



**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, April 15, 2021 at 7:37pm.

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, and Murphy were present. Councilman Robbins entered the meeting at 7:42 after correcting technical issues. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

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

Susan Harper complained about the frequent car accidents that occur at the intersection of River Road and Main Street. In the most recent accident, a car spun around and ran into the corner where the crossing guard stands. She said that a turning light and warning signs might help. She is concerned about all the new buildings bringing more traffic. She asked how many parking spaces will be created for the new Recreation Center and where they will be. She also was concerned with how many trees are being cut down to build the new Recreation Center, and the impact of lighting for the Center on River Road houses. She said that the large sign in front of the Recreation Center shines through her window at night, and she requested that the sign be turned off after midnight.

Patricia Pacheco said that she was attending the meeting to observe.

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

Councilman Connors thanked the citizens for attending the meeting. He said that they are drafting and budgeting for a Traffic Safety Plan. Hot spots for speeding and accidents are being identified and that intersection is one of the hot spots. He said that there is a concern about increased traffic, and a plan of action is in place. Electronic signs are being purchased to encourage people to slow down. He thanked Administrator Scarpa, Police Chief Maye and the police officers for working on the traffic plan. Administrator Scarpa said that he will look into turning the sign off or dimming the lights at 11:00pm. He said that 40 trees will be taken down for the new Recreation Center and 100 new trees will be planted. The lights for the Recreation Center will be turned toward the building, not the neighborhood. The new building will be where the basketball and tennis courts are now. He will find out how many parking spots there will be. Councilwoman Carpenter said that she will find out what can be done on the County level about the accidents since Main Street and River Road are County roads.

Discussion : - Fire Department:

1. Hook & Ladder Purchase: Discussion took place concerning the 30 year old Hook and Ladder truck which will be out of service in two years, and every year the cost of a truck increases by \$60,000 to \$100,000. They discussed applying for a grant for a hook and ladder truck. Councilman Robbins explained that it takes time to do the preparation to build a new truck. The Fire Department would like a commitment that bonding will take place for the Hook and Ladder truck.
2. Hose 2 Engine Purchase: The governing body bonded for a pumper truck for Hose 2. They have specs for a small truck that will fit into the Hose 2 building. They will need to update the specs. Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to purchase a fire engine. The language of this motion was amended with a subsequent motion by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins. to read that the Mayor and Council is committed to have Bond Counsel come to the next regular meeting to advise and give direction to meet all the needs of the Fire Department. Motion carried. The following Resolution was added to the agenda  
21-090 Bond Counsel will attend next meeting to advise & give direction for Fire Department needs
3. Generators for Hose 1/Hook & Ladder Building: Councilman Robbins said that the Borough engineer is putting together specs for the generator which will be ready next month. The generator will be able to power everything in the Firehouse. The cost will be between \$40,000 and \$70,000. It will take two months at the most.
4. Turn Out Gear Replacement: Fire Chief Kalman said that the turnout gear is cleaned and inspected regularly. Mayor Kelemen said that we will order 5 or 6 new one each year in order to keep the cost down.
5. Apollo Building: Dan Howell will be doing the CCO inspection tomorrow.
6. Update on future West Shore Avenue Hose 2 and 3 building: The Council must decide if it should be one story and if it should have 3 or 4 bays. Hose company 3 will be scraped and painted. Hose 2 Building will not be sold until the new building is built.

-Update on Recreation Center Plans: The Minutes of the meetings were sent to everyone. All permit applications were submitted, and they are waiting for the DPW approval. The specs are being prepared for Dynamic Compaction with SESI. There will be another meeting on April 23 and a Buildings and Grounds meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. There is hope of "shovel in the 'ground" in September. Unfortunately, there was not sufficient water pressure for fire suppression, so they will have to fix that.

-Update on Fireman's Park: They are working on a grant for it. It will be discussed at the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

-Olsen Park Renovation: Mayor Kelemen said that he would like the field to be renovated without tax dollars. The Borough received a matching grant of \$462,843 which is a start. He is hoping for more grant money and possible sponsors. He spoke to School Superintendent Kennedy about renovating all the fields to have beautiful fields moving Forward including baseball fields, a soccer field, a football field a track, lighting, bleachers. Borough Attorney Betesh will look into if the Borough can work with the Board of Education for the new fields.

