on River road, and work will start in the Fall.

Borough Attorney Betesh said that there will be a meeting on Tuesday about the 520 Palisade Avenue Project. He said that the Engineer reported that escrow has been posted for 520 Palisade Avenue. He said that April 1 is the final day for filing Tax Appeals, and there have only been three state appeals filed. He will find out how many County appeals have been filed.

Borough Clerk Cook reported that the Rabies Clinic was a success. She thanked Councilwoman Fede for helping with set up and for her support. She also thanked OEM Deputy Coordinator Luciano for helping with set up and take down. She thanked Health Inspector Dabrowski, the Fire Department, Rescue, Police Auxiliary, and the Police for their help and support.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Granquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:41pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.