

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, July 20, 2017 in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:00PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Macfarlane.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council Members Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, and Napolitano were present. Council members Miranda and Murphy were absent. Also attending were Borough Administrator Scarpa, Borough Attorney Bossong, Labor Attorney Giblin, and Grant Writer Steve Welsh.

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 July 17, 2017.

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

John Mitchell asked why other towns get so many more grants than Bogota. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the completion of Palisade Avenue and West Shore Avenue.

Motion to close Citizen Remarks was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane.

Councilman Napolitano said that Bogota has received about half a million dollars in grant money over the past three years for road repair including the grant for Leonia Avenue and the grant for Palisade Avenue. He said that there is a large Transportation Alternative Grant pending approval. He reported that the Safe Routes to School Grant will be submitted again.

Motion to open the Public Hearing on the Open Space Trust Fund Municipal Program for Park Improvement was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried.

John Mitchell supported improvements to the basketball courts and tennis court at Olsen Park. He asked if new lights would be installed as part of the improvements.

Motion to close the Public Hearing on the Open space Trust fund Municipal Program for Park Improvement was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried.

Grant Writer Steve Welsh explained that Bogota is proposing an application in the amount of \$546,981.50 for improvements to one tennis court and two basketball courts at Olsen Park in order to increase utilization of these facilities. The improvements include resurfacing the basketball and tennis courts, new drainage, new basketball hoop systems and a new tennis court net. The Borough is requesting \$210,377.50 from the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund Municipal Program Park Improvement program, with the Borough's share being the remaining \$336,604. Mr. Welsh noted that this public hearing was advertised twice in The Record to give the public the opportunity to comment.

The following Resolution was approved:

17-120 Municipal Endorsing Resolution for Bergen County Trust Fund Application

Discussion:

Borough Attorney Bossong explained that ordinances need to be introduced at the next meeting to update the Affordable Housing Fees and for updating COAH rules etc. He told everyone that a Municipal Liaison must be chosen as well as an administrative agent. He said that the Municipal Liaison should be a Borough employee and suggested using Bergen County Housing Authority as the Administrative Agent. Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to appoint the Borough Clerk as Municipal liaison and to use Bergen County Housing Authority as the Administrative Agent. Motion carried.

Mr. Bossong said that Resolutions would be presented at the next Mayor and Council meeting to address affordable housing issues.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were Approved:

PC17-07 Payment of Claims

17-121 Supporting the 2017 Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Statewide Labor Day Crackdown

17-122 Appointing Keith Dalton as New Fire Sub-Code Official

17-123 Re-appointing Daniel Howell as Construction Official

17-124 Authorizing Appointment of Municipal Representatives to the BCCD Regional Committee

17-125 Authorizing Borough Administrator to Advertise for a Crossing Guard

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinances took place:

#1499 Amending Chapter II Section 10.5 Entitled "Fire Department Membership Qualifications and Application Procedures" to Increase the Retirement Age from Seventy-Five to Eighty Years of Age

#1500 An Ordinance Amending Chapter II Entitled "Administration" to Create subsection 17A Entitled "Payroll and Financial Specialist"

The Following Approvals Took Place:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the request by Carol Nicolay of 228 Beechwood Avenue for a Block Party on August 19, 2017 from Noon till 9:00pm which will require closing down Beechwood Avenue from Queen Anne Road to Dunn Avenue for that time period. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to approve the Minutes from 6/29/17. Motion carried with Council members Fede, Macfarlane, and Napolitano voting YES and Council member Gates-Ferris voting NO.

Reports:

The Mayor thanked the Police, the Police Auxiliary, and the Rescue Squad for all their work on the 4th of July to keep Bogota safe. Congratulations to the Swim Club for running well and having no problems.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris had no report but noted that she will be attending a Transportation meeting next week.

Councilwoman Fede: Swim Club – She attended the July meeting of the Swim Club and said there were no issues or concerns. She said that the lease is up for renewal next May, and the Swim Club will submit some amendments for review.

Rescue Squad – The Rescue Squad participated in the Ridgefield Park 4th of July Parade. Rescue Squad is continuing water training, and they offered to help with tree take-downs.

Senior Citizens – She attended a Senior Citizen meeting to instruct the Seniors on

fire safety in their homes including helping them attain carbon dioxide detectors, etc.

