

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

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Murphy.

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, and Payroll and Finance Specialist Curran.

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meeting 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 Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Michele Rupar requested that the Governing body speak louder when meeting in the Senior Center. She also asked for an update on the Borough Engineer's projects.

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

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

- 17-178 Refunds of Overpayments to three homeowners: Block 98, Lot 7; Block 108, Lot 12.05,
Block 108, Lot 15.02
- 17-179 Tax Collector will cancel small balances for the year 2017 for six properties: Block 14, Lot 5;
Block 14, Lot 6; Block 24, Lot 3; Block 83, Lot 22, Block 89, Lot 14, and Block 100, Lot 1.02

The following resolution was approved after Finance Specialist Curran explained the reason for transfers:

- 17-180 Budget Transfers December 2017

The following Resolution was approved after Finance Specialist explained certain line items and the reason for the amendment:

Payment of Claims: PC17-12

Approval:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the Minutes of December 7, 2017 meeting. Motion carried with Councilmembers Gates-Ferris and Murphy voting "No".

Borough Engineer Costa spoke about the County project involving the Culvert in Bogota. He explained that the plans for the culvert have been amended numerous times since 2002. Boswell Engineering was the original Engineering Company involved in the planning. Mr. Costa and the County met with the DEP in August and he suggested a different plan that would close the road for a shorter length of time. He also explained that the County Plan calls for a syphon that would be very difficult for Bogota to maintain.

The County responded that they do not have time to change the design and would lose the grant. Using the County plan would put a strain on the Borough. There would be no way for emergency vehicles to use the road, and maintenance of the syphon would be time-consuming and costly.

Mayor Kelemen said that he would rather see the grant lost than see a house burn down. As for the syphon, Mr. Costa said that Bogota could put the onus on the County for maintenance of the syphon. However, that would mean that Bogota would have to depend on the County to do the maintenance. Discussion ensued about building a road over the train tracks. CSX is against that.

Reports

Mayor Kelemen thanked the Recreation Committee, Jim Moore, Jason Kearns, the Police the Fire Department, and the DPW for the successful tree lighting. He thanked the Police for the special security used for a crowd function. He said that Project Success, a program for challenged individuals, has been meeting on Saturdays in Bogota for the last 36 years. He and Councilwoman Fede attended their Christmas party this year. He pointed out that more Council members should attend such functions.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris had no report.

Councilwoman Fede: Veterans' Affairs – John Mussomeli died. He fought in World War II. He had a Seabees hat in his coffin. He served the country and the community.

Bogota Beautiful – She attended the Bogota Beautiful meeting. On February 17th, they will hold their annual potluck dinner. April 21st will be Earth Day. Bogota Beautiful is looking for interested parties to help with activities.

Environmental Commission - She reported that a lot of money was spent on repairing sidewalks. All the trees on the lists for removal or trimming were addressed. The Community Forestry Grant needs to be closed out.

Rescue – She reported that the Rescue Squad received new radios and their clothing allowances.

Councilman Napolitano: Senior Citizens – He reported that the Senior Citizens will be having their Christmas party on December 27th. He said that there is a Cablevision discount for seniors that will be on the website.

Buildings and Grounds – He reported that the new DPW building and the renovations to Borough Hall are complete. Nick Barese has been working on the take-down of a property on Queen Anne Road. Many fees have been paid to the town and revenue is up.

BACSA – He reported that the police are having some success in drug enforcement and safeguarding citizens.

Infrastructure – East Fort Lee Road will be paved in 2018 since the DPW building renovations are complete.

Councilwoman Murphy had no report.

Councilman Macfarlane: Board of Health – Running efficiently

Board of Education – He reported that there was a spirit of reconciliation and openness for teachers. Meeting was contentious. The situation escalated beyond where it needed to go.

Library Board – He reported that there was no meeting because the new director was adapting to the job.

Youth Academy Meeting – The meeting was held at the Recreation Center. Discussion took place concerning whether the Youth Academy should stay in Bogota or go to another town.

Administrator Scarpa reported that the DPW building will be completed by the middle of January. \$30,000 increase in revenue from last year. The draft of the garbage and recycling calendar is complete. June 30th is Shred Day. The town has two grant applications, one for Palisade Avenue and one for Senior Activities. There were two proposals for charging stations, one at the DPW building and one at Borough Hall. The Borough Hall proposal is too expensive. A security system is being installed in Borough Hall. PC Richard donated 8 Monitors to Borough Hall.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.