



COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

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, **December 3, 2020, at 7:30pm.**

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Kelemen.

After the flag salute, Mayor Kelemen talked about the passing of Fran Garlicki, who had been Borough Clerk for Bogota for close to 28 years. He reminded everyone about what a remarkable woman she was serving under 6 mayors, 11 Administrators, and 28 governing bodies. She knew her job very well. She was a great role model and he paid his condolences to her family.

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 November 27, 2020.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Carpenter, Fede, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Councilman Connors was absent. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

Mayor Kelemen requested a change in the order of the meeting because Mr. Stein had another meeting at 8:00pm. Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to allow Mr. Stein to speak before Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Discussion- Update on Atwater progress: Mr. Stein explained that because of the 2020 lockdown, there were delays in progress. There were also changes in rules and regulations that caused further delays. He said that the Certificate of Occupancy for Building 5 (1000 West Fort Lee Road) was obtained on October 19, 2020. He said that there are 8 to 10 residents living there now. There were 29 Market Rate leases in 6 weeks. There are 11 Affordable Housing units in building 5. Piazza and Associates followed the law and handled the lottery for the Affordable Units. There were approximately 2,200 applicants. Building 5 has 110 units including 11 Affordable Housing units. Building 1 has 83 units including 8 Affordable Housing Units. The remaining two buildings have 118 units and 119 units. Sabre, the broker, is looking for retailers to rent the commercial units. Building 6 across the street is the construction office now. They are hoping to put a microbrewery or a gym in that building. They are putting a high-end café in one of the commercial units. Building 1 (2000 West Fort Lee Road) will be completed by the end of January or some time in February. They are hoping for an April opening for Building 2 (3000 West Fort Lee Road). Construction on the last building should begin in March or April. It will take 16 to 18 months to build. West Fort Lee Road will be repaved when the utility companies have completed their work there. Ferraro Engineering did a great job eliminating the flooding. The Bus Stops will be done after the repaving is completed.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, 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 – Update on New Recreation Center: Borough Administrator Scarpa said that more permits are needed to be applied for. He did not get a price estimate from Sourcewell. Councilman Napolitano said that the architect, the engineer, and SESI were all involved in discussions with Sourcewell to save money on the project. The building itself was in the neighborhood of one million dollars. Unfortunately, Sourcewell offered inflated prices for the earth work, the concrete work, etc. It was decided that it would be best to go out to bid on the project. Discussion took place concerning the permits required for moving forward. Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to move forward with permits needed for the new Recreation building and to continue with Bilow as the architect. Motion carried and Resolution 20-180A was added to the agenda.

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

20-168 Change Order #2 for Preston Street

20-169 Hire Police Officer George Hondros

20-171 Hire Landsystems to complete DEP required reports for Construction of new Recreation Building

20-172 Change Order for Pine Street (Marini Brothers)

20-173 Resolution of Approval to Execute the Bergen County CARES Act Municipality Reimbursement Agreement

20-175 Adopt the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

20-176 Approve Chapter 159 for the Census Grant for \$1,296

20-177 Approve Chapter 159 for AFG-S award for \$7,511.18

20-178 Approve Chapter 159 for COVID reimbursement from FEMA for \$15,185.11

20-179 Approve Chapter 159 for COVID reimbursement from Bergen County CARES for \$5,061.70

20-180 Hire full Time Dispatcher

Resolutions to be Voted on Separately:

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

PC20-18 Payment of Claims

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution after Councilwoman Carpenter requested that “due to workers resigning” be removed. Motion carried.

20-170 Advertise for DPW Workers

Motion to table the following Resolution was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. Motion carried with Councilman Napolitano voting No.

20-174 Revision to Prior Resolution 20-122 Regarding Appointment of Special Counsel

The following Ordinance was introduced:

#1555 Ordinance Amending Chapter 23-1.4 Entitled “Members of the Police Department and Line of Authority

The Following Ordinances were adopted:

#1553 Ordinance Adopting the South End Redevelopment Plan Pursuant to the Local

Redevelopment and Housing law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et sec., for Property Locate at Block 112, Lots 1 & 2 and Block 113, Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8
#1554 Ordinance Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation N.J.S. 40A:4-53

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede to approve the Minutes of 11/12/2020. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter voting No and Councilwoman Murphy abstaining because she was absent from the 11/12/2020 meeting.

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

Jorge Nunez commended the governing body for acting in an honorable fashion of not taking action. He said that in 2019, the governing body voted to extend contracts in the midst of a transition which were not in the best interest of the community.

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

Councilman Napolitano thanked Jorge Nunez for his comments.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees, Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk

Mayor Kelemen gave an update on COVID. He said that it is climbing again by increasing every day. He has shared this information with the governing body, the police chief, the Board of Education, and the OEM. He said the number in Bogota is 400 with still only 15 deaths. His thoughts and prayers go out to all the families going through this. He complimented the students, parents, teachers, aids, and school staff on dealing with COVID so well. He reported that Bergen County started rapid testing again at Bergen Community College. The December dates and instructions are houses look good decorated for Christmas; a little light shows hope. He said that the Senior Citizens can call the Clerk's office for help. He will be writing a letter for the recycling calendar with an emphasis on recycling. Since Mr. Connors is not here, he reported that the tree lighting will take place tomorrow night, and the menorah lighting will take place next Thursday night. He said that the Council is invited to come, and Mrs. Claus and Santa's elf will be there with Santa. He thanked Sherry Solomov for working on the tree lighting and the menorah lighting. Mr. Mazzella will be attending as well to take pictures. He reported that Valley National Bank is allowing the Borough to place the angel and the small menorah by the digital sign. He thanked Mr. Stein for an excellent job, and he thanked Councilman Napolitano for all his work in getting everything organized for that project.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that the DPW is losing another staff member who resigned. She said the DPW only has 6 employees now. She said that the DPW is working on the Christmas Decorations, and recycling on Wednesday. There are new decorations in front of Borough Hall.

Councilman Napolitano reiterated the kind words to Fran Garlicki and sent his condolences to her family. He reported that the governing body interviewed outstanding candidates for the police officer position. The foundation for the future of the department seems very bright. He said that the police have started their toy drive, and toys can be dropped off at the Recreation Center. He said that the finance department got into good shape this year, and he thanked Andrea, Greg, and Steve Wielkotz. He reported that Howard Van Wess died two months ago, and Jim Newman died as well. They were outstanding individuals. He is staying in touch with the Senior citizen advisory

board president. He thanked Jim Moore for shopping for the Seniors. The Seniors are having a difficult time for Thanksgiving. They do not want to get ill. The Rescue Squad rescued someone in flood water at Elm Avenue and River road. They had a Christmas Party yesterday. The boat is running well. They had their fundraiser. They sent out a mailing, and they are doing well. He sent pictures of the flooding at River Road and Elm Avenue to the County, and he met with the County Engineer who talked about a quick fix that could be done at Outwater Plastics with the trash rack that inhibits the flow of water. The County is still waiting for CSX to sign the easement agreement. He emphasized to the County that there is a dangerous situation there. The County engineer said that he will share the traffic studies from the new developments in Hackensack with Bogota. The engineer said that Hackensack has a tracking system that controls the traffic signals which could be used in Bogota. Councilman Napolitano reported that the Borough is continuing to buy turnout gear regularly. He gave a shoutout to Ryan Smith who received a Class a uniform. He congratulated Councilwoman Murphy and Councilwoman elect Ganquist.

(Councilman Connors entered the meeting at 9:17pm.)

Councilwoman Murphy said that she is happy to move forward. It is an honor to serve. She thanked everyone for their patience for her inability to attend the last meeting. She reported that Chelsea Coleman did the annual fund raiser. The library is starting the diversity audit. It will expand in the New Year. They are on a COVID schedule again. There were many losses in the community. Her heart goes out to them. She expressed condolences for Fran Garlicki.

Councilman Robbins said that TENAC had no complaints for November. He said that the Fire Department is requesting someone from the internet provider to come to Broad Street to check the log in for the Fire Department. It has been frustrating. Lollipop Sunday will take place on December 20th. Breakfast with Santa was cancelled. Small breakfast in apparatus is ok'd if it is a small amount of people in the bay at one time. The Chief selection has been put off until December 19th at 7PM at the Broad Street Firehouse with social distancing. Chief Kalman will have a small get together in the summer. Councilman Robbins sends his condolences to the family of Fran Garlicki.

