

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 3, 2019 at 7:37pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Robbins.

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, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

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

Rosemary Gasiewicz said that the Seniors are looking forward to the construction of the new Community Center. She thanked the Council in advance.

Elbra Cabrera requested details of the Recreation Center and details on the firehouse. He asked what the plans are for the football team. The uniforms are in bad condition.

Mike Connors asked Mr. Scarpa for an update on the project for the basketball courts. He asked about the attorney fees. He asked if bamboo and psychic healers in ordinances are things being made up for him to make money.

Joseph Shuler commended the Mayor and Council on the Noise Ordinance. He requested that the 7:00am start be changed to 8:00am.

Raymond Henry asked how the elections run. He asked the Council to explain the process to everyone.

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

Borough Attorney Scarpa explained that the Borough Attorney is asked to review ordinances that may be outdated. He said that Neglia Engineering said that the plans for the basketball courts are done and will be going out to bid. He explained that Bogota has a Borough form of government, and we have Partisan races. Every year there are two council seats up. The mayor's term lasts four years. This year we have three complete tickets - Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Councilwoman Murphy said that the firehouse meeting took place on September 20th with the following committee members: Council members Murphy, Robbins, and Napolitano, Mr. Scarpa, Fire Chief Breuss, and the architect. She said the Council voted to have the architect make schematics for a new firehouse and for renovations, and a phone conference update will take place

on October 16. The architect will make a presentation in mid-November. Surveys from the engineer will be provided. She said that today is the public hearing on the bond ordinance for the Recreation Center. A Resolution to make a stakeholders committee is on the agenda. This committee will consist of about 7 members of the community to meet and discuss the plans for the Recreation Center. Councilman Napolitano said that the Recreation Center had a rendering with a floor plan at an Open Public Meeting about a year ago. The design was displayed for months. He doesn't understand the need for a stakeholder's committee if the presentation will be made at a public meeting where the public can comment. He said that the new architect requested a limited group and said not to delay. He said that this committee should have been put together last year when the other architect created schematics, and he feels that we are wasting money having new schematics created when we have the schematics from last year. He said that looking at the basketball court still in disrepair is another missed season. The Mayor said that he gives credit to the Administrator and the Recreation Director who were involved in the original drawing. Councilman Robbins asked if the original drawings will be shown to the stakeholder's committee. Mr. Scarpa said that some changes could be made on the original plans to save \$200,000 such as eliminating the second floor, and the new architect still has to draw up the plans. Councilman Napolitano said that all of that had been discussed last year when a firm was hired to see where money could be saved.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that the current noise ordinance has 6:00am which is being changed to 7:00am.

Mayor Kelemen said that he gives Moses a lot of credit for getting the youth football going. He hopes the Recreation Committee can work on improvements for next year. He said we should have seminars for the parents to explain what dangers do and do not exist in football. The Recreation committee should work with the Director to get new equipment and uniforms, and the high school field needs to be repaired. He feels the fence should be taken down between the High School field and Olsen Park to create a legitimate soccer field, football field and track. He believes that a nice sports complex would attract students to play sports.

Councilwoman Murphy said that the noise ordinance rolled back 11:00pm to 10:00pm.

Discussion: Firehouse: Councilwoman Murphy said that the schematics are being worked on now, and the architect reviewed them with Fire Chief Breuss to go over square footage etc. There will be a telephone conference in two weeks. A presentation will be made to the full Council in mid-November. Councilman Napolitano said that he feels a stakeholder committee should be formed now for the firehouse. He said that the firemen differ on what they believe the needs are for the future of the fire department, so a round table would be a good idea. He suggested making the firehouse a referendum item since it will be paid entirely by tax dollars and could cost \$1.5 million or \$6.5 million. Mr. Scarpa said that referendums are non-binding.

Heater for Firehouse Hose #2: Mayor Kelemen said that they need to purchase a heater for Firehouse Hose #2 to keep the pumper from freezing and because to sell the property, a heater must be present. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris to purchase a heater for Hose #2 for \$15,000. (Quotes will have to be obtained.) Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Truck – Mayor Kelemen suggested purchasing a combination pumper/hook & ladder truck which is allowed by state law. It would save the town a lot of money and a 4-bay firehouse would not be needed.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

