



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota to be held on Thursday, October 5, 2017, in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Macfarlane.

Council President Napolitano requested that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of all those that died in the Las Vegas shooting as well as all remembering those who died or are suffering in Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida, Mexico and around the world.

Roll Call: Council members Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Murphy and Napolitano were present. Mayor Kelemen and Councilman Miranda were absent. Other Attendees included Borough Administrator Scarpa and Substitute Borough Attorney Morin. CFO DiMaria arrived later.

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, 2016.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to open the meeting to Citizen remarks. Motion carried.

Jesse Marino requested a crossing guard or police presence in front of the high school in the morning and at close of school.

Christine Mitchell reported that the speed limit sign that the police put on Cypress Avenue has helped stop the speeding cars.

Joe DeMauro, Bogota Fire Chief, invited the Mayor and Council, family and friends, to Volunteer Services night. He said there would be numerous demonstrations.

Motion to close Citizen Comments was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Motion carried.

Administrator Scarpa said that he will talk to the Police Chief about the high school. He said that more devices have been ordered to curtail speeding. Councilwoman Murphy said that an officer used to be assigned in front of the high school. Then the Vice Principal, Mr. Kennedy would go down there.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

17-146 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 75, Lot 1

17-147 Refund of Escrow for 349 Leonia Avenue

17-148 Change Order #3 for New DPW Building-New Trench Drain and Oil Interceptor

17-149 Change Order #4 for New DPW Building –New Overhead Door

17-150 Change Order #1 for CDBG Palisade Avenue Road Improvements Project, Phase II

17-151 Authorizing Engineer to prepare specs and go out to bid for Leonia Avenue Phase III

Approvals:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to approve the Pocketbook Bingo at St. Joseph's Academy on November 3, 2017 and to waive Borough fees. Motion carried.

Minutes of 9/21/17 were tabled, so Borough Clerk could add public comments on the public hearing of the amendment to the approved 2017 budget.

Reports

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris: DPW – She said that the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new DPW Building will be October 14, 2017.

Transportation – She reported that the next Transportation meeting will be held in a few weeks.

Councilwoman Fede: Finance – She explained that the Finance Committee is not responsible for getting the budget approved. The budget is prepared and presented by the professionals hired for that purpose.

Rescue – She reported that the Rescue Squad is tuning up the ambulance that they just acquired to be able to present it at Volunteer Night on October 10th. The Rescue Squad will also be participating in the Fall Festival in Olsen Park for generators. On November 19, 2017, the squad will be placing door knockers for a fund raiser. She also reported that the Volunteer Dinner will be held on January 6, 2018, and that spouses are included.

Environmental Commission – Bogota Beautiful will be having a fund raiser on October 28, 2017 from 7pm to 10pm. She reported that Sustainable Jersey is almost complete. Ridgefield Park's Creative Team is having an Autumn Concert on October 21st at 8:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church. There will be an Art **crawl** where people can go from one artist to another.

VFW – The VFW is choosing a Citizen of the Year, and the Women's Auxiliary is choosing a Young Citizen of the Year.

Councilwoman Murphy: Fire Department – She said that on September 11th, John Greiner was chosen as Battalion Chief for 2018. Mr. Pullman will provide specs for a new fire truck. Grant info is due in November. The Fire Chief was at a meeting with Congressman Gottheimer and learned that CSX will be training for oil spills, etc. for First Responders. The leaders, gutters, and roof for Engine 2 have not been repaired yet. Suez is working to expand from 4 to 6 inch mains which could be a month long project. She said the Safer Grant was denied because insufficient information was given by the grant writer. The firemen spoke about lack of parking and the need for professional input to enable equity of spots. She asked the ordinance for parking at the bank.

Councilman Macfarlane: Board of Health did not have a meeting.

Board of Education – There will be a meeting next week concerning pending litigation with the former Superintendent.

Library Board – He reported that the Library Director, Radwa Ali, is leaving for a new job. The Library Board met and set a salary range for a new Director.

Councilman Napolitano: Senior Citizens – The Flu Clinic was held in the Senior Center on October 3rd. The next Senior meeting will be on October 17th. They are having a

party for Pat Browne who retired after serving 25 years as the Senior Bus Driver.

Buildings and Grounds – He reported that the DPW building is moving along.

Infrastructure – The Midtown Bridge should be completed in December. The County referred to their February report on when the bridge would be completed. He said that 203 Queen Anne Road is scheduled for demolition. He said that the Police Department and Fire Department should meet with the Administrator about parking. The Borough does have an ordinance with Wells Fargo concerning parking spots. They will have to talk to the engineer about what can be done.

Finance – He met with the CFO and was told there were no withholding of state funds and no best practices penalties. There is a 0% tax increase. The CFO and the Payroll and Finance Specialist are **here tonight**.

CFO DiMaria: The year closed with a significant surplus. The next review by a rating agency is coming. The tax bills are going out with a 0% tax increase. There are no deferred charges and nothing problematic.

Administrator Scarpa said that the DPW buildings were deemed unsafe by the building official, but nothing was done to restore them in 2012, 2013, or 2014. Buildings were dilapidated and full of unusable equipment. The phone contract ends this year. I have gotten one price for \$16,000 and am awaiting another price.

There are two port-a-potties at the field for soccer games. New doors were installed in the bathrooms at Olsen Park. The bathrooms will be painted. Only two of the three companies that received the tree lists have responded.

Substitute Borough Attorney Morin had no report.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to go into Closed Session to discuss possible litigation. Motion carried at 8:15pm.

Meeting resumed at 9:00pm and motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:03.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.