



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, March 18, 2021 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 January 19, 2021.

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

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

Sherry Solomov said that she had a zoom meeting with the Bogota Helping Hands. They are interested in helping the Seniors get vaccinated. She said that the purple ribbons are selling well, and the Helping hands would like to help with tutoring children who are struggling with school. She was hoping for a location for tutoring to occur like the Senior Center or Recreation Center for one-on-one learning.

Motion to close Citizen Remarks was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Fede.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that there are issues with COVID and security issues. He said that background checks have to be done for anyone working with children, so he suggested that she reach out to the Board of Education and the schools.

Councilwoman Fede said that she spoke to Rosemary Gasiewicz and many seniors are having their children and finding other ways to help them register for the vaccine. She said that the County is going to the Bogota Senior housing to vaccinate the seniors living there. She said that the clerk also has a list of 50 seniors in need of the vaccine.

Mayor Kelemen said that he met with the Helping Hands, and they are a great group of young people. He also spoke to School Superintendent Kennedy who has staff available to help Seniors to get vaccinated. He asked for everyone in need of a vaccine or who knows someone in need of a vaccine to call the clerk, and she will disperse the information. Borough Clerk Cook said that she has been collecting information for Seniors, residents with health issues, and people who handle food in town and sending the information to the Hackensack nurse and now to the Superintendent of Schools as well. Bogota Health Inspector Dabrowski has also been helping Seniors who do not have computers to get registered for the COVID vaccine. Councilman Connors is compiling a list as well of seniors to have a database for seniors for snow removal, etc.

Discussion :

Hook and Ladder Truck: Mayor Kelemen said that he would like the borough to look into purchasing a Hook and Ladder truck because we have issues every year with an aging truck, and the price keeps going up. Councilman Robbins said that he spoke to Fire Chief Kalman who said that diagnostic testing is still be done on the apparatus to see what it will cost to keep the truck running. He pointed out that every year money has to be expended to keep the truck running. He said that there is an oil leak now that is important to correct. He said that the truck is fully operational at this time. He said that the process for getting a new truck takes two years. Councilman Connors said that the cost of the truck will not go down. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he would like to wait until the soil test is done on Tuesday for 31 Fairview Avenue, and once we know the future of the firehouse, we can look at it again. Borough Attorney Betesh suggested that the company performing the diagnostic on the apparatus should give two estimates: a short-term fix and a long-term fix.

Multi-purpose bond: Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the money set aside for curb cuts in the bond is being moved to road work as per the Ordinance that is being introduced tonight.

Possible Ordinance concerning "Regulation of Cannabis Marketplaces in Bogota": Borough Attorney Betesh explained that the Governor signed into law legislation to legalize marijuana for cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, etc. He said that towns can opt out of any part of it, but an ordinance must be adopted within 6 months from February 22nd. He said that municipalities can tax 2% of sales generated. Discussion took place and it was decided that research is needed to see the benefits versus problems for the town.

Snow Removal Ordinance: Mr. Betesh explained that the Snow Removal Ordinance section regarding fire hydrants is from a state statute and will remain as is. The only adjustments will be changing the noncompliance penalty from a fine to a bill and permitting the Code Enforcement Property Maintenance official to enforce the provisions of the ordinance. The amending ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting. Councilwoman Fede suggested having a dedicated trust fund for the penalties to go to for the Fire Department. Councilman Robbins suggested that Robo-calls could remind people who have fire hydrants in front of their homes of their responsibilities.

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

21-076 ADA Cooperative Curb Ramp Grant Program

21-077 Shared Services Agreement for County Road Resurfacing Program

21-078 Change Order #2 for 2020 Road Resurfacing at Various Locations for AJM

21-079 Change Order #3 for 2020 Road Resurfacing at Various Locations for AJM

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried.:

PC21-05 Payment of Claims

The following Bond Ordinance was Introduced:

#1557 Bond Ordinance To 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
(Public Hearing on bond ordinance #1557 will take place at the Virtual Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council on April 1, 2021).

- Approvals: - Morales Pizzeria’ application for an outdoor café permit was tabled, so the Borough Attorney can review the Ordinance for outdoor cates.
- Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the Minutes for 2/25/2021 and 3/4/2021. Motion carried with Council members Connors, Fede, Granquist, and Robbins voting YES, Councilwoman Murphy abstaining as she was absent for both meetings, and Councilwoman Carpenter voting NO.

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

Sherry Solomov said that she has received calls from Seniors who need rides to medical visits. She said that she had called Jim Moore who was not able to help her. She was able to contact someone who provided services for free to the seniors for a few visits, but cannot do that anymore for free. She offered discounted rates, but they were still too high.

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

Borough Administrator Scarpa told Sherry Solomov to call him and he would speak to Jim Moore about services for medical visits.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen said that there are 754 COVID cases in Bogota, but still only 15 deaths. He said that from Saturday through Tuesday there were 20 cases reported in Bogota. He said to continue to apply for vaccines on-line. He has been to the Mega-site. It is organized chaos. He spoke to Rebecca Schwartz of the Governor’s office. He said that Seniors can contact the borough clerk to make arrangements for vaccines. He said that his heart and prayers go out to the junior firefighter who was badly injured in Ridgefield Park after a CO canister exploded. He is in critical condition. He would like to send something to the injured firefighter from the town. Councilman Robbins said that a fellow firefighter and police officer applied a tourniquet that stopped the bleeding. He said that Chief Maye is doing well after his surgery and looking forward to coming back to work. He said that since 2015, he and Mr. Scarpa and former Councilman Mitchell have met with County officials about getting the train trestle painted and having the lead paint removed. Nothing happened. He said that he recently met with Congressman Gottheimer’s aide under the bridge after a rainstorm to show the rust, the peeling paint, and the mud piles from the walls. The aide took pictures and sent them to CSX. Nothing happened. A conference call took place with Nick Barese and Joe Scarpa and the aide. The aide wants to meet again after the next significant rain storm. Hopefully, there will be progress then. He spoke about the shooting in Atlanta and what a tragedy it was. He said that everyone in Bogota is included and accepted and will remain united.

Councilwoman Granquist said that the DPW is looking to fill two positions and received a lot of applications. The DPW is also looking for part time help. Rescue met with the Borough Engineer about the boat launch. They should have a cost next week.

Councilman Connors attended two Board of Education meetings. He said that the High School is closed due to three COVID cases. Number of students at the high school was small. There will be remote classes until March 29th. Steen School has 65 to 70 students on the average. Bixby School is thinking of combining cohorts if COVID numbers improve after the Spring break. He said that session 1 of Basketball and Bowling are complete. The girls' volleyball team is quarantined, and the middle school volleyball and Rec ball are ok. He said that the baseball numbers are small. They may co-op with Saddle Brook High School. He said that the Board of Education hired a new law firm, NOWELL PA from Hackensack. He said the Board had a presentation from Solutions Architects and Honeywell for all three buildings for efficient lighting, boilers, solar panels, etc. The total cost will be close to \$1.6 million with a total savings of close to \$2 million over the next 10 years. He said that he attended a Recreation Committee meeting, and baseball will be starting in Little Ferry in April. A lot of children signed up for baseball. Lights will be replaced down at the fields, and the fields will be refurbished. He said the Easter Egg Hunt Drive through will take place on March 27th from 9am to 10:30am. More flyers and details are coming soon. He said that Ray Dwyer came to the Recreation meeting and said that he will update the Recreation website. Summer camp is a maybe depending on COVID. Cheerleading and Football Registration are still on-going. Purple ribbons are being sold by Sherry Solomov and Rebecca Youla for \$10 a ribbon. The money will be used for many events. \$2,000 has been raised so far.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that she met with Mr. Scarpa and Councilman Connors. She said that 5 permits were submitted after approving the design. Hopefully, within the next three to five months they will have them. They are starting to move forward with the pounding of grounds etc. She discussed the Main Street update. The ADA curb cuts will be taken care of by the County. She said that Mr. Scarpa is talking to Tom Connolly about the culvert. They will try to have it completed before the River road repaving in 2022 which will be River road from Ridgefield Park to Main Street. She said that three bids came in for the new Recycling Center, and the lowest bid was \$300,000. The price difference was because of a new drainage system and a hut that will cost more than anticipated. Police vehicles that are not used daily will be stored in the back. A rendering of the Recreation Center will be placed at the park and at Borough Hall. The next meeting will be on March 30 at 4:30pm. Councilwoman Fede asked about the cost discrepancy as the estimate was for \$109,000 and the low bid was \$300,000. Mr. Scarpa explained that the DEP required a certain drainage system. He said that a wetland study was done. There is a lot of land to be excavated. He said that the hut will be for the employee who will have to be there. Mayor Kelemen suggested making an agreement with the developer of the Cross Street property. Councilwoman Carpenter said that she received an email from Chris Sprague that the County received the letter of intent for Fireman's Park.

Councilwoman Murphy said that there was a Library meeting on March 8 where Chelsea reiterated what she had presented at a Council meeting. She said that the Planning and Zoning board meeting took place on March 9, and Amaru Bustamante presented the PlaceMaking plan to the Board for approval. She said that pilot plan for the Outwater property should be coming soon to the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Robbins had no report.

Councilwoman Fede reported that the Borough was rewarded Tree City USA for the 20th year which is a great accomplishment. She said that the Creative Arts Team Place Making plan is consistent with the Borough Master Plan, so the Planning Board approved the resolution. She said that Golden Day Care submitted an application to make improvements to the third floor, but the application was deemed incomplete. Mr. Scarpa said that the volunteer picnic must be put on hold due to CDC

guidelines. The grant writer contacted her about applying for a Pollinator Garden. It was applied for once before, so it will be applied for again. Mayor Kelemen said that there are no guidelines yet for the Memorial Day parade. Councilwoman Fede said that Bergenfield cancelled the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the DPW ad is out for personnel. The Borough lost two full time employees. Interviews will begin next week. He said that some streets had been omitted from the order when new street signs were purchased, so he will be ordering those signs as well as replacing some damaged signs. The damaged sign in Olsen Park has been replaced. The tank removal from 31 Fairview will take place on March 23 as well as soil testing. Roof work is being done at Borough Hall. We have the contract for Central and Dunn road improvement.

Borough Attorney Betesh said his report is for closed session.

Borough Clerk Cook reiterated her comments about the COVID vaccine and reminded everyone about the Free Rabies Clinic on Saturday, March 20. She thanked the OEM Coordinator for getting everything ready for social distancing, and she thanked the Health Inspector for making sure the rabies vaccine was provided and who will be attending the rabies clinic. She thanked the Fire Department as well for providing the facility for the clinic. She thanked the Police and Police Auxiliary as well.

Motion to go into Closed Session to discuss redevelopment was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Motion carried at 9:34pm.

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:12pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.