



COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, to be held at the Bogota Council Chambers, 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ, on Thursday, **April 16, 2020 at 7:30pm.**

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 April 13, 2020.

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

Mayor Kelemen asked for acknowledgement and respect in memory of Clifford Stahl who was a Bogota Councilman in the 1980s, Nick Zampetti who was a Bogota Councilman, Planning and Zoning Board member, and Environmental Commission member, and Ed Wiemer who was a long-time volunteer Bogota Fireman.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks.

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Discussion: -Status of New Community Center – The soil borings showed poor soil. Piles would have to be 35 feet deep in order to build a stable structure on such poor soil. Discussion took place concerning boring samples from other possible locations for the Community Center. It was decided that testing should be done at the site of the present Recreation Center as well as a location on the other side of the street.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve further geo-technical surveys at the present Recreation Center site and at a site across the street at a maximum cost of \$6,500. Motion carried.

-Borough Hall Hours: The Borough Hall hours of operation, beginning Monday, April 20th, will be Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10:00AM to 3:00PM until May 15, 2020 (Governor Murphy's date) when this will be re-addressed.

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

20-069 Designating a \$1,436,595 Bond Anticipation Note

20-070 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 07, Lot 18

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, after discussion took place about Neglia Engineering bills that were not paid in a timely manner and concern about the procedure for trimming trees:

PC20-06 Payment of Claims

Public Hearing and Adoption on the following Ordinances took place:

1540 An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal the Municipal budget Appropriations Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank

1541 A Multipurpose Bond Ordinance

1542 A Bond Ordinance for Pine Street

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the Minutes from 3/26/2020. Motion carried with Council members Carpenter and Murphy voting No.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to open the meeting to citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Sherry Solomov wished everyone well during this Pandemic and asked when the new Borough Hall hours will take effect and if the Building Hours are part of the Borough Hall hours.

Carmel Birney asked if the Council has is doing background financial checking on this new developer due to the pandemic.

Jorge Nunez was concerned with over one hundred thousand dollars from last year not paid until this year, and will it have an impact on this year's budget.

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

Council members Connors and Napolitano said that the new hours will start next week, and Building Department hours are the same as the Borough hall hours.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the money to be paid to Neglia is Capital Budget money from a bond. This year's budget will not be touched. Borough Attorney Bossong said that the current developer had to be vetted as part of the agreement and has sufficient finances for the project. There are no concerns of the project stopping due to lack of money. The developer and contractor have been in constant contact with the Borough Attorney to know what parts of the project can be worked on during the pandemic. Councilman Napolitano added that the Contractor is very large and has no financial concerns during the pandemic.

Borough Attorney Bossong reported that the Swim Club lease expired in February, and the Borough either needs to be renew the existing lease or enter into a new lease. He said there is a renewal provision for a two-year renewal. Since the Swim Club is shut down indefinitely, they requested restitution for the time they are closed. Councilwoman Fede said that they also requested a change in the payment schedule. Mr. Bossong asked that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss renewing the lease and changing the dates of payment on the lease.

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that Jim Moore will be shopping tomorrow to put together bags of food for families in town that are in need. He said that Jim Moore has gone above and beyond in helping seniors through this with food shopping, driving seniors to doctors

appointments, etc. Councilwoman Fede pointed out that Police Chief Maye is accepting food donations to help out those in need in Bogota. Councilman Connors asked that those who went above and beyond be recognized when this Pandemic is over. Mayor Kelemen agreed.

Borough Clerk Cook reminded everyone to follow the Open Public Meeting Act and explained that reports in the minutes cannot be changed because someone feels that the report was incorrect. What was said was said. If anyone wishes to correct something reported in the minutes, the time to do it is during approval of the minutes at the next meeting. That way, the correction can be put in the next set of minutes.

Councilman Connors said that the Board of Education is providing lunches for the students Monday through Friday.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that she attended the last Board of Education, and they are providing food to children in need in Bogota under the age of 18. The children do not have to attend Bogota schools to be able to obtain food. The BOE donated PPEs to Holy Name Hospital. The Governor is holding to the May 15th date for schools. Sherry Solomov is selling blue ribbons to make money to donate to Holy Name Hospital which is a great cause.

Councilman Napolitano said that the budget that was introduced at the last meeting may have to be re-introduced due to the changes in revenue and other budget amounts as a result of the coronavirus. He said there was a planning/zoning board meeting this week. He said that the police are doing a great job, and thankfully no one has gotten sick yet. The police donated lunch to Holy Name employees including pizza and chicken tenders.

Councilwoman Murphy said that the Ridgefield Park and Bogota Education Associations have coordinated with the three area hospitals and are donating dinners and lunches to the hospital workers using area restaurants.

Councilman Robbins said that the fire chiefs requested motion soap dispensers and foot pedal sinks in fire houses and possibly other Borough buildings. Mayor Kelemen said that they will look into it for all the Borough buildings.

Councilwoman Fede said that she and Councilman Robbins attended the Swim Club meeting, and the Swim Club mentioned rate abatement due to the virus. She said she participated in the twice a week Emergency Services Birthday rides for resident children that has been well received. This included Rescue, Fire, and Police. The sustainable Jersey application is due. She expressed her condolences to the family of Nick Zampetti who was on the Environmental Commission, the Planning and Zoning Board, and served as a Councilman. She said that she attended the Board of Education meeting and learned that the SLEOs will be meeting with the Police Chief about redeploying while the schools are closed. She reported that at least one recycling company is no longer accepting co-mingled waste, and she hopes our company does not do the same. She pointed out that the salary ordinance was passed at the last meeting, but the OEM has been working countless hours due to the coronavirus and should be provided for it.

OEM Coordinator Foster said that he received more hand sanitizer and sanitary wipes which were distributed to all departments. He is waiting for more PPEs from vendors. Shoprite in Hackensack is open at 6am for first responders. Costco in Hackensack is open Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6am for first responders. He is not sure when Swim Club can open, but they can do the prep work to be ready to open. Youth Academy will most likely be cancelled because events have to be scheduled far in advance.

Mayor Kelemen wanted to say that bringing light to the residents is great. He is grateful for this community. Citizens have been so cooperative and respectful. There is town pride, commitment,

and compassion. He said that a lot of good will has come from this pandemic. Bogota has many heroes working on the front lines or in their homes. The police donated food to Holy Name Hospital. Sherry Solomov is selling blue ribbons to raise money for Holy Name Hospital. Mr. Miranda provided 150 Easter hams for residents in need. Jim Moore has been food shopping for the seniors and for the food bank, as well as taking seniors to doctor's appointments. Emergency Services workers have been doing drive by birthday celebrations for quarantined children. Cooperation between the Fire Department, the Recreation Department, and Mr. and Mrs. Kearns made it possible for the Easter Bunny to drive around town on a fire truck. Bixby teachers prepared a u-tube video for their students. A young resident, Andrea Dume, is sewing hundreds of headbands that hold the masks in place and donating them to medical workers to protect their ears from the discomfort associated with the mask Mrs. Solomov's porch is loaded with snacks to be donated from this community to hospital staff. We are also supporting St. Joseph's food bank that serves all of Bogota. People are all working together which is great. The majority of people who have been infected are now healed. The community is running with no service interruption. Children are safe and being educated at home. In conclusion, he asked that everyone stay strong, follow the CDC guidelines, and support each other. He thanks the residents for their cooperation.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Connors, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.