



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, January 21, 2021 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag

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 Bossong, Borough Administrator Scarpa, and Borough Architect Bilow.

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

Andoni Demetrides said he was concerned with the new development in Teaneck that will cause an increase in traffic on Leonia Avenue. He requested that the Borough of Bogota control the traffic on Leonia Avenue by that development. He reminded everyone of the suggestions from a previous meeting: to make the exit from the building be for emergency vehicles only or to make Leonia Avenue a one-way street. He and other residents of that area would prefer making Leonia Avenue a dead-end street. They will be posting a petition.

Jorge Nunez suggested naming a place in Borough Hall in memory of Fran Garlicki who was clerk for almost 28 years.

Johnny Oroyo said that he lives on Leonia Avenue, and he is concerned with the increase in traffic that it will cause on Leonia Avenue and in Bogota. He said that Leonia Avenue is a family oriented and quiet street. Residents take walks on the block, and the quality of life will be jeopardized with traffic from the building. He said that the exit should be on Palisade Avenue, not Leonia Avenue.

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

Councilman Connors said that he lives not far away from the development on Leonia Avenue. He said that it is a quiet, peaceful block, and he would like to keep it that way. He reminded the Governing body that Leonia Avenue was recently repaved, and we don't need trucks breaking up the road again. He said that Palisade Avenue is a better egress.

Councilwoman Murphy said that Jorge Nunez's suggestion for Fran Garlicki is lovely, and Betty Wiemer also served for many years as the tax collector. She suggested a plaque to honor multiple people who worked at Borough hall for many years. Council members Connors and Fede and Mayor Kelemen agreed. Mayor Kelemen said that this will be discussed further. Mention was made of the Reading room in the Library in Memory of Betty Wiemer.

Councilwoman Fede reminded everyone that the Police Chief and Traffic Officer are closely watching the development on Leonia Avenue and suggested the chain for emergency exits only. She said that residents should go to the Teaneck Planning and Zoning meetings to express their concerns.

Mayor Kelemen said that the Borough will be purchasing a Victorian Clock in memory of those that died from COVID-19 to be put at Fireman's Park. He said that he spoke to the Police Chief and Traffic Officer about the development and the traffic issues. Leonia Avenue will be used for emergency egress only. If needed, Bogota will make Leonia Avenue a dead end. He said that the governing body will not allow a disruption of Leonia Avenue. He announced that 250 feet of Pine Street and the sidewalks will be repaired this year.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to move the Discussion to after the Consent Agenda and Professional Appointments. Motion carried.

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

21-037 Re-appoint Christopher Eilert as Qualified Purchasing Agent

21-038 Approving DPW Contract (UPSEU) and Authorizing Labor Counsel to Draft Agreement

21-039 Tax Redemption for Block 40, Lot 9.02

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins to add the following Resolution to the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve this resolution.

21- 045 Community Development Block Grant

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to holdover Bruno Associates for the month of January 2021 only, so the following Resolution was added to the agenda:

21-046 Continue with Bruno Associates as Grant Writers for the month of January 2021 only

Resolutions to be voted on Separately:

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

21-040 Appoint Auditor Wielkotz & Company, LLC

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

21-041 Appoint as Borough Engineer Robert Costa

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

21-042 Appoint as Risk Manager Alamo Insurance

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

21-043 Appoint as Borough Attorney Florio, Perruci, Steinhards & Cappelli LLC

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

Motion did not carry with Council members Connors and Fede voting Yes and Council members Carpenter, Granquist, Murphy, and Robbins voting No.

21-044 Appoint as Alternate Prosecutor Eric Bernstein

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Councilwoman Fede asked why a Recreation Counselor is being paid.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that someone needs to answer the phones etc. Borough

Administrator Scarpa will clear this up at the next meeting. Motion carried.

PC21-01 – Payment of Claims

Discussions:

Discussion took place concerning a Grant Writer for 2021. It was decided to appoint Millenium at the February 4, 2021 meeting for the same salary that Bruno Associates made in 2020 with the same pay structure of \$3,000 per month.

Councilman Connors requested that Steve Welsh of Bruno Associates provide an email to the Mayor and Council of current grants

There was nothing to discuss concerning the Fire House.

Fairview Avenue is a closed session item.

Discussion took place concerning the proposed Recycling Center. The DEP report was discussed (finding an arrowhead at the site). There will be some parking. Mention was made that the center must be built on a pad, and that the Engineer, Rob Costa, saved some money for the Borough by redesigning the drainage which was also approved by the DEP. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he would like approval to go out to bid for the new Recycling Center at the February 4, 2021 meeting, so construction could begin in the Spring.