19-121 Hiring a Part-time Crossing Guard Kathleen E. Burke 364 Elm Avenue Bogota

19-122 Authorization to Advertise for Bids for Preston Ave Wall Project

19-123 Emergency Sanitary Sewer Repairs on Roadway

19-124 Emergency Catch Basin Repairs on East Fort Lee Road

19-126 Group Affidavit for 2018 Audit

The following Resolution was approved after Councilwoman Carpenter questioned when the Fixed Asset Inventory will be done, when the CFO will cancel outstanding checks, why RFQs were not available to the auditor and if the Borough uses Petty Cash:

19-125 Corrective Action Plan for 2018 Audit

Mr. Scarpa said that Fixed asset inventory will be done this year. The CFO will take care of outstanding checks in November. Petty cash is used. He said the architect's RFQ was missing, but the clerk does not remember that being missing at the time of the audit. She believed the planning and zoning board attorney and engineer may have been missing because they were approved by the Planning Zoning board.

The following Resolution was approved with amendments allowing 1 Council member, Borough Administrator, Recreation Director, member of Board of Education or a representative, representative of the Bogota Public Library, a member of Senior Citizens group, and a member of a Local Community Organization :

19-127 Resolution to form Stakeholder Committee for new Recreation/Community Center

The following Ordinance was introduced:

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

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinances took place:

#1532 Bond Ordinance to Authorize the Construction of a New Recreation/Community Center at Olsen Park

#1533 Ordinance Amending Chapter 3 of the Bogota code, Entitled "Police Regulations" (Noise)

Approval: Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the Minutes from August 15, 2019. Motion carried with Councilmembers Carpenter and Gates-Ferris voting No, Councilmembers Napolitano, Macfarlane, and Robbins voting Yes, and Councilwoman Murphy recusing herself because she did not see the minutes.

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

Elvin Cabrera asked what the Mayor and Council are doing to help local businesses. He asked for signs to make people slow down when speeding through the town. He asked for improvement in the High School to make students want to go there. He asked why the town did not purchase the Buddy's Place property. He asked what incentive is the governing body giving to people to make them want to join the fire department. He said the firehouse should not just be a hangout.

Joe Shuler said that he moved to Bogota in 1969. He said that three men were killed in Vietnam and the town should put up a Vietnam memorial for those three men. (Graft, Ryan, and Smith)

Ray Henry asked what impact the new apartments will have on the School system. He also requested speed bumps for the road by Olsen Park. He also asked how the community can get involved in building the Recreation Center.

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

Mr. Scarpa said that the bars in the firehouse were built from their own funds, not tax dollars. Councilman Napolitano said that Mr. Scarpa will work on a memorial for Vietnam soldiers who died in war, and that the County is working on a monument for the Ryan bridge. He said that the downtown area is an issue, and he hopes the new development will revitalize the town. He pointed out that the adult day care facility is a beautiful business after being a vacant building for many years. He said the Zombie house on Queen Anne Road is gone, and neighboring residents are happy. He said that the area in need of redevelopment brings hope for better things. A study was done to determine the impact on schools. Councilwoman Carpenter said that a study was done by the Board of Education to see the impact of the new development on the schools. Councilman Napolitano said that the plans for the new Recreation building were discussed at a public meeting that went on until midnight. Mayor Kelemen said that he was against the development at first, but he spoke to the superintendent of schools who told him that the schools could handle the influx of students. He said that a traffic study was done by Rutgers. A speed bump have been put in by Olsen Park. He will talk to the Police chief about speeding there. He said that the Chamber of Commerce used to be strong, but two and a half years ago, when the Hackensack Chamber of commerce came and asked if our businesses would like to join their group, The response was very poor. We have no control over the schools. People need to attend the Board of Education meetings to request improvement in education. The Rescue Squad and Auxiliary police have grown, but for the fire department, people will have to ask the fire chief how they can increase the number of volunteers.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen sent his respects to Hector Liriano and his family. He thanked borough Administrator Scarpa, Councilman Napolitano, Jim Moore, Freeholder Ortiz, the DPW, and the Recreation Center for the great dedication of the new handicap park on Tuesday. The playground was dedicated to Jo-jo Brennan, a handicapped child from Bogota who lost his life last year at the age of 9. He reminded everyone that this weekend is the big homecoming weekend. He thanked councilwoman Gates-Ferris and Tax Assessor Patrick Wilkins for all the work they did to make this weekend a success. He also thanked the Police Department and the Fire Department, and he is hoping and praying that everyone stays safe. He said that he will provide names for the Stakeholder's Committee and the Creative Arts Team at the next meeting for Council approval. He said that a man in town who works at Lowes told him that Lowes offers a Hero's Program to provide help in the form of time and labor to seniors and handicapped individuals in town. He said that this year is full already, but if there was someone in an immediate need of a ramp or some other ADA compliance, he would try to make it happen.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that the next library meeting is on October 7th. She is looking for volunteers for the 125th Homecoming Weekend. Volleyball will be from 4pm to 6pm on Friday. The Beefsteak Dinner will be at 6pm. Saturday morning will be an Open House at the schools. The bus tour will be at 10am which Ray Sanchez will videotape. Saturday afternoon will be the Football game. The after-party will be at the 101 Pub Saturday evening. Sunday morning will have the Fun Run and the Closing Ceremony. The Gala will take place on November 14th at which time Betty