Environmental Commission – She attended a “Right Tree Right Place”

Seminar and learned about the Emerald Ash Borer that is infesting ash trees and killing them. There are three infested trees on Larch Avenue right now which need to be removed carefully so as not to spread the disease. It will be expensive.

Bogota Beautiful had a meeting. They will be having Movie Night on Saturday from 8:00pm to 10:30pm at Bogart Memorial Church. The rededication of the Community Garden will take place on August 5th at 5:00pm. The party for the event will run from 4:00pm till 8:00pm. There will be a block party By Bogart Memorial Church with Council approval. Yoga in the Park has been extended through August. Sustainable Jersey has been partially accepted She is confident that Bogota can continue with Sustainable New Jersey.

Councilman Napolitano: Finance - He said there are grant applications for police and fire in the works as well as the Transportation Alternative grant. He spoke to Freeholder Ganz and requested his help in attaining those grants. He is requesting A summary report from the grant writer.

Buildings and Grounds - The Midtown Bridge is gone. He called the County to ask when it would be back and was told it would be completed in December. Palisade Avenue is 99% completed. The DPW building is coming along well. The steel is being installed. He mentioned that DPW Superintendent Kohles has been a great help with the construction because he knows the town so well. Phase I and II are complete for Leonia Avenue. Co-op paving is out to bid for Fort Lee Road, Grey Street, and a piece of Larch Avenue.

Senior Citizens – He reported that the Seniors were pleased with Councilwoman Fede’s presentation on Fire Safety. He said at Lynn Dematrakis did chair yoga with the Seniors which was well received.

Planning & Zoning – The draft Master Plan is being assembled. The final Master Plan will be presented to Council.

Recreation: Recreation Summer Camp is doing well. There are great trips planned. Athletic Director DeRupo made sure lines were drawn on the soccer field. The field is coming along nicely.

Councilman Macfarlane: Library Board & Board of Health had no meeting.

Recreation Committee – He said that Summer Camp has between 50 and 60 children and more are expected. On July 28th the movie “Boss Baby” will be shown in the park. The new sign in front of the Recreation Center will be up and

running soon. New park signs were installed. A "special needs" swing will be installed at Olsen Park at the request of the Mayor. Forty children showed up to sign up for soccer. Private soccer groups are using the soccer field.

Board of Education - He said that a special meeting was held with the new Business Administrator. The Board Attorney contract was terminated and an interim attorney was hired.

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that the new position is being advertised on the League of Municipalities website. He will present resumes to Council for review. The new sweeper is being produced. The Pascack Valley Road Paving Project went out to bid on July 7th. The bid opening will be on July 27th at 11:00am. Six towns are participating in the program this year. New signs were installed at Olsen and Pagano Parks, and Petrik Park will get a new sign as well. A walk through was done for the new security system. The Borough received \$80,000 in grant money for Palisade Avenue road work. A bed is being installed around the electric sign to protect it. September 15th is the new completion date for the DPW building. A grant application for a police grant has been submitted for three years' salary up to \$120,000 for a police officer. Superintendent Kohles will be filling in pot holes at the Swim Club. One treatment was needed for the front of Borough Hall.

Borough Attorney Bossong said that a Tax Appeal Settlement for a property (the Golf Center) located in two towns has been completed, and a resolution will be on the agenda for August 3rd for authorization. He has one litigation item for closed session.

Borough Clerk Cook explained that as the Registered Municipal Clerk, it is her responsibility to create an accurate summary of each Mayor and Council meeting so that anyone reading it in the future will be able to see what occurred. She was taught to use the agenda as an outline and build on that. When she finishes, she listens to the recording of the meeting to ensure that she covered everything appropriately. Things said at a meeting that are not connected to the agenda need not be in the minutes. Closed session items will not appear on the agenda or in the minutes.

Labor Attorney Giblin explained that the Council waited 30 days since Ross Wagner spoke at the June 20th meeting. No medical documentation has been presented to the Borough for the last four months. Chief Maye requested termination of this employee because he is a full time dispatcher and has been out for over 14 months. All of his leave time has been used up, and he is not being paid or receiving benefits. The process for termination is approval of a resolution.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to go into Closed Session to discuss litigation and personnel. Motion carried and the following resolution was added to the agenda at 8:00pm:

17-125C Closed Session

At 8:26pm, motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to return to the open session.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to terminate the employment of Police Dispatcher Ross Wagner. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:

17-126 Terminate Ross Wagner as Full-Time Police Dispatcher

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.