Discussion took place concerning the Recreation Center. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that Borough Architect Bilow had some questions about design features for the Recreation Center that Mr. Scarpa went over with him. Mr. Bilow finalized the plans and sent them to Borough Engineer Costa who had to submit 5 permit applications with the DEP which were due by February. The DEP has 30 days to review the applications, and 90 days to submit the permits. Once the Borough receives the permits, the bids can go out which will be about July. Bids cannot go out until after the permits are approved. Separate bids will go out for the Dynamic Compaction and for the Building. Mr. Scarpa said that Costa will be the Engineer for the Recreation Building. Mayor Kelemen and Council members said that the Engineer will only be held for getting the permits for the Recreation Building and the Basketball and Tennis court projects. Mr. Scarpa is going to talk to Steve Rogut and the Borough Auditor about how to handle the money coming in from Atwater. He said that more money may be needed for the project than what is in the bond. Administrator Scarpa said that he has been on top of this since late December and he coordinated the meeting with Bilow, Costa, and SESI. Mayor Kelemen suggested that Mr. Scarpa meet with the liaisons, Council members Carpenter and Connors to explain all the details of the project. Mr. Scarpa said that Borough Architect Bilow made some changes that were a cost savings. Matt Bilow said that the building is the same as what was approved by Green Acres. Some lockers were eliminated etc. He changed what was required by Green Acres as a covered patio. He moved it to the back of the building

where the concession stand will be which was discussed with Mr. Scarpa and councilwoman Carpenter. It will be a nice shaded area. Windows were changed for a large savings. He said that dynamic Compaction should take place in July. Building process is about a year to 16 months. He also said that the indoor basketball court had to be modified to accommodate *Green Acres*, so it will be Junior Varsity size. He said that at a later time, the floor can be expanded. He said that Councilman Napolitano told him to build the gym using the original plans and not use the changes from the *Green Acres* Report. Mr. Scarpa said that Councilman Napolitano had been project manager. Borough Attorney Bossong said that the plans shown tonight are the same plans that were approved by *Green Acres*. He asked Mr. Bilow if the new plans still make the footprint 21,032 square feet. Mr. Bilow said that more covered area may have to be added in front of the building to bring it to the 21,032 feet. Councilwoman Fede asked if changing the original plans approved by *Green Acres* needs to be approved again by *Green Acres*. Mr. Bilow will meet next week with Council members Carpenter, Connors, Mayor Kelemen, and Administrator Scarpa.

Approvals Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the Minutes of the 12/17/2020 meeting, the Sine Die Meeting of 1/7/2021, and the Reorganization Meeting of 1/7/21. Motion carried with Councilwoman Granquist abstaining from the 12/17/2020 meeting and the Sine Die Meeting and Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

Mayor Kelemen Appointed the Following to the Library Board: Rebecca Youla

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

Jorge Nunez explained the powers and duties of the Mayor pertaining to appointment of professionals and his/her 30 day appointment period. He also pointed out that the governing body come together to get the Recreation Center built and use the architect as the guide. The Borough made a tremendous amount of progress as well as the schools, and he asked the members of the governing body to put politics aside to provide a tremendous opportunity for more progress. He said that Central Avenue was paved late last year, and then there was a gas leak, so it had to be dug up again. He remembers that an ordinance was passed that the utility company has to repave it.

Rebecca Youla said that she has confidence that Council members Carpenter and Connors will work together to get the Recreation Center built. She said that she, Sherry Solomov, Jared Deutch, and Mike Leong who are all on the Recreation committee, are looking forward to giving back to the community all that they can. It would be a sigh of relief to residents to see something worthwhile. She said that she sees tension on the governing body and asks that they put petty differences aside and work together for the good of the Borough. She said that she and Sherry are happy to help in any way they can.

Sherry Solomov piggy backed off of what Rebecca Youla said. She said that social media is doing a lot to get people involved and keep them informed. She said that Councilman Napolitano did a tremendous job, and she appreciates him. She does not appreciate him being put down without being at the meeting to defend himself. She said that the Recreation Committee is looking forward to do great things.

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

Councilwoman Carpenter thanked Rebecca Youla for her kind words. She said that they needed to do their homework, and they found out what she needed. She enjoys working with Mr. Bilow. She will work with Councilman Connors. She asked about the \$2 million a year that Councilman Napolitano had mentioned from the Atwater project.

Councilwoman Fede expressed concern with the Architect changing the Green Acres plans which cannot be changed. Borough Attorney explained that the \$2 million was part of the pilot payments put together by Phoenix Advisors for the Atwater project. The \$2 million would be the revenue when the buildings were occupied beginning the third year.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen said that the three main topics of discussion are COVID, Trees, and the new Recreation Center. He said that communities with hospitals are able to assist their residents in obtaining the vaccine. Also, towns with full time clinical nurses on staff have been able to assist residents with the vaccine. Bogota's health officer said that a center in Leonia is set up with refrigeration for our residents, but the vaccine has not been made available yet. Mayor Kelemen continued that he and Bogota's OEM Coordinator have attended state conferences and conferences with the County Executive. He said that it is important to register with the state in order to obtain the vaccine. He mentioned the tremendous rise in positive results from COVID testing. He thanked the EMS and Rescue for all their volunteer work. He swore in the officers of the Rescue Squad and the Auxiliary Police in the past two weeks. He thanked all the first responders for their volunteer work in 2020 responding to numerous and varied emergencies. He is disappointed that the volunteer dinner had to be postponed. He said that tomorrow will be a great day because two new police officers will be sworn in.

