



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, January 16, 2020 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Robbins.

Mayor Kelemen asked everyone to remain standing in memory of Joseph Carnivale and Eleanor Warner. He said that both of these people were active in the community Joseph Carnivale was a volunteer at St. Joseph's parish and at the local food pantry. Eleanor Warner was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Steen School and High School PTOs, was a Brownie and Girl Scout leader.

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 27, 2019.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Carpenter, Connors, Fede, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were substitute Borough Attorney Peck and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to close citizen remarks. Motion carried.

Presentation: Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lupo of the NJ State Veterans Chamber of Commerce conducted a presentation concerning designating Bogota as a Veteran Friendly Municipality. He explained that in order for Bogota to be designated a Veteran Friendly municipality, there would be three conditions: parking spots dedicated to veterans, a goal of hiring veterans as 5% of municipal work force, and set aside 6% of RFPs and RFQs going out to bid to go to certified Veterans service organizations. He is working with the DMV to have placards made for veterans for their cars. He said that when the borough is putting something out to bid, it can notify the Veterans Chamber of Commerce about that bid. He named other towns that have become Veteran Friendly including Lodi, Hackensack, and Paramus.

Discussion: - Creating Bylaws for Recreation Committee & Add more members to Recreation committee: Mayor Kelemen said that he would like to see By-Laws for the Recreation committee created by March. He would like the By-Laws to state that if a member misses three meetings, he/she can be removed. He also would like to amend the Recreation Committee ordinance to add two more members to the committee. The present ordinance allows for 5 voting members and two alternates. He would like to see 7 voting members and 2 alternates to be sure to have a quorum. Councilwoman Carpenter did not feel that more members were needed on the Recreation Committee at this time. Councilman Connors said that there is a greater need for parent volunteering for programs. He said that a Committee member should be responsible for each activity to be sure that the Council liaisons do not have to handle the activities.

- Grant Opportunities with Bruno Associates: John Bruno (a World War II veteran) and Chris Brown explained that there are many grants available. They mentioned projects where grants may be available including the ladder truck, the fire house, safe routes to school, streetscape improvements, and new appliances for the Senior Center. They said that they will give a monthly activity report to the Borough.
- Approving Right of way use to Cross River Fiber: Substitute Attorney Peck explained that this was a third party company installing fire optic network. It is protected by law and allowed to use utility poles to run their wires. The Mayor and Council vote is a formality. Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by

Councilwoman Murphy, to add Resolution 20-045 "Resolution Approving Right-of-Way Use to Cross River Fiber" to the consent agenda. Motion carried.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved with motion made by Councilwoman Carpenter and seconded by Councilman Robbins:

- 20-036 Award of Contract for Garbage, Ashes, and Refuse Collection to Suburban Disposal
- 20-037 Award of Contract for Leonia Avenue Phase Five to Marini Brothers
- 20-038 Appoint Christopher W. Eilert as Qualified Purchasing Agent
- 20-039 Resolution for Veteran Friendly Municipality
- 20-040 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 66 Lot 15
- 20-041 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 67 Lot 04
- 20-042 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 28 Lot 04
- 20-043 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 07 Lot 06
- 20-044 Re-appoint Daniel Craddock as the Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Public Work
- 20-045 Resolution Approving Right-of-Way Use to Cross River Fibers
- 20-046 Authorize Emergency Resolution to Approve the Emergency Road Repair at 51 Walnut Avenue

Resolution to be voted on separately:

Councilwoman Carpenter asked why the Borough Christmas luncheon was paid for out of the Building & Grounds line. Administrator Scarpa explained that Buildings and Grounds had a large amount of cash in 2019. She asked why the Senior expenses came out of the Recreation line, and he explained that the Seniors fall under Recreation in the budget. Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried.

PC20-01 Payment of Claims

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the Council Committees for 2020. Motion carried.

- Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the Rescue Squad's request for approval for their annual Boot Drive to be held on April 25, 2020 from 8am to 5pm with a Rain date of May 2, 2020 from 8am to 5pm. Motion carried.

