



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 4, 2021 at 7:32pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Kelemen.

Mayor Kelemen then expressed his condolences to the family of Pat Brown, the former Senior Bus Driver, who recently passed away from an illness she had been battling for months. He said that she will always be remembered having a heart of gold and would help anyone in need. He said that she was the first person he presented the key to the city to her when she retired.

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, Murphy, and Robbins were present. Also attending was Borough Administrator Scarpa.

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

Tom Napolitano said he was sorry to hear about Pat Brown who was a wonderful person, and he gave a shout out to the DPW for a great job. He also thanked Rescue Squad Chief Wayne Sorge who cleaned up the whole neighborhood after the snowstorm. He said that four years ago a new Recreation Center was envisioned by him and other members of Council. He reminded everyone about past conditions at the Recreation center (broken chairs, bad smell, etc.) The tennis courts and basketball courts are in terrible shape as well. He said that now that the borough has the funding, the plans, and the Green Acres approval to build a new center and needs to move forward to make it happen. He also reminded everyone that children are still dying from the Opioid epidemic, and the COVID pandemic has made that worse. He also stated that he has an unblemished impeccable career as a professional engineer for over 30 years in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Florida. He said that any suggestion that he would intentionally ignore rules and regulations is simply paying politics. Please restrain from slanderous comments. As government officials, you are responsible for your words and accusations. Plans were presented to the Mayor and Council and posted on the website in October. Those plans were approved by Green Acres. Any comments from the governing body needed to be made at that time. Please focus on progress, not on personalities or politics, and get the Recreation Center built. He also gave a shout out to his children who will providing comfort to patients in the County hospital.

Sherry Solomov said that the weather has been bad. She thanked the DPW, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and Rescue Squad for their work during the snowstorm. She then talked about a group of stellar young students calling themselves "Bogota's Helping Hands" who reached out to her concerning helping the community. She was able to give them addresses of Seniors in need of snow shoveling, and they tackled every address on the list. There were a lot of properties

to be shoveled, and they must have been exhausted the next day. She said they are intelligent, pro-active, and are working for the betterment of Bogota. They have 13 members now and are lead by Shahem Albine.

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

Councilman Connors said that he was concerned about the accusations made against former Councilman Napolitano at the last meeting. He said that the Buildings and Grounds committee had a very productive meeting with the mayor and the architects etc. He said that the Buildings and Grounds committee will be meeting monthly with the Administrator to make sure everything moves forward. He applauded the students that Sherry Solomov spoke about, and said they are the best of Bogota. He said that the DPW did a great job.

Mayor Kelemen thanked former Councilman Napolitano for all the work he contributed to the Recreation Center. He said that the Buildings and Grounds committee meeting went well and Borough Attorney Bossong attended that meeting as well. He said that he is happy to see everyone working well together and moving forward. He is proud of the students who created the Bogota Helping Hands and he asked Sherry Solomov to set up a meeting with them to encourage them and acknowledge them for being role models for the other children in town. He also wanted to acknowledge the great job the DPW did during and after the snowstorm.

Discussion: -Recycling Center bid: Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to authorize the Administrator to go out to bid for the Recycling Center. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:
21-059 Authorization to Go Out to Bid for the Recycling Center

-Fireman's Park bid – Discussion took place concerning the two bids that came in for Fireman's Park. They were both much higher than the grant. It was tabled at the October 15th meeting. It may need to be redesigned at a lower cost. Possible changes could include eliminating fencing, eliminating the driveway for the Community Garden, and having the grant writer go out for more grants.

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

- 21-048 Endorsement Resolution for Bergen County CDBG Project Linwood Avenue Paving & Curbing
- 21-049 Authorizing Bogota Police Department to Participate in Defense Logistics Agency, Law Enforcement Support Office 1033 Program
- 21-051 Renew Shared Services Agreement for Animal Control Services with Bergen County
- 21-053 Appoint Ray Dwyer as Webmaster

Resolutions to be voted on Separately:

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

PC21-02 Payment of Claims

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

21-047 Approve updated Variance Application for Planning and Zoning Board

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

21-050 Hire Additional Sub-Code Officials for Atwater Project and Give Stipends to Current Sub-Code Officials for extra work on Atwater Project

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

21-052 Appoint Millenium Strategies as Grant Writer

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried with only Councilman Connors voting No.

21-054 Appoint NEGLIA Engineering as Borough Engineer

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

21-055 Appoint GJEM as Risk Manager

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Robbins , to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Fede voting No.

21-056 Appoint Linda Schwager as Alternate Prosecutor

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried with only Council members Connors and Fede voting No.

21-057 Appoint Lerch, Vinci, And Higgins as Borough Auditor

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried with only Council members Connors and Fede voting No.

21-058 Appoint Boggia, Boggia, Betesh, and Voytus as Borough Attorney

Approvals: Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the Minutes of 1/21/2021. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

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

Genesis Liu, the former Webmaster, wanted to say goodbye to everyone and thanked everyone for the opportunity to work with them. She said that she spoke to Ray Dwyer and that he will do a great job being neutral and impartial.

Rebecca Youla said that she is the newly elected chair of the Recreation Committee. She and Sherry gave a shout out to Jared Deutch for working on getting football off the ground with help from Tito. She also thanked Walter Fowler for getting the children involved in the Baseball program. She is hoping that this year will be a better year since the Governor has lifted more restrictions. She thanked the administrator for putting it on the board. She thanked the governing body for their tremendous support, and she will be leaning on the governing body for more support this year.

