



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, June 4, 2020 at 7:30pm.

Salute to 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 June 2, 2020.

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

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 Councilman Connors, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

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

- 20-093 Resolution to Confirm Endorsement of 2020 Community Development Project
- 20-094 Resolution Authorizing Appointment of Municipal Representatives to the Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee
- 20-095 Capital Budget Amendment
- 20-096 Memorialization of Last Chance Determination for Employee
- 20-097 Approval of Settlement Agreement and Release in Matters of Doss v. Bogota (GRC Complaint #s 2013-315; 2014-152; and 2017-217)

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the following Resolution which was Voted on Separately. Motion carried:

PC20-09 Payment of Claims

The Following Ordinance was introduced:

#1543 An Ordinance Amending Schedule XXII of Chapter 7-3.9 Regarding Parking Restricted on Certain Property

Public Hearing and adoption of the following Bond Ordinance took place:

#1544 Bond Ordinance for Leonia Avenue Phase V

Approval: -- Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors to approve Nataly's Kitchen 2's request for outdoor dining. Motion carried.

- Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve 101 Pub's request for outdoor dining. Motion carried.
- Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the Minutes of 5/21/2020. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, 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.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen reported that the COVID Memory Wall is up and running. He thanked Recreation Director Moore, Borough Administrator Scarpa, DPW Superintendent Kohles, and Assistant DPW Superintendent Craddock for making it happen. The Grand Opening of the Memory Wall was Tuesday. Council members Fede and Carpenter were in attendance as well as Police Chief Maye, Police Captain Piterski, Borough Administrator Scarpa, and Code Enforcement Officer Barese. The video of the event is on the website, Facebook, and Utube. COVID numbers in Bogota stayed in the 180s for two weeks. This morning the amount of people reported with COVID was 191 with 14 deaths. He continues to receive two reports, one from Bogota's Health Officer, Sam Yanovich, and one from the County. He said that the OEM ordered 25 wall mounted hand sanitizer dispensers for Borough Hall, the Library, the Recreation Center, the Fire Departments, and the Police Station. COVID testing at Bergen Community College will continue until June 30th. Testing at Newbridge Hospital has stopped. Bogota is still on the list for the mobile unit to come for testing. There is a second mobile unit for County run residential and health facilities. He requested that the second mobile unit go to Silver Maple Gardens (the County-run Senior Housing on Leonia Avenue in Bogota) as there is a need there. They will receive notification of when the unit will arrive. The "Mayor Meeting" conference calls with the County now are held every other week instead of weekly which is hopefully a sign of things improving. He heard that local hospitals are quiet and emergency room visits have thinned out. Summer camps, Libraries, Personal Care Facilities, Fitness Gyms, and retail stores are still in discussion. Graduations can take place after July 6th. There are no definite guidelines. He said that Councilwoman Murphy had asked when staffing will be permitted in the Library. Nothing was finalized. All the Mayors are frustrated. He said that a lot of roadwork is being done, and he reminded everyone to fill out the Census. The letter of intent for an \$850,000 grant for the Olsen Park track and field complex has been approved. Once the restrictions are lifted, he and Councilwoman Carpenter will attend the freeholders' meetings to request the grant. He is determined to get the fields renovated and the building done. He reported that Monday opened the virtual Week of the Arts at the schools which was started by Mrs. Burns many years ago. Bixby and Steen Schools are doing a great job with the children. He will be doing a virtual tour of Borough Hall this weekend to present on Wednesday to the Steen School third grade. He congratulated School Superintendent Kennedy, BOE President Kohles, teaching staff, parents, grandparents, and guardians for doing a great job in these challenging times. He said that he is very proud of the 2020 High School graduates who had so much taken from them, and he wishes them the best. The pictures of the graduates are beautiful. He said that – speaking for every Borough Department – there is no tolerance for racism or hatred. There is no discrimination. Bogota is a

good example of a tapestry of many different people working together to make a happy and health community.

