



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, February 18, 2021 at 7:34pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Kelemen.

After the salute, Councilwoman Carpenter asked for a moment of silence for Edwin Robert Taylor, brother-in-law of Mayor Kelemen. She said that he was a great man that he will be dearly missed. She continued that he was a 1968 Bogota High School graduate and still holds the Long Jump record.

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 was absent. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

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

Police Officer John Gallipoli requested hiring another police officer soon since Sgt. Craig Lynch is retiring very soon and another sergeant is retiring in the summer.

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

Councilman Connors said that 11 interviews were done for police officers and there are great candidates. The Borough is planning on hiring two police officers, one through a grant which requires military background. He said that he believed that the borough was waiting until the retirements took place. He asked Borough Administrator Scarpa if he agreed with that.

Mr. Scarpa said that they will look at the salary line in the 2021 budget as well.

Mayor Kelemen said that an officer who qualified for the grant accepted a job in another town. He said that Chief Maye is looking into whether the grant can be changed in some way to allow an officer to be hired quickly.

Presentation: Library Director Chelsea Coleman gave a presentation concerning all the happenings at the Library during 2020. She said that the library is open for limited in person services. She mentioned the NEA Big Read, and the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten. She also talked about the take home crafts that was a big success. She also mentioned putting collections in a browsable system so people can look up books by level. There is a local history section as well. She then introduced Amaru Bustamante who gave a presentation concerning the Placemaking Plan for 2021 through 2026.

Discussions:

Recreation Center Building – Architect Matt Bilow presented a new layout for the gymnasium at the proposed Recreation Center. He said that parameters remained the same. Borough Attorney Betesh explained that it will be necessary to notify Green Acres of the changes made to check to see if a public hearing will be necessary again. Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to accept the new design presented at SK-2. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda.

21-69 Accept Design Plan SK-2 for the Recreation Center in place of A-100.

Traffic Safety Plan – Councilman Connors explained that he met with Police Chief Maye and Sgt. Cole about the need to launch a plan to help cut down on speeding in town. He suggested getting radar signs for Palisade Avenue by Cedar Lane and a few other spots. Chief Maye said that the radar signs will cost about \$2,000 including installation. They are considering lawn signs and a vinyl banner to remind residents to drive safely and videos on the website. The Police may visit the high school to talk to new drivers about safe driving. Sgt. Cole discussed a Road Guidance Plan that involves putting white and yellow lines on the road to make people feel like they are going faster than they are. He said it is important to make pedestrian crossings more visible, and to upgrade, refurbish, and replace signage concerning traffic. They will also be considering bicycle lanes. Sgt. Cole showed a picture of corrugated plastic lawn signs that residents could purchase, and Councilwoman Fede offered to donate the stakes for the signs.

Leonia Avenue – Mayor Kelemen said that he supports making Leonia Avenue a dead-end street. Police Chief Maye wrote a letter to the Teaneck Planning Board which agreed to make Leonia Avenue an emergency entrance only. Councilman Connors said that there is access to the property from behind the property in Teaneck. Councilwoman Fede said there is access from Palisade Avenue. Borough Attorney Betesh will look into making a dead-end street.

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

- 21-060 Approval of Creative Placemaking Plan
- 21-061 Tax Redemption for Block 07, Lot 06
- 21-062 Tax Redemption for Block 92, Lot 15
- 21-063 Tax Redemption for Block 04, Lot 9.02
- 21-064 Tax Redemption for Block 08, Lot 17
- 21-065 Tax Redemption for Block 66, Lot 15
- 21-066 Tax Redemption for Block 29, Lot 16
- 21-067 Refund of Duplicate Tax Payment to Block 25, Lot 22

Resolutions to be voted on Separately:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve the following Payment of Claims. Motion carried.

PC21-03 Payment of Claims

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

21-068 Hiring a Full-Time DPW Employee

The following Ordinance was Introduced:

#1556 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21B of the Code of Borough of Bogota, Entitled "Stormwater Control" (The Public Hearing will take place on March 4, 2021.)

Approval: Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the Minutes of 2/4/2021. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

Mayor Kelemen Appointed the following to the Board of Health with Council Approval. Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the following person to the Board of Health. Motion carried.:

Patricia McHale

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

Idalisa Demetriades said she has a petition with 100 signatures to make Leonia Avenue a quiet street. She thanked the Mayor and Councilman Connors for listening to the residents.