Ray Dwyer thanked the governing body for appointing him Webmaster. He thanked Genesis for her time and said that he will keep the website up to date and follow the same path as Genesis.

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

Mayor Kelemen said that he would like to be invited to the meeting with the parents of the athletes to give a greeting. He also said that he enjoyed talking to Ray Dwyer about the website. He thanked Genesis Liu for all her work throughout the years and wished her the best in her future endeavors.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen thanked Gordon Kohles and the DPW staff as well as the extra hands that helped to clean the streets on Sunday night and into Monday and Tuesday. He said that the town has come a long way and now has the proper equipment to get the job done including the hydraulic salter, the roll off truck, the new plows, new blades, and updated garages. He said there were three new cases with the Corona Virus bringing the total to 666 since last March, but there are still only 15 deaths. He reminded everyone to register online for the COVID vaccine. No one can receive the vaccine if not registered. He suggested logging on to multiple sites to have a better chance. He said that he will be on the Governor's call next Tuesday. The new executive order allows 35% indoor dining now increased from 25%. He said there is a Super Center at the Racetrack where the public is invited to register and be put on a call list for the vaccine. He said that he has received complaints about the ROBO calls, but the OEM is working on a new system to implement soon. He thanked the Council members who joined him last week for the swearing in of the new police officers, and he asked everyone to keep them in their prayers. He welcomed Mr. Betesh as the Borough Attorney for 2021, and he welcomed Mr. McArow as the Risk Manager for 2021. He thanked Craig Bossong for his years of service as the Borough Attorney and complimented Councilwoman Fede on achieving Sustainable Jersey. He asked the Council about making a decal to put on the Senior Bus in memory of Pat Brown.

Councilwoman Granquist thanked the DPW for a fantastic job. She said there were 6 full timers and 3 outside helpers and three accidents during the snow plowing. She said that the DPW needs more manpower, and there may be a County employee interested in working for Bogota. She attended her first Rescue Squad meeting, and learned that Rescue is requesting a new boat launch that it will maintain itself. Administrator Scarpa was asked to look into that.

Councilman Connors said that the next Board of Education meeting will be February 12th. School Superintendent Kennedy said that students returned to school after Martin Luther King's birthday. The hybrid model is being used. Bixby School found positive COVID cases and had to close. A high school senior, Ashante Cavines, signed a letter of intent with Monmouth College with a full scholarship. He congratulated Jared Deutch on doing a great job signing up students for football and cheering. He said that he had a wonderful lunch with the Police Department and will continue to meet with them. He said the police are running a youth writing contest for ages 16 to 18 on why it is important for community members to know the police. A chrome book is the first prize. He welcomed the two new police officers. He said that he and Councilwoman Carpenter have a great idea to help the Seniors. The Seniors can be taught how to use computers.

Councilwoman Carpenter thanked everyone for voting for Millenium as the grant writer. She said the County met on February 3rd. The Director of Human Services, Melissa DeBartolo was there as well as Julia Orlando. They discussed the Bergen County Code Blue Program.

Councilwoman Murphy said that she was not at the meeting when the Planning and Zoning Board went over the variance application due to a family emergency. She said that the Library Board will meet next Monday.

Councilman Robbins said that TANAAC said that at the last meeting they were still discussing the temporary flight plan over Route 17. He said there were no noise complaints for Bogota. He said that shoveling around fire hydrants must be cleared 4 feet. He would like the governing body to revisit the snow ordinance because there are streets that apparatus cannot get down if there is snow.

Councilwoman Fede said that she spoke to the Senior Citizen Club President about snow removal and fear of leaving their homes during COVID. They will not open their door. They would like to know what is going on in town and when Shred Day is. She will try to find a way to keep them informed. She went to see the Creative Arts Team meeting on Monday. They will be making a presentation at the next meeting. She said the Mayor and Council will have to endorse the Creative Place Making Plan. She explained that Bogota Beautiful is now part of the Creative Arts Team. They would like to continue Yoga in the Park and have a music event. They will not have clean-up day. She said that the Bogota School System registered for Sustainable Jersey as well. She would be happy to help them with that. She said that the Environmental Commission met on Wednesday and would like to have an Arbor Day Ceremony. They would like to plant a weeping willow tree in the park. Mr. Scarpa will look into that. She said that there was no tree loss during the last storm. She will have a lot of pictures and office furniture available soon for interested offices in the Borough.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he received the Holy Name Ambulance report. There were 43 calls in January, and the average response time was 7 minutes 45 seconds. He said it is ok to get DOT grant reimbursement for Pine Street for \$50,500. The total is \$202,000 for that project. Other grants include \$12,284 for Recycling enhancement and \$90,000 for Central Avenue and Dunn Street from Community Development. He said that the Fire Department internet service will be fixed tomorrow. He will get reimbursement from JIF for the sign for Olsen Park. He will look into signage for Pat Brown, the Boat Launch, the shred date, and the weeping willow tree. Lighting under the train trestle will be increased as well as Olsen Park lighting. There will be increased lighting at Olsen Park and the overpass etc.

Borough Administrator Betesh said that he is happy to be back working with the Council, the Mayor, and the Administrator.

Risk Manager McArow said that he, Ezio, and Matt are available by phone any time.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to go into Closed Session to discuss real estate. Motion carried at 9:37PM.

When the meeting resumed at 9:51pm, motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Granquist, to adjourn. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.