Councilwoman Fede attended the Virtual League of Municipalities. She took a course and will get credit for the town. She is preparing the Tree City application which will be 20 years as a member. She took the spotted lantern course, and she reminded everyone how the emerald ash borer killed about 36 ash trees. The spotted lantern is in Pennsylvania. She was taught how to eradicate the pest and can teach Borough staff how to do it. She will be attending the Creative Arts Team meeting on December 7th. Chelsea Coleman has been instrumental in creating the place making plan. She put a lot of effort into it which is appreciated. She said that the Borough is doing a good job on recycling plastic bags. She reported that on January 2nd, Fairlawn is having a recycling drive with Styrofoam. Residents can go to Fairlawn on January 2nd with their Styrofoam. She congratulated the Eagle Scout who has been going around town painting the markings for the fire hydrants. He is doing a great job. She requested an update on the Police Contract. She said that there needs to be more vigilance on Social Distancing and wearing masks. She does not want to see any emergency response groups get COVID. She requested that people not get angry when she asks people to pay attention.

Councilman Connors said that the Menorah lighting will be on December 10th. He said that the Board of Education had a meeting last Tuesday and reported that school will be virtual until the day after Martin Luther King's birthday. The High School football team won the division. He sent a shout out to the team and the cheerleaders. He thanked the Recreation Committee and the Recreation Director for organizing the tree lighting. He thanked the Mayor as well. He said that the

Holiday Home Decorating Contest is happening. Anyone interested can contact Rebecca Youla on Facebook or her email. The flyer with the information is on the website. He sends his condolences to the family of Fran Garlicki. She was the first clerk he worked with for the last 7 years.

Administrator Scarpa sent his condolences to the Garlicki family. He said that the radiator heat at Borough Hall is getting worked on. The Recycling Calendar will be out before January. New decorations are up thanks to the DPW. Yenlys Flores decorated the tree in Borough Hall. The architect went into the Apollo building to see what can be eliminated from the firehouse building. He said that Bataglia contract is up this year. They are requesting a 2% increase. He said the Borough received a \$200,000 grant for Pine Street and Larch Avenue. The BCUA asked if Bogota will have a shred day in 2021 which of course we do. The Preston Street project is completed. He set up a meeting with Public Service about lighting in town.

Borough Attorney Bossong sent his condolences to the family of Fran Garlicki.

Borough Clerk Cook said that she needed to clarify something that was said at the last Council meeting. A council member expressed concern about financial disclosure statements that had not been completed for this year which was a correct statement. The clerk wanted everyone to know that the fines were waved by the state this year. The state has been working to alleviate financial concerns in all the municipalities and she gave the state finance officials a lot of credit for their work during this pandemic. Now, in a normal year, if a financial disclosure statement is not filed in a timely manner, the individual who failed to file on time is subject to a fine. The Borough does not pay fines generated by those responsible for filing financial disclosure statements.

She reminded the entire governing body that the public depends on their elected officials to do what is best for the community as a whole, and she asked all of them to use discretion in any matter that they want to discuss at a public meeting.

She also needed to say something about her dear friend Fran Garlicki who left the physical world on December 1st and who will always be in her thoughts and in her heart. Fran served 27 ½ years as Borough Clerk and Clerk Cook served close to 9 years as her deputy. She always remained steadfast in her duties to the Borough and to the Governing body. Fran knew how to make people laugh and smile and accept things that were beyond their control. She was and will always be a great role model for all of us on how to live a full life by working fervently, giving generously, and loving whole heartedly. Rest in peace Fran.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to go into closed session to discuss the DPW contract, Real Estate, and Police Personnel. Motion carried at 9:44PM.

When the meeting reconvened at 10:45pm, motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to Hire Police Officer Joseph Naem. Motion carried and the following resolution was added to the agenda:

20-181 Hire Police Officer Joseph Naem

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:47PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.