



**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 4, 2021 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Kelemen.

Mayor Kelemen sent his condolences to Mary Ellen Murphy and her family on the loss of her brother.

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 February 1, 2021.

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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, 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.

Discussion: Discussion took place concerning the Swim Club Lease. Councilwoman Fede explained that the Swim Club Lease needs to be renewed. She said that the Secretary of the Swim Club requested that it be renewed for one year without any changes from last year's lease. Lease payments will be contingent upon the pool opening on time. Pro-ration of payment of lease can occur due to COVID just like last year. Motion was made by Councilwoman Granquist, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to extend the Swim Club lease for one year with no changes. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter recusing. The following Resolution was added to the agenda.

21-074 Extend the Swim Club Lease for One Year with No Changes from Last Year.

Councilman Connors requested that Borough Attorney Betesh look into the contract with the Swim Club to the possibility of the Borough running the Swim Club.

Councilwoman Fede explained that Bogota is the landlord and leases to the Swim Club and if the Borough does not wish to lease to the Swim Club, that is a discussion. Based upon what might happen tonight, the Swim Club has a contractual right to request an extension of their lease for a year for their private purpose.

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

21-072 Suspension of Police Officer Docket 2020-009799

21-073 Deed Restriction for 2000 West Fort Lee Road

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the following Payment of Claims Resolution. Motion carried :  
PC21-04 Payment of Claims

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinance took place.

#1556 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21B of the Code of Borough of Bogota, Entitled  
"Stormwater Control"

Approval: Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Granquist, to approve the Minutes of 2/18/2021. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter voting No and Councilman Robbins abstaining because he was absent from the 2/18/2021 meeting.

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

Tom Napolitano asked for someone to explain what the Deed Restriction is which was approved on the Consent agenda. He also asked when the location of the Recycling Center was ever discussed and approved at a Council Meeting. He said that many people did not know that the Recycling Center will be built in front of the Swim Club and in people's backyards. He asked why the attorney did not review the Swim Club Lease before the meeting since it was on as a Discussion item.

Carmel Birney asked where the Recycling Center will be built. She thought it was being repaired where it is now. She said that the baseball fields and the track are very flooded. She asked if anything changed down there or if it is just because of the amount of snow that just melted.

Jorge Nunez said that he likes the new layout of the website as it is more functional than the old layout. He asked about the suspension of a police officer for five months without his name being on the website. He feels that this is not right to withhold his name.

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

Councilwoman Fede explained that the Deed Restriction was for the number of Affordable Housing units at Atwater. She said that she believes that the Resolution for the Police Officer, which may be a matter of public record, will have the police officer's name on it. Borough Attorney Betesh explained that the Deed Restriction Resolution was a routine resolution for the Atwater Development. There are a certain number of units set aside for Affordable Housing at each building. Under Affordable Housing rules, these units need to be deed restricted so that the controls remain in place for 30 years. This resolution is for 8 units in Building #2000. Councilwoman Fede requested that the Administrator or DPW look into the flooding at the park. Councilwoman Carpenter thanked Ray Dwyer for his work on the website.

Mayor Kelemen said that the Recycling Center is going to be located across from the Swim Club next to the Swim Club Parking Lot. He said this has been discussed for the last two years at meetings. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that it was voted on in 2019, 2020, and 2021. The current center is on property that the Borough does not own. The new center will be gated and only open during the town business hours, and there will be no vegetative waste there.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen said that as of yesterday there were 723 reported cases since March. The death rate is still 15 cases. He is concerned for the seniors about obtaining the vaccine. Our Health Officer

said that the state has designated large vaccine mega-sites would receive the vaccine. He had anticipated thousands of doses for local clinics, but have only received a minimal amount. Hopefully, local clinics will be open soon. The Mayor is hoping that Bogota will be part of an upcoming clinic with another town, but he has no details yet. Hopefully the J & J vaccine will help to get people vaccinated soon. He spoke to our local government aid, Rebecca, and told her that he is concerned about Seniors getting the vaccine because many of them cannot get to the mega sites and cannot go online to register. He and other mayors are begging for the vaccine to be distributed to local centers to be able to give the vaccine. No one is being forgotten. He said there was an awesome clap out for Sgt. Craig Lynch who just retired from the Bogota Police Department, and he wishes him well. He wanted to conclude by saying that this has been a terrible year, and he knows that everyone has suffered from this COVID with the illness or the loss of a loved one. He is proud of our community where people have reached out to help each other. Teachers have taken on the task of virtual teaching, and everyone's routine has changed. He said that Bogota residents did not let the pandemic take them down. He is so proud of the cooperation and adaptation that took place to keep things moving for everyone. Besides sadness, a lot of greatness came out of this pandemic.