-Ordinance concerning the 'NJ Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act' which legalizes cannabis sales in NJ: Discussion took place concerning the new Cannabis legislation. A local ordinance needs to be adopted by August 22nd. Mayor Kelemen and four Council members suggested banning the sale of cannabis in Bogota. More discussion will follow.

-Sewer line at Leonia Avenue: The property being developed in Teaneck has been vacant for a long time and the current sewer line is connected to Bogota's sewer line. The use has changed. Metering testing is being done now and the borough engineer, Mr. Polyniak, will receive the reports in May. The Borough does not have to allow Teaneck to use the sewer lines. Councilman Connors said that he is concerned with overflow of the sewer lines and wants to protect the residents of Pine Street and Leonia Avenue.

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

21-086 Re-appoint Daniel Howell as the Borough's Construction Code Official and building Sub-Code Official

21-087 Authorizing the Submission of a Sustainable Jersey Grant Application to Purchase and Install Energy Efficient Appliances at the Bogota Senior Center

21-088 Authorize Execution of Estoppel Certificate for Atwater

21-089 Resolution Designating Bond Anticipation Note for \$2,950,000

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

PC21-07 Payment of Claims

Public Hearing and adoption of the Following Ordinances took place:

#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

Approvals: -Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve La Famiglia's request for Outdoor Dining. Motion carried.

- Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve Hose company 3's request for acceptance of Junior member Ryan Sharpe. Motion carried.

- Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve Hook & Ladder 1's request for acceptance of Fire Fighter Frank Fuchs and Fire Fighter Eugene Stipo. Motion carried.

- Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the Minutes of 4/1/2021. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

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

Susan Harper expressed concern about removing 40 trees from the park. She asked if there was some way to preserve the trees in the park. She said that there seems to be a problem with a lot of trees dying. She said that the park provides nature. She agreed with Councilman Connors that cannabis should not be sold in Bogota.

Rebecca Youla sent a letter to Administrator Scarpa and Recreation Director Moore. On March 30, she, Councilwoman Carpenter, Recreation Director Moore, and Football Coach Tilo went to a League meeting about the small number of registrants for the football programs. She said that the Football Director from Bergenfield suggested merging Bergenfield and Bogota for football so that they can have a football season. She said that they will be at the Recreation Center every Thursday night from 6pm to 8pm getting commitments from parents for football.

Andone Demetriatis thanked the Council for discussing the sewer problem and thanked Councilman Connors for putting the Bogota residents first. He said that there was a problem with the sewer drain when he first moved in, and he spoke to the Teaneck Administrator about a giant puddle. Teaneck did nothing.

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

Councilwoman Fede said that 100 trees will replace the 40 trees that will be removed. She said that she would like an assessment done of the park. Many trees were lost due to a storm. A Tree Park Management Plan is needed. She would like a weeping willow tree to be planted at the park. There are many old trees in the park, so restocking the park with trees would be good. She said that the Borough should make sure a mitigation plan is implemented. Councilman Connors said that the Recreation Committee has to vote first on merging the teams, and then the votes are brought to the Mayor and Council for their vote. He thanked Mr. Demetriatis for his kind words.

Mayor Kelemen thanked Susan, Rebecca, and Andone Demetriatis for their involvement in the meeting. He said that the merge of Bogota and Bergenfield for football is a good idea. He reminded everyone that in 1982, there were 150 children in the football program. Now there is an emphasis on the dangers of contact sports. Merging with Bergenfield is necessary. He told Susan Harper that the Olsen Park renovations will contain baseball fields and a football field and soccer field. This will be an improvement for the town. Borough Attorney Betesh said that the resident made an interesting observation about pooling on Pine Street. He asked if this was a stormwater issue, so that this can be addressed. Mayor Kelemen pointed out that Mrs. Demetriadis said that there is a drain by their property that they had to fix the pooling matter themselves. Next week, The Mayor, Borough Attorney and the Demetriadis couple will meet.

#### Reports:

Mayor Kelemen thanked the Council for the discussions. He reported that as of Tuesday, there are 859 COVID cases in Bogota. He said that fortunately, people are recuperating faster. He said that everyone is trying to cope with the COVID situation and get back into a normal lifestyle. CDC rules still need to be followed including social distancing and wearing masks. He said that Friday after the April 1 meeting he received an email from Mayor Ziegler of Leonia. Leonia is part of Mid-Bergen Regional Health commission. Leonia hosted a vaccine center which included residents from Carlstadt, Little Ferry, and Tenafly, Wood Ridge and Bogota. All participated. He reported that there is now a ban on the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. He said that 1500 doses were distributed including 170 residents of Bogota. The community Board and Reverse 911 got the word out about the vaccine. He urged people to sign up for Reverse 911. He said that he visited the vaccine site in Leonia on Saturday. There were 75 volunteers from Leonia observing people for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine as well as volunteer nurses to give the vaccine. He ordered 6 foot heroes for all the workers. He thanked Mayor Ziegler, Mid Bergen Regional Health Commission, Sam Yanovich, Borough Clerk Cook, and Angelo's Pizza. He thanked Administrator Scarpa for having Hose 3 building scraped and painted. He reported that our Webmaster Ray Dwyer will be sending out the

new website this weekend. He said that Genesis was helpful as well. He is looking forward to the dedication of Second Place for Pat Schuber. He does not know the status of the Memorial Day parade, but it does not look promising.

Councilwoman Granquist reported that the DPW has two new employees starting Monday. The DPW is still looking for summer help. The DPW completed the flowers and mulch in front of Borough Hall. They ordered mulch for the parks. She has no report for Rescue because she was unable to attend the last meeting.

Councilman Connors said that the Board of Education did not have a meeting since the last Council meeting, but School Superintendent Kennedy wanted everyone to know that they combined cohorts for 5 half days a week. He said that the Recreation Committee did not meet. They scheduled a new meeting for April 28<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Detective Sergeant Liriano, Police Chief Maye, and Captain Piterski for their help with March's monthly report. There were 564 summonses issued, 94 traffic stops, and 206 building checks. He said that the Bogota Police are the finest force and hard working. (April 29 at 5pm will be the walk out for Vic Negron.)

Councilwoman Carpenter said she attended two registrations. 10 cheerleaders and 2 football players signed up. They will be there next Thursday from 6pm to 8pm. April 28<sup>th</sup> is the last day for sign up. She is looking forward to Bogota's merger with Bergenfield at the next meeting. She said that she believes that everyone received a New Jersey Status report for the Basketball and Tennis Courts. She said a letter was needed for the pollinator community garden. There is a state grant for the location of the new Recreation Center which she and administrator Scarpa are working on, and they are working on a grant for kitchen equipment and tables and chairs.

Councilwoman Murphy said that there was nothing new to report about the Library. She said that the Environmental Commission did not have a meeting. She said that the Planning and Zoning Board discussed Paul Grygiel's bills. She said that the completeness committee is reviewing a plan for redevelopment of 30 Cross Street, and the Pilot for the project will be presented to the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Robbins thanked the Mayor and Council for accepting three new members to the Fire Department. He said that it shows that volunteerism is alive and well. He said that he was proud to report that at the last Fire meeting, the Bogota Fire Department joined the cause to send equipment to Alabama which is in need of turn out gear and equipment.

Councilwoman Fede said that the Rescue Squad has training at 8am on Sunday morning in Olsen Park. She said that the Wally boat will be delivered soon. She said that the first meeting of the Swim Club was successful. All went well. She said that the question was will the parking lot be cleared and the trench cleaned out. She reported that the Friends of the Library will have a book sale during Shred Day. She said that some plots at the community garden need to be replaced or repaired, and planters will be stained to match the sign and the shed. She said that Ridgefield Park will be celebrating Earth Day on May 1, from 10am to 5pm, at the Riverfront Park. They will have fishing all day and boat rides. There will be a bat presentation at 1pm.

Borough Administrator Scarpa had no report.

Borough Attorney Betesh said that he would like a copy of the letter about the merger with Bergenfield for football and cheerleading. He will reach out to the Risk Manager concerning any needs for the merger.

Borough Clerk Cook wanted to thank School Superintendent Kennedy for his help with getting vaccines for seniors.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:21pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.