



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, October 17, 2019 at 7:34pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by citizen Diane Searles.

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, 2018.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Councilwoman Murphy was absent. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Discussions: - Best Practices for 2019: Councilwoman Carpenter questioned several answers on the Best Practices Inventory including: the \$5,000 waiver for health insurance, a formal policy for using Surplus money, accumulative absence policy. Councilman Macfarlane questioned the administrative fees for off duty police officers.

Councilman Robbins questioned the if the borough website incorporates social media.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris questioned putting a limit on spending for professional contracts.

- Bogota Savings Bank's request for a clothing drive was removed from discussion until a written description is received from the bank.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

19-128 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 62 Lot 39

19-129 Disabled Veteran's Exemption for Albert Wolf Jr.

19-130 Approve Advertisement for RFQs

19-131 To Enter into CDBG Grant Agreement for Central Avenue Road Improvements

Resolution to be Voted on Separately:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter recusing herself from Roy Riggitano's check and from her check.

PC 19-10 Payment of Claims

The following Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinance took place:

#1534 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4 of the Bogota Code, Entitled "Buildings and Housing"
(Bamboo)

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Macfarlane, to approve the Minutes for September 19, 2019 and October 3, 2019. Motion carried with Council members Carpenter, Macfarlane, Napolitano and Robbins voting Yes, and Council member Gates-Ferris voting No.

- Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve Hose Company #2 requests for Joseph Kleiber to be incoming Battalion Chief for 2020 and St. Joseph's Academy's request for pocket bingo and a 50/50 Raffle to be held on 11/22/19. Motion carried.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Mayor Kelemen reported that he received a letter stating that there will be a public hearing in the County on November 7, 2019 at 7:00pm concerning the \$15,268 grant for Fireman's Park. He said that he would like to acknowledge at the Gala the people that did so much work for the Homecoming Weekend 10/4 – 10/6. (Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that she and Borough Administrator Scarpa were working on certificates for the next Council meeting for those people.) He thanked the DPW, the Rescue Squad, the Fire Department, and the Police Reserves for all the work they did to keep the 10/4 weekend safe and orderly. He thanked Mr. Scarpa for getting the fire engine for the nursery schools. He reminded everyone about the Fall Festival and told Councilwoman Carpenter to let him know if anything was needed for it.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris offered statistics from the Homecoming. She said that the Facebook page was launched on July 8th, and there are 2,000 active members. There were 1,288 posts, 18,000 comments, and 84,000 reactions. 262 wristbands were sold. 190 beefsteak tickets were sold. The Teacher Alumni Social had over 30 in attendance. The total cost for the weekend was \$8,803 with \$1,500 contributed by the Borough. The remainder was covered by the sale of wristbands, donations and other local and business community organizations. It was a wonderful positive experience for everyone. She said that she tried to get committee members here tonight to acknowledge them, but it will have to be at the next meeting. The last Board of Trustees did not have a quorum, but she is impressed by the library program attendance of over 4,000 with 277 programs and over 27,000 door count. There are 4,632 card holders. 1,500 passports were issued and there were 650 plus volunteer hours. She said that Chelsea Coleman organized a Strategic Plan for BUCCLS, and there is an email asking for support to increase State aid to libraries that people can send to members of the Legislature. She said that there is a long waiting list for ESL students because tutors cost \$1,875. The library director is looking for grants.

Councilwoman Carpenter reported that the Football program is requesting a budget line. It was explained that this cannot be done. Programs should be self-sustaining. The sled is rusted. Two lights will be repaired. Parts of the fence are damaged, and the bathroom doors need to be

repaired. She said that the Fall Festival is going well. There will be four food trucks parked on Main Street: Thai & vegan truck, hamburger/hot dog truck, Waffle truck, and an Empanada truck. There will be a band and singer all day as well as DJ Raul Lebron from town. There will be a Haunted House at the library. The participants will proceed to Steen School for a Ragamuffin parade down to Olsen Park. There will be a pumpkin patch, pumpkin painting, face painting, a petting zoo, a train, pony rides, and a dog adoption truck.

Councilman Napolitano reported that the police are working on a web-based overnight parking system. People will be allowed to request overnight parking for a limited number of days. He said that the Auxiliary Police are doing well. He pointed out that the ordinance limits the number of auxiliary police and the police would like that ordinance amended. He also said that there is a need for another police officer. He reported that BACSA will be holding a vaping session at the high school on October 29th for families, and BACSA is hoping that word gets out about the dangers of vaping. He said that the Seniors held an Advisory Board meeting and suggested better advertisement for the flu clinic. They were complaining about cars speeding and pedestrian safety. He said that the Seniors requested the Senior bus for the Gala night. He reminded everyone that Veteran's Day is November 11th.

Councilman Robbins reported that Engine 1 accepted Brendan Agnello as a Junior Fire Fighter. He said that the Swim club meeting will be held on October 29th at 7PM and the Teterboro Noise (TENAC) meeting will be held on October 30th at 7PM. He said that Code Enforcement would like everyone to remember that no political signs should be placed on borough property, on right of ways, or on vacant property without the owner's permission.

Councilman Macfarlane reported that the Board of Education met on Tuesday where Superintendent Kennedy presented the results of the NJSLA testing. He said it was discovered that they can predict math success through reading ability. It was found that although the students score well on English Language Arts, their reading scores are below grade level. More emphasis will be placed on reading. He said that there is a problem because the state requirement of needing a certain % to be able to graduate must be submitted in the ninth grade. Therefore, the students have no incentive to keep up their grades after 9th grade. Also, the top students in junior high go to Bergen Academy and Bergen Tech instead of staying in Bogota High School. They cannot entice them to stay in Bogota High School. He said that District goals include college Alternative Programs because college is so expensive and possible scheduling changes for school times because students have trouble performing early in the morning. He said that the auditor's report for the school was good, and the school board is looking into options for expansion for when the new buildings are occupied.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the Gala invites went out. He said that Battaglia gave him a proposal to be the tax collector at \$10,000 a year. Battaglia is the finance group for Bogota now, so this would be a cost savings. He said there is a long list of equipment needed for live streaming the meetings. He finally found a company who was willing to do the work and is waiting for a proposal. Hopefully, he will have the information at the November meeting. The specs for the Preston Street work will be available on October 22nd and the bid opening will be November 26th. The specs for the basketball courts will be available on November 26th and the bid opening will be January 7th. The Volunteer dinner will be held on January 4th. He spoke to Lauren in Congressman Gottheimer's office who will look into grants for a firehouse. The heater at Hose 2 will be installed next week.

Borough Attorney Betesh reported that he spoke to Planning/Zoning Attorney Kevin Kelly, who said that the board adopted a resolution accepting the proposed changes to the Zoning Code. The

Council will introduce an ordinance to begin finalizing the proposed changes at the next meeting. A resolution accepting the "Area in need of Redevelopment Study" may be presented at the November Council meeting as well for acceptance or rejection.

The Borough Clerk reminded everyone to follow the Open Public Meetings Act.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.