Amaru Bustamante wanted to give kudos to the governing body for using technology to take care of business and have the town involved.

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

Councilwoman Fede said that Police Chief Maye will be talking to Teaneck and she would like to know the results of the discussion. She is concerned with the Leonia Avenue issue.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen said that there are 697 reported cases of COVID in Bogota but still only 15 deaths. He said there was a big influx a couple of days ago probably from the Superbowl. He reminded everyone to wear masks and follow the CDC guidelines. He attended the governor's virtual conference on Thursday. He said the governor is expecting an increase in vaccines over the next two weeks. He said the State determines where the vaccines go. He suggested signing up with Holy Name Hospital, Hackensack Hospital, and Valley Health. The best time is between 11:30pm and 12:30am. He said that the Mid Bergen Regional Health received a \$2,700 grant reimbursement. The DPW did an awesome job with the last snowfall. He met with the Bogota Helping Hands for doing a great job helping the seniors and others in need of help. He said that they are wonderful kids raised by wonderful parents. He thanked the DPW for picking up all the cardboard in the streets on recycling day. They did a great job cleaning up the town. He would like to look into getting a grant for recycling cans for cardboard for the residents.

Councilwoman Granquist said that the DPW is out doing a great job tonight. The DPW Superintendent picked up more salt. Contractors were out today plowing, and there were no accidents.

Councilman Connors said that the Board of Education met on February 9, 2021, and they had a presentation from the New Jersey School Board on Ethics. Bixby School will be reopening soon. Basketball and Bowling are now in progress. Two parents can now attend games. Surveys are being sent to K-3 parents about going back to school 4 days a week. Sgt. Lynch is retiring, and February 25th will be his last day. He thanked Chief Maye and Sgt. Cole for their help with the traffic study. On February 10th, the Recreation committee started a fundraiser for Purple Ribbons to supplement programs. Football recruiting has started for 2nd to 8th graders. Cheerleading recruiting has begun

for 1st to 8th graders. The Recreation committee is hoping for Opening Day for Baseball sometime in late March.

Councilwoman Murphy said that the Planning and Zoning Board cancelled their last meeting due to nothing on the agenda, and the Library was discussed.

Councilwoman Carpenter had a zoom call with the new grant writers, the Police Chief, and Detective Sgt. Liriano. The police will be handling their own grants. The AFG grant was submitted. An open Space Grant for \$50,000 matching will be put in to finish off Fireman's Park. A letter of intent was needed. Chris Sprague will be the Millenium contact. The Youth Group grant is being looked into as well as the SAFER Grant. She asked Millenium to look into the TAP grant that was submitted by the former grant writers. Since body cameras will be mandated in a few months, Chief Maye and Sgt. Detective Liriano will meet next week in Elmwood Park to see what they use. The County had a regular meeting. FEMA is expanding COVID reimbursement grants, so she will send the information to the OEM Coordinator, Rob Foster.

Councilwoman Fede said that the Swim Club Lease has expired. The trustees were supposed to give their list of changes by the end of the year. She said that residents are talking on Facebook with concerns, and she would like the Borough to come up with a way to help residents be able to contact the Council members. She asked the Borough Administrator for an update on the Capital budget.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he received the Sol conservation permit for the Recycling Center which will be going out to bid for March 11th bid opening. He had a conference call with the architect and engineer. They are coordinating with Public Service etc for the Recreation Center. The memorial sign for Pat Browne was ordered. He will have the Capital budget info for everyone next week. The Basketball and Tennis Courts are waiting for permits. The plans are ready to go out to bid.

Borough Attorney Betesh had no report.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to go into Closed Session at 10:15pm. Motion carried.

When the meeting reconvened at 11:07pm, motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Granquist, to execute a contract for the purchase of 31 Fairview Avenue. Motion carried and the following Resolution was put on the agenda.

21-70 Execute a Contract for 31 Fairview Avenue

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to get an appraisal done on 31 Fairview Avenue. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda.

21-71 Do an Appraisal of 31 Fairview Avenue

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Connors, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:09pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook