



### 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, **September 17, 2020, at 7:30pm.**

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Kelemen.

Mayor Kelemen asked everyone to remember Mario Fernandez who died at 83 years old. He made many contributions to the town as a Volunteer Fireman for the Hook and Ladder Company for which he served time as Captain. In 1983, He was honored as NJ Fireman of the Year when he saved three people in the Tilcon Factory in Bogota. He also was a DPW worker in Bogota. I want to send my condolences to his wife Rosa and two sons. He always had a smile and compassion for everyone. May he rest in peace.

Councilman Robbins everyone to remember Harry Hershel Jr. who was a Volunteer Fireman with the Hook and Ladder Company in the 1960s. He was Chief in 1968 and a lifetime member who will be sorely missed.

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 September 14, 2020.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Connors, Fede, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong, Borough Administrator Scarpa, and Grant Writer Steve Welsh.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Presentation: Grant Writer Steve Welsh said that \$2,000 grant money was received for Census Work, \$11,780 for PPE Equipment, and \$125,000 over three years for hiring a police officer. Pending grants include one from AFG for an Arial Fire Truck Grant for \$1,270,095, Firefighter recruitment grant under SAFER for \$54,640, NJEM Grant for PPE equipment in the amount of \$20,246, and Improvements to Olsen Park for the field complex through Bergen County Open Space for \$875,000.

For October, there is an assistance to Firefighters' Grant for PPE equipment, a Sustainable Jersey Grant for \$10,000 for energy efficiency such as for appliances for the Senior Center, a USA Football grant for \$20,000 to \$50,000, Musto Lighting, the US Soccer Foundation and Target. He will contact a Recreation person from New Milford to learn about grant opportunities for field improvement for Olsen Park. He mentioned the Bergen County CARES Reimbursement Agreement which gives 25% of PPE equipment cost. He spoke about the Transportation Alternative Program which he explained is for a large amount of money. He is asking for guidance from the Mayor and Council on what to request in the grant. The amount for the first phase is \$300,000 for sidewalks, curbs, lighting from Larch Avenue to Orchard Terrace, \$310,000 from Orchard Terrace to River Road, and \$1,000,000 from River Road to the Bridge. That application is due on November 24<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Napolitano said that some areas have been repaired, so the grant requests can be modified for the TAP program. He said that the Borough should look for grant money for equipment and appliances for the Recreation Center as well. He mentioned some Youth Services grants, such as Walmart, Bridgestone America, and John Ben Snow Memorial Trust He said that he would like to meet with Councilman Connors and anyone else interested in a zoom meeting concerning those grants.

Discussions: -- 1 – Status of Recreation Center – Councilwoman Carpenter asked about the Geometry Plan, the Architectural Plan, the cost estimate, the letter of purpose for the plan, the SESI report, and if anything was received from Green Acres. Councilman Napolitano explained that an attorney from Green Acres set up a meeting for August 17<sup>th</sup> with the Engineer, the Architect, a representative from the NJDEP, the Borough Attorney and Councilman Napolitano (as a representative of the governing body which was requested by Green Acres). He said that in 1985 there was a 2% loan with Green Acres which was use over 10 or 11 years, which gave Green Acres say it was is done in Bogota’s parks in perpetuity. Green Acres is satisfied that Bogota met the criteria. The Borough Attorney received an email from Green Acres that all the criteria was good. Green Acres signed off on the design. He said that a public hearing must take place. He continued that since all the obstacles of the soil and Green Acres were passed, the Borough can move forward with the basketball court and tennis court site. Borough Attorney Bossong said that the next step is that a public hearing must be held to change the purpose or use of Olsen Park by building the New Recreation Center. A sign must be designed to advertise the public hearing. Everything must be done according to regulations. The public hearing must take place at least 30 days after the advertisement. Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to hold a Special Meeting on October 29, 2020, for the Public hearing on Green Acres. The following Resolution was added to the agenda. Motion carried:  
20-135 Mayor and Council will hold a Special Meeting on October 29, 2020 at 7:30pm

Borough Attorney Bossong said that the gymnasium layout was shrunk in size a little bit to meet the criteria. The structure enhances the use of the Park with shelter, locker rooms, concessions, etc. The Architect will give an update of the plans. SESI prepared plans for dynamic compaction. The Borough is still looking into the possibility of using Sourcewell in order to control the cost of the new Recreation Center. A discussion took place concerning the appropriate use of social media. Borough Attorney Bossong said that he will be preparing a packet for the governing body on all that transpired with Green Acres.

- 2 – Police Contract – Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the Police Contract was settled in 2018. The FOP and the Borough Labor Attorney never received a copy of the contract. The Labor Attorney will be invited to a future meeting.
- 3 – Box Car Truck Ordinance – This will be discussed at a future meeting.
- 4 – Riverfront update – Councilman Napolitano said that they are working on getting certificates of occupancy for October 1.

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

- 20-132 Renew Liquor Licenses for 2020-2021
- 20-133 Surviving Spouse Veteran/Serviceperson deductions for Block 92, Lot 1
- 20-134 Authorization to Execute the Bergen County CARES Act Municipality Reimbursement Agreement

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

PC20-14 Payment of Claims

Councilman Connors motioned to table the Following Ordinance for further review, seconded by Councilman Napolitano. Motion carried.:

#1546 Ordinance establishing Section 16-5 Entitled “Fire Watch Program”

The following Bond Ordinance was Introduced:

#1547 Bond Ordinance for Central Avenue Road Work

(Public Hearing will be held at a Virtual meeting of the Mayor and Council on October 1, 2020)

The following Ordinance was adopted:

#1545 Amend Salary Ordinance #1538 to Increase the Deputy Clerk's Salary

Approvals: - Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the Minutes of 8/20/2020 and the Minutes of 9/3/2020. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen congratulated School Superintendent Kennedy and Mr. Chang for obtaining a Safety Grant of \$277,000. He sent the Council the letter he received about Monday's meeting. He thanked Mr. Chang, School Superintendent Kennedy, Congressman Gottheimer, and Councilman Napolitano for being part of the meeting. He said that someone is writing a book called "Images of America" which will be published by Arcadia publishing. The author would like to include Bogota in the book. Next month he will be meeting with Congressman Gottheimer to discuss the train bridge again. He is going to request that CSX clean up the area and make it look more attractive because it is an eyesore. He reported that CSX painted over the graffiti on the overpass, but did not do a good job. CSX spot-painted over the graffiti which was not acceptable. Mr. Barrese has been in touch with CSX. On Tuesday, he met with Borough Administrator Scarpa, Recreation Director Moore, CFO Bock, and DPW Superintendent Kohles to discuss the upcoming season. DPW workers must be ready for leaf season. Corn stalks were ordered. The Borough needs to replace Christmas lights, garlands, wreaths, etc to ensure safety. There was a major fire in Bogota in 1999 due to Christmas lights. He said that he heard that a time capsule was buried in 1980 by Mrs. Burns. If anyone knows where it was buried please let the Mayor know. Bogota had no COVID cases for three weeks and now two were reported. Total cases reported 227. Total deaths 15. He congratulated the parents, grandparents, and teachers for launching the new school year. He said that PSE&G put fliers in everyone's mailbox to prepare homeowners for the upcoming heating season. He said it is a good idea to have PSE&G test your furnaces before you need them.

Councilman Connors reported that he attended the September 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting. He congratulated Mr. Chang on attaining \$270,000 in grant money for security items. The money will be used to buy cameras for dead spots, rekeying the district to a new system, new radios, updating social media platforms, and software for visitors to the school. There was also a \$150,000 grant for digital spending. 1,100 chrome books were handed out to students. Back to School night will be 9/29 for Bixby, 9/30 for Steen, and October 1 for Bogota Jr/Sr High School. Bogota High School Fall sports are a go with the confines of COVID restrictions. Middle School sports were cancelled. Work is being done to bring Special Education students back to school as they need the in-person instruction. Child care efforts have not been successful. There is a time frame for approvals for using buildings that are not Bogota School Buildings for day care. It could take many months. October 19<sup>th</sup> is the possible date for returning to school. For Recreation, Rec football and Cheerleading were cancelled. The Octoberfest will be held tentatively on October 24 with a rain date of October 25. A trunk and treat will be held for Halloween during the Octoberfest. The Christmas tree lighting will be held tentatively on December 4<sup>th</sup> and the Menorah lighting will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup>. He said that Mr. Moore reported that groups were using the parks without permits. He said that Recreation signs would be good to give times and uses. He said that a Recreation

Digital Calendar with events would be good as well as a monthly paper calendar to be given out at the schools.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that there was a question about a back hoe repair. She spoke to the DPW Superintendent, and he said it will cost a lot of money for a new back hoe, so the repair is a necessity. There are four applicants for the DPW. She asked why the Borough does not have the garbage collection contract. She attended the Zoom meeting with Congressman Gottheimer, and she congratulated Mr. Chang. She attended the Recreation Committee meeting. She said that four members of the governing body were present. The Borough Attorney said if they were not doing Council business, it is okay. Any actions taken would be voidable.

Councilman Napolitano said he was honored to be on the call with Congressman Gottheimer when Bogota was awarded the Safety Grant. He attended the library ribbon cutting. The library and bathroom are completed. He is very proud of the library. The Library Director is doing a great job. The improvements are noticeable. He said that he spoke to the Mayor about the Seniors having an event in the park. He reported that the police are interviewing over 20 applicants. He said there was a nice event at the Laugh and Learn Day Care. He thanked Police Chief May for attending. He said that the area there looks really nice. He said that the Rescue boat was repaired, and they have another boat as well. He said that Rescue assisted in the pick up of PPE equipment. Atwater has provided tax relief money and flood relief as well. The Building Department was remodeled with the funds from Atwater. Affordable Housing was needed and is now available at Atwater. For Infrastructure the 2020 Various road work is complete. The Fire and Police parking lot are done. Wells Fargo is done. Roadway and Kramer Court are done as well. He said that with Council approval, the engineer can rebid the basketball and tennis court project. He motioned to allow the engineer to rebid the Basketball and Tennis Court project. Councilman Connors seconded the motion and the following resolution was added to the agenda. Motion carried. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that when the first bids were rejected, he sent an email to the County for an extension of the grant, but he has not heard back yet since the County is closed.

#### 20-136 Authorize Engineer to Rebid the Open Space Grant Basketball and Tennis Court Project

Councilwoman Murphy referred the library ribbon cutting to Borough Administrator Scarpa. She said that everyone received the email for the library's first NEA Big Read from 9/22 to 10/17. She received a synopsis of what occurred from March 15 to August 3<sup>rd</sup>. She said there were 1,359 attendees in the virtual library programs. She said she will ask Councilman Connors to have Supt. Kennedy advertise the Big Read in the schools. (Mr. Scarpa said the Big Read was submitted to the Webmaster and put on electronic signs.)

Councilman Robbins said that he spoke to Administrator Scarpa and to Chief Greiner about repair bills for all four trucks. He said that after the pump test, all four trucks had to go in for repairs. During disassembly, other areas were found in need of repair. The repairs had to be done for the safety of the firemen and for the trucks to be operational. The bill totaled \$30,000. The Fire Chief will bring in the bills to discuss with Borough Administrator Scarpa.

Councilwoman Fede said there is a problem with communication in the zoom meetings. She seconded motion 8 times and was not heard. It is very frustrating. There must be a better way. Perhaps hand raising etc. It might be helpful if everyone was on video. She has been attending County Sustainable Jersey Hubs. They are planning for next June an Arts Amble. Steve Mazella, Chelsea Coleman and Rita Florez (a local artist) are getting involved with this. Local artists sign up to open up their studios or a public place, register on a map, and people can roam around the County to see the artists in a two to three day process. Bergen County Creative Team has a facebook page so artists can participate. Sustainable Jersey application was filed on time by September 11, and she received email verification that it was submitted. This is Round 2. Some actions were approved. The time was expanded for another year due to COVID. She is confident it will be approved. This would be Bogota's second recertification. This is the time of year for Tree City USA certification. Bogota has been a tree city for 20 years. This Saturday, on September 19 in Ridgefield Park, local artists will get together and paint a mural. You can watch artists paint. She attended the Recreation

Committee meeting just to see what was going on, not to participate in it. She said that it may be better if no more than three governing body members attend meetings.

Borough Administrator Scarpa asked the Construction official to talk to the Fire Chief about the generator. He said that the construction official spoke to the Fire Chief. Since there is a large amount of equipment, he could not do the load analysis. Specs will have to be prepared. He said that the engineer would have to do the load analysis. Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to prepare the specs for a generator for the firehouse. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:

20-137 Authorize Borough engineer to prepare specs for the load analysis for the generator for the Fire Department

Mr. Scarpa said that he would like the Fireman's Park project to go out to rebid. The clock in the bid was priced too high. It should be purchased directly from the clock company. Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins to authorize the engineer to reject the original bids and go out to rebid Fireman's Park. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda.

20-138 Authorize the Borough Engineer to go out to rebid the Fireman's Park project.

Mr. Scarpa said that the ribbon cutting ceremony went well. He asked the DPW how much will be needed for garland, etc. Corn stalks were ordered. Pumpkins were ordered for the Fallfest. DPW interviews will take place next week. The recycling sign is up.

The Borough Attorney had no report.

The Borough Clerk explained that there will be 18 drop boxes across Bergen County where voters can place their write in ballots. She explained that everyone will receive a write in ballot for this election. All three voting locations in Bogota will be open on Election Day. The voting machines will only be for illiterate and blind voters. Everyone else will vote by vote by mail ballot. There will be drop boxes at each voting location, but everyone must sign the book first and then drop their ballot into the drop box. Using one of the 18 drop boxes before election day may be a better choice.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to go into closed session to discuss real estate and litigation. Motion carried at 9:48pm.

When the Council meeting resumed at 10:28pm, motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to add the following resolution to the agenda

20-139 To renew the liquor license for Buddy's Place with the continued existing restrictions.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:36pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.