Councilwoman Granquist said that she attended the Rescue Squad meeting last night and learned that NEGLIA Engineering reached out to Rob Foster of OEM who will set up an on-site meeting for next week for the Boat Launch for Rescue. NEGLIA will come up with a plan and a cost once they know exactly what is needed and required. The Rescue Squad will maintain the Boat Launch once it is created. She said that a new employee started work with the DPW on March 1, and the DPW Superintendent said that he is doing very well.

Councilman Connors reported that the Board of Education had their last meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He said that the State of New Jersey has applied for waivers on standardized testing for this Spring. He said that New York was shot down by the Federal Government in its attempt at waivers, and he hopes New Jersey will get approval. Teachers and Educators will be vaccinated beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>. Surveys were sent out to parents about re-opening the schools. Superintendent Kennedy received approval to get solar panels for all three schools which will be discussed on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm as an attempt to save money. He said that winter sports session 1 completed. Ashante Caviness earned a 1,000 point record this past week. Session 2 began with wrestling and volleyball with the same restrictions for parents and guardians. Everyone is sad to see Sgt. Lynch retire. On behalf of the Mayor and Council, he wishes him a happy retirement.

Police Report: 43 Moving Violations, 373 Tickets issued, 24 accidents with no injuries, 35 traffic stops. The next Recreation committee will be this coming week.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that she with the help of Brough Clerk Cook got the grant writer the information he needed for the Open Space Grant for Fireman's Park. She said that we have \$15,268 grant money which the Borough has to match. She said that \$137,000 is still needed. She motioned to get authorization for the grant writer to seek \$53,399 more in Open Space Grants for Fireman's Park; Councilman Connors seconded the motion. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda.

21-075 Authorize Grant Writer to go forward with Open Space Trust Fund Grant for \$53,399

Councilwoman Carpenter gave the grant writer Councilwoman Fede's name and contact information, and she said that Councilwoman Granquist requested a grant for the Creative Placemaking Plan. She contacted Tom Connolly about the Main Street roadwork. He said that road repaving will go from Hackensack to the Teaneck border. They are hoping for September for the

paving to take place. He said that for River Road the County will go out to bid in June or July, and repaving will be done in 2022. Mr. Connolly had no information about the Culvert.

Councilman Robbins said that there were no noise complaints for February. He said that the refurbished hook and ladder truck is going on 10 years of being refurbished. There are some repairs needed for the truck, and the Fire Department will provide a list of needs, so it can stay in service. They are expecting the cost of repairs to exceed \$200,000. If repairs are not made, the truck will have to go out of service. He asked if bond money for purchasing a truck can be used for the repairs. A new ladder truck will cost over \$1 million. This will be put on for discussion at the next meeting. He said that the Property Maintenance official, Nick Barese, said that the snow ordinance concerning fire hydrants needs to be revised. There is a problem with the number of hours and with the fee. Borough Attorney Betesh will look into it.

Councilwoman Fede said that she was pleased with the expertise of the Grant Writers. She discussed trees, the parks, the boat launch, the senior appliances, energy efficiency etc. She said that the governing body approved the Creative Placemaking Plan at the last regular meeting. It will be approved by the Planning and Zoning Board at their next meeting. She attended the Creative Arts Team meeting this past Monday, and they have already started planning how they will implement the 2021 objectives. She thanked the Council for extending the Swim Club lease because it is an important part of the community. It provides a service for the Recreation programs, and it provided a service for the Youth Academy.

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that the hole on Main Street bridge is an emergency and will be repaired next week. Mr. Connolly said that the Borough does not have to pay for the curb cuts which were bonded for last year. He would like to amend that ordinance to include road resurfacing and amend the multi-purpose bond as well. He said the risk manager was notified about the boat launch. There were bed bugs in the building, and the issue was mitigated. He reserved the Fiesta for January 8, 2022 for the volunteer dinner. He said that everything is moving along for all the buildings. (Councilwoman Fede suggested a volunteer barbeque this year if possible. Mr. Scarpa will look into it. He said that there will be a safety meeting tomorrow. JIF submitted their annual report which was put in everyone's mailbox. (Councilman Connors asked for 16 wreaths for all the poles for the holiday.)

Borough Attorney Betesh said that the work for 31 Fairview Avenue is on track. The contract has been finalized for execution. The Appraisal Report showed a value of \$580,000. A title search on the property will be done as well. He and the Architect had a lengthy phone call with Green Acres concerning The Recreation Center. Green Acres approved it. Green Acres said the interpretation room needs to be for educational and informational purposes, such as the local natural history (flora and fauna) etc. Also, the DPW can only store equipment there that is for the Recreation Center and that area. There is a flood water permit to be worked on still. He spoke with Chief Maye about Leonia Avenue. The 520 Leonia Avenue project will only use the Leonia Avenue entrance for emergency vehicles only. Teaneck will meet with Bogota about this.

Borough Clerk Cook reminded everyone about the free rabies clinic on March 20, 2021 from 10am to Noon at the Broad Street Firehouse. Appointments are necessary.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.