Councilwoman Granquist said that she spoke to DPW Superintendent Kohles, and he said that the new employee, Frank Fuchs, is working out great, and they are hoping to hire two more employees. She said that she spoke to Councilwoman Fede about the Rescue Squad, and she will attend the first meeting.

Councilman Connors said that he is happy that two new police officers will be sworn in. He said that the police are having a writing contest for 11th and 12th graders to write an essay on why it is important for members of the community to engage with local police departments. He reported that he spoke to Sgt. Cole about speeding in town and was told that the police will come up with a plan. He said that the Recreation Committee met on January 12, 2021. Rebecca Youla is the new Recreation Chairperson. Sherry Solomov is the Vice Chair., and Mike Leong is the Secretary. He congratulated the winners of the Holiday Decorating Contest. He said that the Recreation Committee discussed new programs that could be brought into the Recreation Center. The activities include woodwork and arts & crafts for children and Zumba for adults. He said that a theater program is being considered as well. Football, baseball, and cheerleading are doing well. He said that the Board of Education had a meeting on Tuesday. Schools reopened. 115 children reported to school. The rest attended remotely. He said that blue Ribbon signs are being installed at Steen School, and the basketball team had a scrimmage. He said that Governor Murphy is waving the testing for Seniors and teachers evaluations may be waved. He said that a lot of people were on Zoom for the Board of Education meeting in support of School Superintendent Kennedy.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that Bergen County had a meeting, and Governor Murphy attended to swear in Steve Tenelli as the new Chairman. She said that the meetings are virtual. She reported that Senator Weinberg is retiring. She said that Code Enforcement Officer Barese sent everyone an

email about his work in 2020. He issued 503 Notices, took in \$38,813, and reported that there are 24 abandoned properties.

Councilwoman Murphy said that she was sworn in at the January 12th Planning and Zoning meeting. She said that Chelsea Coleman will be making a presentation about the Creative Arts Team at the February 18 meeting. She will reach out to Councilwoman Fede about the Environmental and Shade Tree Commission.

Councilman Robbins said that he attended the Board of Health meeting on January 11, 2021. He said that the Mayor covered everything that was said at the Board of Health meeting. He said the new Fire Chief is Ken Kalman. He would like to make a capital budget request for a new camera for the fire department as their camera failed to work. The camera can see through walls and protect people in a house.

Councilwoman Fede reported that the Community Forestry Plan Annual Report was approved. She said that she applied for Tree City USA annual approval which will make Bogota's 20th year in Tree City USA. She said that unfortunately, Bogota did not get the Sustainable Jersey grant for Senior appliances, but Bogota is eligible for smart install grants. She forwarded that info to the Administrator and Councilwoman Carpenter. She also received info about PSE&G grants which was forwarded as well. She said that no Bogota building has automatic water fixtures in the sinks. She explained that the Creative Asset Team is not part of the Library. Chelsea Coleman is cochair of it. She said that the Planning and Zoning Board had their Reorganization meeting. Corrado Mancini is the Chair. John Mitchell is Vice Chair. She said that Borough Hall and e-dispatch had no internet all day today, and a back up plan needs to be implemented. She said that each emergency service group solicits donations every year. Rescue publicizes what it does with its donations. It would be a good idea to report what is purchased with the donations. She requested that Councilman Robbins report at the next meeting what the donations are used for. Rescue members will be vaccinated tomorrow and fire department members have been vaccinated as well.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the Borough will be getting a back up plan for the internet. He said that a thermal imaging camera can be purchased out of the regular operating budget for now and he can then take it out of the bond.. He said that the internet services for the Fire Department will be addressed.

Borough Attorney Bossong had no report.

Borough Clerk Cook read a Thank you note from one of the Seniors. She said that the Rabies Clinic will be held on March 20, 2021 at the Broad Street Firehouse. She said that there were no RFQs submitted for Webmaster. Councilwoman Carpenter asked about Ray Dwyer's hand delivered RFQ. The Borough Clerk explained that it was not submitted properly. It was decided to appoint Ray Dwyer as Webmaster at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to add Closed Session to the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Granquist, to go into Closed Session to discuss Real Estate. Motion carried at 10:45pm.

When the meeting reconvened at 11:10pm, motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.