



Minutes of the 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 6, at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris.

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 December 23, 2017.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy, and Napolitano were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong, Borough Administrator Scarpa, and CFO Bock.

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

Lisa Kohles as President of the Bogota Board of Education requested crossing guards in front of the high school.

Michele Rugar asked if a decision had been made concerning the Sine die and the Re-organization meeting. She also asked the Council to elaborate when discussing the holiday decorations.

Genevieve Miranda expressed her support in obtaining a menorah.

Sherry Solomov said she was upset at hearing that there was a problem concerning the purchase of a menorah, and she supports the town obtaining one.

Connie Carpenter said that she received the requested percentage report. She questioned items on the transfer resolution and asked when the 2019 salary ordinance will be presented.

Robert Robbins said that he is confused about the Christmas tree purchase. He feels that the proper procedure was not followed.

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

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that getting a menorah is long overdue. The issue was the procedure followed.

Mayor Kelemen said that Councilman Mitchel had requested crossing guards, and he will talk to the Police Chief about the crossing guards. He said that he went to the League conference three weeks ago and purchased a 15 foot tree for the town, and that the Bogota Recreation Committee had approved paying for a Christmas tree. He bought it thinking that the threshold was \$14,000, not \$6,000. Also, to represent different faiths in town, he purchased a menorah and angel as well. He said that two years ago wreaths were purchased at the League Conference for \$8,000. He purchased the floor model Christmas tree marked down 10% and thought that he was under the

threshold for all three items. He called the company to see if the items could be returned, and the owner of the company said that they could although this was an unusual request. Since the tree by itself is under the threshold for quotes, the mayor asked if the tree could be voted on to be purchased. Borough Attorney Bossong said that since the cost of the tree falls under the threshold for quotes, it could be voted on by Council for purchase.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve the purchase of the Christmas tree. Council members Miranda, Fede, and Napolitano voted Yes. Council members Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, and Murphy Voted No. Mayor Kelemen broke the tie and voted Yes to carry the motion.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to purchase a menorah. Motion carried with Council members Gates-Ferris, Miranda, Macfarlane, and Napolitano voting Yes, Councilwoman Fede voting No, and Councilwoman Murphy abstaining. Councilwoman Fede voted No and Councilwoman Murphy abstained because Borough Administrator Scarpa said that it would be illegal to vote on the menorah since it was purchased by the same company as the tree which would put the total cost above the threshold.

Discussion of tree purchase: Councilman Miranda said that the artificial tree purchase was to be able to have a spectacular light show that one of the police auxiliaries was going to donate to the town for the pleasure of the community. He congratulated the Recreation committee for wanting to put on the light show. He thought the tree would be a good spot for families to take pictures with Santa. He also said that the artificial tree would mean less work for the DPW because the real tree has many issues. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that she did not see a need to spend money on an artificial tree when the town has a beautiful tree in front of Borough Hall. Councilwoman Fede thought that the artificial tree should go in the park by the Recreation Center since the Recreation Committee voted for it. She said that it is not the Council's role to determine what should be purchased for each department. It should be the department head's job to handle the business of each department.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

18-155 Endorsing Community Development Block Grant for Road Resurfacing

18-156 Endorsing Community Development Block Grant Project for Handicapped Park at Olsen Park

18-157 Hiring DPW Workers

18-158 Renew Bergen County Animal Control Contract

The following Resolutions were voted on separately:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to approve the following resolution. Motion carried.

18-159 Budget Transfers

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the following resolution. Motion carried.

18-160 Resolution Requesting approval of Items of Revenue – Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the following resolution. Motion carried.

18-161 Resolution Requesting Approval of Items of Revenue – Municipal Alliance

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve the following resolution. Motion carried.

18-162 Resolution for Dedication by Rider for Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Mayor Kelemen had to leave the meeting as he was called to the hospital on an emergency. Council President Fede took control of the meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to Introduce the following Ordinance. Motion carried.

#1520 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter VII Entitled "Traffic" Schedule XVII to Add Handicap Parking Space Near 61 Palisade Avenue Restrict Parking During Certain Hours Near 414 Larch Avenue and Establishing New Bus Stops on West Fort Lee Road.

Approval: Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve the November 8, 2018 Minutes. Motion carried with Council members Fede, Miranda, Macfarlane, and Napolitano, voting Yes, Councilwoman Gates-Ferris voting No, and Councilwoman Murphy abstaining due to being absent for the November 8th meeting.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris reported that Councilman Napolitano and his daughter, Eva, helped her to decorate the Christmas tree in Van Saun Park. She said that the Bogota/Ridgefield Park Rotary Club is having its annual tree sale in Ridgefield Park. The rotary Club donated \$4,000 to the DPW last year and this year is donating equipment to the Bogota Fire Department. The Library will have a meeting on Monday. The Library Director will be coming to January's meeting to talk about her Strategic Plan. She said that the 125th Anniversary planning is moving along well. Chelsea Coleman designed a website for it. The January 17th meeting will introduce the oldest and youngest Bogotian, the town logo, and the honorary chairman, Pat Shuber.