Councilman Connors said there was no Board of Education meeting since the last Council meeting. Children are continuing to get lunches and breakfasts from the high school. The proposed shortfall with the state is a cut up to \$539,000. If schools do not open in September, there will be no Fall sports. Virtual Graduation schedule: Steen School on Thursday, Bixby School on Friday, and the High School will be June 16th. There will be a Recreation meeting on June 10th. Virtual Summer Camp will open July 6th. He congratulated the 6th graders who moved up to the high school. He thanked St. Joseph's Food Pantry. He said that the Pride Flag is hanging in Bogota. He sent his condolences to the family of George Floyd on behalf of the governing body. He congratulated the Bogota Police and Chief Maye for their professionalism and sensitivity.

(Mayor Kelemen reported that 1,692 items were collected and donated to St. Joseph's Food Pantry.)

Councilwoman Carpenter had to leave the meeting at 8:25pm to attend to a personal matter.

Councilman Napolitano said that he condemns all violence and he commended Chief Maye, the Police Force, and all first responders for handling all the challenges they encounter. He said that calls have been down 30 or 40%. The Borough has responded well to adhering to rules. He is very proud of the citizens of Bogota, and he said that Bogota is a tapestry of people that work together and blend together. He said that each graduating student at St. Joseph's received a \$100 gift card for Luka's Restaurant instead of having the dinner dance. This helped support a Bogota restaurant as well. He and Chief Maye are still discussing baseball cards with the police and first responders. It would be a good way to bond. The Chief said that the barriers may be removed from West Fort Lee Road since the flooding has stopped. There is better drainage. He congratulated Bruno Associates and the police department for being awarded a \$125,000 grant for hiring a police officer. He said that the Senior Citizens are having their needs addressed and are sheltering in place and staying safe. The Planning Board has an application for a Café on Main Street. He is impressed with the projects this year. 2019 Paving will begin soon on McDougal Lane, Lynn Court, Dunn Avenue, and Cane Street as well as 14 catch basins are being repaired. 2020 Paving will include Oakwood Avenue, Walnut Avenue, Fairview Avenue, West Broad Street, and Queen Anne Road. CDBG will fund the Central Avenue paving and Pine Street paving. Leonia Avenue paving will also take place. A recycling center is being planned. Main Street should be paved by the County as promised. The parking lot project came as a response to Fire Chief Greiner's concerns about parking for the fire-fighters. A new turf field and new community center are coming as well as new tennis and basketball courts. They should be breaking ground this for the community center. He will not be happy till these projects are completed.

Councilman Robbins had no report.

Councilwoman Fede said that the Community Garden is doing well. Every plot has been planted by committee members and new planters. Joe Balducci will repair some plots. We are happy to have him back. Mulch has been put in the front, and the garden looks nice. The Birthday rides will end June 15th. There were several dozen drive-by birthday rides. She attended a Storm Water meeting which is required for permit obligation, and she entered 145 points for Sustainable Jersey. Bogota Beautiful will be planting on Main Street this Saturday. Bogert Church made a request for help in obtaining a permit for a solar project. A resident in need of a fence permit requested help as well. She commented that the Memorial Day Ceremony was very nice as well as the drive-by which included police, fire, and rescue in honor of Memorial Day. She said that Englewood is opening on

June 15th, so we can bring them our plastic bags. Also, she saw that the executive order allowed picnic areas to open.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the retaining wall on Preston Street is not complete yet. Neglia Engineering thought it was completed. Leonia Avenue is not completed yet either. The Fixed Asset Inventory started today. He met with the railroad about taking down dead trees. The railroad will take down 4 trees and the Borough will take down 1 tree. There is a 33 foot right of way for the railroads. The graduation banner will go up on Monday. Library specs are done and the bids are due June 18th. The job should be completed by the end of August. Tax collection was extended to May 26th. The Borough had a 96% collection rate. The usual collection rate is 98%. The Memorial Day newsletter was mailed to all residents. He provided the photos for the newsletter. The Mayor's newsletter was great.

Borough Attorney Bossong had no report.

Borough Clerk Cook reported that she received an email from a resident who requested more CURB YOUR DOG signs. She said that the health department has also been requesting those signs. Councilwman Fede suggested contacting the grant writer to look into grants for the signs. Clerk Cook also received an email from the Rescue Squad for a replacement liaison because Councilwoman Murphy has not been able to attend any of the meetings. She reminded everyone that the rabies clinic will be held this Saturday and thanked the OEM for their help with social distancing. She said there will be a good group of people working at the clinic. She thanked Mr. Bossong for the work he did on the Doss case.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.