Wiemer will be honored for 36 years of service to the Borough. She thanked Patrick Wilkins, Pat Rochford, and Lou Kern for all their work for making the homecoming a success.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that three vendors submitted applications for the Fall Festival. She requested that the Fall Festival be put on the electronic board. She said there was a large sewer collapse on Roadway. The bucket truck is on order. She asked if ads were going out for DPW workers. She has a meeting with the County on October 16th.

Councilman Napolitano asked if there was a permit application for using the Little League field. (Councilwoman Carpenter said that there is an application and they have to provide insurance. Recreation Director Moore approves it.) He said that a DPW truck was being used by a private landscaper. (Mr. Scarpa said that the vendor who repaired the truck used it, and the Police will report him to the Consumer Affairs Division.) He reported that the Flu clinic was held in the Senior Center on October 1st. The Seniors are looking to replace an advisory board member. He said that BACSA arranged for a vaping session at the high school on September 24th which was well done. On September 26th, BACSA had a table at Back to School Night. Councilman Napolitano, Detective Devin Rivera, and the SLEO were there. On October 29th, there will be a presentation for parents on vaping which has now claimed 14 deaths. He is proud to say that BACSA is working hard to get information to the parents and the children about the dangers of vaping. The monument for Ryan is being manufactured now. He sends his regrets to Hector Liriano on the passing of his father. He said that private duty officers have earned a half a million dollars this year of which the Borough receives \$200,000. He said it would be a good idea to have a regional meeting with other towns to discuss traffic issues. He said that a way to attract people to Bogota is to see that over the past 5 years there has been sound financial management, and the tax base is steadily increasing. There is a \$100,000,000 project in the works.

Councilwoman Murphy said that there was a Planning/Zoning on September 24th, but she was unable to attend. The only matter was litigation discussion. The next meeting will be on October 8th.

Councilman Robbins said that he attended the Board of Health meeting. The Health officer said that there was a not of influenza, and the CDC said that the flu vaccine was 47% effective. The Board of Health received 36 complaints, and a large number of those were for overflowing garbage, a pool filter, and stagnant water. He said that the Swim Club meeting will be on October 29th. He commended the Rescue Squad for their work at St. Joseph's Carnival.

Councilman Macfarlane said that he is pleased with the CFO and the finance agency. He thanked the Council for approving the Corrective Action Plan. He reported that 70.5% expenditures for the year have been used so far which is not bad considering that it is October and many expenses have to be paid early in the year. He said that the Board of Education has not met since making the plans for the future. He said that the Board of Education is aware of the possibility of growth due to the new development and will not be caught by surprise. They are considering an addition to Steen School. K to 3 will go to Bixby, and 4 to 8 will go to Steen School as a possibility in the future.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to close Larch Avenue from West Main Street to the Teaneck border 3:30pm to 7:30pm on Halloween.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the SLEOs are doing well. The trailer was taken away from the DPW yard. Dan Howell and his wife and daughter are working on putting files away in the building department. The Gala will include a commendation to Elizabeth Wiemer for 36 years of

service to the borough. The garbage bids went out. The Preston Street bids will go out soon. Leonia Avenue Phase III and IV are completed. The Community Development grant deadline is December 6th, so he will look at the list for roads in need. The 3rd Quarter Safety meeting was two weeks ago. Old equipment and vehicles will be removed from the list for insurance. Councilman Macfarlane asked that he contact Congressman Gottheimer's office about grants.

Councilman Macfarlane wishes the best to the Jewish community.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that Dunn Avenue between Fairview Avenue and Cypress Avenue has a lot of holes in the ground.

Councilman Napolitano said that the building department looks great.

Borough Attorney Betesh only had closed session items for discussion.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to go into Closed Session. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda at 9:35PM.
19-127C Closed Session (for Personnel and Litigation)

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to Adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:56PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Clerk.