Councilman Miranda thanked the committee for the 125th anniversary for all their work. He said that the tree lighting is back on track. He reported that two years ago bogota made a deal with Little Ferry for Little League at a cost of \$2,500 per year. He reported that the police did a great job notifying residents of the Larch Avenue street closing for the tree lighting. He said that there was a recent meeting of the Crimestoppers who will be putting up banners, posters, etc. soon in Bogota. There are areas of crime and drugs in Bogota, and the Crimestoppers help with anonymous callers.

Councilwoman Fede reported that she attended the Veterans' Day Service at the VFW, and Wayne Sorge was chosen as Citizen of the Year. She said that she attended Trinity Lutheran Church's 100th anniversary celebration with the Mayor, and it was very well done. She thanked the DPW for their help with the Rescue Squad who cleaned out the basement of the Rescue building with help from some volunteers, and it looks good. She gave a copy of the Annual report for the Swim Club to the clerk to pass on to the new Swim Club liaison for the April 8, 2019 meeting. She said that 141 pounds of bags have been collected for bags for benches. She said the Rescue Squad conducted their door knocker annual appeal and have collected a few thousand dollars. The Environmental Commission is considering having a heritage tree contest. She said that Bogota Beautiful would like to be involved as a Creative team for Public Art and Music. She noticed one day that the football field at Olsen Park was under water, and she is concerned about the flooding.

Councilman Napolitano thanked the CFO for attending the meeting. He reported that the finance committee met and did a budget analysis. He said that the largest area of savings was in Legal Fees

because they were not all used this year, and the Moody's report shows Bogota in a healthy financial position with an A2 rating with a small debt and pension liabilities.

Infrastructure: Co-op paving for East Broad Street, Maplewood Avenue, and Larch Avenue was done in November. A retaining wall on Preston Street is in need of repair, and the engineer is looking into it. The embankment at River Road and Elm Avenue is collapsing. CSX is not responding to help with the conditions there. Federal, State, and DEP help is needed. Expenses were incurred as a result of the embankment issues. The Culvert and flooding is making the situation worse. The County will be there next year for the culvert, so hopefully CSX will address the problem then. The foundations are beginning at the River Club project, and the Contractor has his sign up. The developer paid the BCUA \$500,000 in permit fees. The Area Needs study is moving forward. Seniors: He asked everyone to pray for Ann Taylor and Madeline Banks who are both ill. He said that the Senior Citizen Christmas Party will be held on December 26th. He thanked Councilwoman Gates-Ferris for decorating the Van Saun Park tree.

Councilwoman Murphy reported that the Fire department reorganization meeting and Chief Election was held on December 1. She attended the meeting with Mayor Kelemen and Council members Fede and Macfarlane. She congratulated Alex Breuss, John Greiner, and Ken Kalmen. A dinner celebration took place at the firehouse after the election. She thanked Tony Culmone for his work as fire chief in 2018. She said that there are issues with the buildings and the fire truck will be revisited. She said the library director will attend a Council meeting in January. The next Library Board meeting will be December 10th.

Councilman Macfarlane said that thinking of the Veterans' Day service and the Fire Chief Election made him think of the wonderful volunteers in this town and the countless hours they serve to keep us safe.

Administrator Scarpa said that the Volunteers' Dinner will be held on January 5, 2019 at the Fiesta, and invitations will go out soon. He reported that Holy Name Ambulance answered 43 calls in November. He said the Moody's report is available for anyone who would like a copy. He said the BCUA shred program will take place after April 15th. He put Bogota's name in to get a date. He said the last Safety meeting of the year will be held on December 12th. The 2019 budget requests are due by the end of the year. One newly hired crossing guard quit, so he will discuss crossing guards with the Police Chief. The reorganization meeting will be January 3rd at 7:30pm. For the 125th Anniversary, letters were written to the President, the Governor, Senators etc. to be included in the journal. Sidewalk work is ongoing. The company will work through the winter doing lifts, but will not be able to pour concrete in the winter. He went to Washington DC to see the President lying in state, and it was impressive and a moving experience.

Borough Attorney Bossong had no report.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to go into closed session at 9:00pm. Motion carried.

When the meeting resumed, motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to add the following resolution to the agenda:

18-163 To offer the conditional office of employment to Kenneth O'Donnell and Luis Duentes for position of Patrol Officer.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.