



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, September 21, 2017, in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Fede.

The Mayor asked everyone to remain standing after the flag salute to offer a moment of silence for all those suffering in Mexico, Florida, Puerto Rico, and all the islands that were devastated by the earthquake and hurricanes as well as their families and friends who live in town.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Murphy and Napolitano were present. Councilman Miranda was absent. Other Attendees included Borough Administrator Scarpa, Borough Attorney Bossong, Payroll and Finance Specialist Curran, and County Clerk John Hogan.

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.

Presentation: County Clerk John Hogan presented historical maps and miscellaneous paperwork from the beginnings of Bogota and surrounding towns in Bergen County. He gave the town a poster containing some of the historic papers.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to open the meeting up for Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Michele Rugar thanked the Mayor and Council for passing the resolution supporting overriding the Governor's veto. She asked the Council to request a copy of the report the Mr. Waters presented at the last meeting. She asked if Mr. Costa provided improvements to the County in order to obtain the million dollar grant.

Robert Poletta asked if the FOP represents itself at funerals or if they allow others to come as well.

Lisa Kohles asked why deposits were not made from Mr. Waters by certain dates. She asked why it was not a breach of contract.

Raul asked if West Fort Lee Road will be open soon and what was happening with the old Hess site.

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

Councilwoman Murphy asked why the town is not doing something about the breach of contract by River Development. She said that until the property is closed upon, nothing can happen. She said that the old Hess site and the Sifford site are where the 421 units will be built. Borough Attorney Bossong explained that the developer received the approval from the County the end of June or beginning of July which has a 45 day appeal. Time lines were extended. He is looking to make a deposit once financing is in place. Councilman Napolitano said that the \$125,000 is part of the community enhancement money negotiated by the town with the developer. It is costing the town nothing to wait. It is in the Borough's best interest to wait for him to close in 60 days. Administrator Scarpa explained that Mr. Costa went to Trenton with the County to present his improved plan. The change will shorten the amount of time the road will be closed – one month

to six weeks instead of 9 months. West Fort Lee Road will be paved by Teaneck. East Fort Lee Road will be paved when the DPW building is completed. CSX is in charge of the railroad bridge. They do not want anyone to cross it. The \$125,000 was removed from the budget.

The following Resolution was approved:

PC17-09 Payment of Claims

Public Hearing on Amendment to 2017 Approved Budget and Final Adoption of Budget:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to open the public hearing on the Amendment to the 2017 Approved Budget (Resolution 17-143). Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Murphy, to close the public hearing on the Amendment to the 2017 approved Budget. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to adopt the 2017 budget. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:
17-145 Final Adoption of the 2017 Budget.

Approval:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the 9/7/17 Minutes. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Gates-Ferris voting "NO".

Reports

Mayor Kelemen said that the St. Joseph's Carnival is an affair for the whole town, and he thanked the Rescue Squad, the Police, the Auxiliary Police and the OEM for all their work to make the Carnival safe for everyone. He said that he is bringing back the volunteer dinner to give recognition to all the volunteers in town who work so hard and deserve our appreciation. He and Councilman Napolitano met with the new pastor of St. Joseph's Church to discuss the community and having strong community spirit. He rode around town with the Police Chief to see needs and improvements in the town. He saw the children playing on the soccer field, the newly paved roads, and the new sweeper. He spoke about the disaster in Central America, and he spoke about his commitment to attack drug addiction. He and Councilman Napolitano met with an outside company that can help. He also met with a therapist who wants to help.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said she had no updates on Transportation or the DPW.

Councilwoman Fede – Environmental Commission: Bogota Beautiful's Street Fair was successful. Bogart Memorial Church and the Rescue Squad participated. PSE&G provided electronic copies of all accounts to enable her to complete the Sustainable Jersey application.

Swim Club – The Swim Club meeting took place. Jeff Clark, Steve Brown, and Deگو Suarez attended. They were not ready to present the updated amendments they had mentioned. Turnover of the parking lot needs to be addressed. There is a lot of growth by the Board of Education fence. They would like to know the exact address of the Swim Club, so the tax assessor will be asked. They requested to change the meeting dates to April, July, and September instead of May, July, and September.

Councilman Napolitano – Infrastructure: The Midtown Bridge is moving forward. Some of the work is completed. They are waiting for material. A couple of residents complained about speeding on Cypress Avenue, so maybe more signage can be put up. The Co-op paving is completed and it did

not interfere with the opening of school. East Fort Lee Road will be completed when the DPW building is completed. He said that he is still waiting to hear about the Transportation Alternative Grant. Borough Hall is getting new carpeting. The Recreation building is due for a coat of paint. The interior walls take a beating. The Park is in good shape. The new ordinance about uninhabitable houses is in effect. A petition has been filed by concerned residents about 203 Queen Anne Road. The petition will be given to the Construction official.

Senior Citizens: He said that the Seniors addressed few issues: pruning the trees, applying for handicapped parking, enforcement of overnight parking rules, and the senior picnic at Van Saun Park.

Finance: He announced that today was the new Payroll and Finance Specialist's first day. She will be reporting on inconsistencies and investigating some issues. The CFO's term will be up at the end of the year. This Mayor and Council inherited the CFO from the former administration. The present Council voted unanimously to keep the CFO for his full term. He mentioned an organization, Just Inspire, that can get grant money for fighting drug addiction. His sister is a guidance counselor and is going to help him complete the questionnaire to apply for the grant. The Police Chief filled out one part and the Superintendent of Schools will fill out a part as well. It is a flexible grant to be used for what can work for our community.

Councilwoman Murphy – Fire Department: She said that the next meeting is October 4th.

Councilman Macfarlane – Board of Health: He said that the Board of Health is a well-oiled machine. Summertime gets crazy with complaints. There are seasonal Spikes.

Board of Education: He attended one of the last two meetings of the Board of Education. The playground is just about done. The repairs of the windows at Bixby School have begun. The School received a high score on a self- assessment on combating bullying.

Library: The Summer Program was successful. The Library is requesting fixing up the bathrooms and adding a changing table etc.

Administrator Scarpa said that the architect is looking into a changing table etc. for the Recreation Center bathrooms. He contacted the cleaning company as well. He is looking into purchasing a new fire truck next year for \$500,000. There is a problem with the height of the new truck. Our truck is two feet shorter. We will get more details when the Capital Budget goes out. There will be an open house at Borough Hall. The Ambulance auction has been started and is on until October 20th. He said there is a problem with the planned locations of the car charging stations. October 28th is the Fall Festival.

The Mayor announced that Bergen County is having a Fall Festival at Van Saun Park. There is a County Job Fair on October 6th. If anyone has street light issues, they should notify the police department.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to go into Closed Session to discuss Litigation. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda at 9:15pm.
17-145C Closed Session

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.