- Before voting on the minutes, the Borough Clerk explained that if anyone has a complaint about the minutes, that complaint should be made at the public meeting and not in an email in order to follow the Open Public Meetings Act, so any complaints should be made at this time, so that the complaint can become part of this meeting's minutes.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the minutes from the Sine Die meeting. Motion carried with Council members Connors and Fede abstaining since they were not a part of the Sine Die meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the minutes from the January 1 Reorg meeting. Motion carried with Councilmembers Connors, Fede, and Napolitano voting Yes. Council members Carpenter, Murphy, and Robbins voted No. Councilwoman Carpenter said that the minutes were inaccurate and incomplete. Councilwoman Murphy said that she explained her reason for voting No in an email. Mayor Kelemen broke the tie and voted Yes.

Mayor Kelemen appointed new members to Recreation Committee since Farid Briones resigned. He requested moving Sherry Solomov up from Alternate to member. Frank Miranda will become an alternate. Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the appointments. Motion carried with Councilmembers Connors, Fede, and Napolitano voting Yes, Council members Carpenter, Murphy, and Robbins voting No, and Mayor Kelemen breaking the tie and voting Yes.

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

Fire Chief John Greiner explained that there is a problem with parking for the firefighters, and the extra police vehicles makes parking even harder. He said there was a need to expand the parking lot, and he suggested moving the monuments down to the firemen's park.

Administrator Scarpa said that he spoke to the police chief and fire liaison about the parking problem. He said there is a right of way area by the bank parking lot that could probably fit six spaces. He continued that when the recycling center is complete, the police will park some of their extra cars there which will free up space. He said that emergency parking spaces can be created on Henry Smith Way as well.

Michelle Rupar said that she does not think the meeting dates for 2020 were ever voted on by Council. She asked why there was correspondence with Neglia Engineering when Costa was appointed Borough engineer at the Reorg meeting. She inquired as to when the meetings will be televised.

Frank Miranda thanked the Mayor and Council for appointing him to the Recreation Committee. He said he will work hard on the Recreation Committee and understands its needs since he was the liaison to the Recreation Committee when he was on Council.

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

Borough Clerk Cook explained that the Meeting Schedule for 2020 was voted on at the December 19, 2019 meeting. Administrator Scarpa explained that Neglia did the bid specs etc. for a number of projects and it was best to continue the projects with Neglia. He said that there is a list of Best Practices ground rules that should be voted on before meetings are televised. He met with the school superintendent and is working with the audio-visual person for the schools to bring televising to fruition. Mayor Kelemen said that they have been talking for years about parking outside. He said that they will continue to work on getting more parking spaces. He welcomed Frank Miranda to the Recreation Committee and thanked Sherry Solomov for livestreaming the meetings.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees, etc.:

Mayor Kelemen said that the new year started with the Reorganization meeting, and right after that was the Emergency Volunteer dinner. He thanked Mr. Scarpa for arranging it. There were 113 attendees, and everyone got along. He thanked the Fiesta for a wonderful affair and said that the DJs Raul and Ed did a great job. He said the photo booth was fun. He booked with the Fiesta for next year for either January 2nd or 9th. He said that it was a pleasure to have the Bruno group at tonight's meeting. He said that we need money, and no one on the governing body wants to raise taxes. Money is needed for the parking lot, the firehouse, and the hook and ladder truck. The Fire Chief installation dinner was very nice. The firehouse needs to be painted and the heating system is going as well. There is a need for police equipment, fire equipment such as turn out gear, road and sidewalk repair, tree trimming, and a multi-purpose high school and borough field. The high school football team is in the Union Division now. He congratulated Mrs. Kohles and Ms. Montgomery at being selected as President and Vice President of the Board of Education. He spoke to Mr. Kennedy about working together and moving forward. The field needs to be repaired. The borough needs a track. Councilwoman Fede asked if she could be the spokesperson for the Swim Club since she held that position when she was last on Council. He agreed and asked for Councilman Robbins to also be a liaison to the Swim Club. He said that the speed signs are up on Palisade Avenue, and he thanked the police chief and administrator for helping to make it safer for people to drop off their children at Trinity Lutheran School. He congratulated Jared Geist on becoming Municipal Judge. Mr. Geist was sworn in on Friday before a large crowd at Borough Hall. Another sign was put by Cypress Avenue.

He asked Mr. Scarpa to look into Linden Avenue for repaving because there is an ordinance that required utility companies to resurface roads that had been repaired within the last five years.

Councilman Robbins thanked Mr. Scarpa for getting the fire chief's office cleaned up. Hose 2 has a leak in the roof, and the fire chief requested permission to put a sectional tarp on the area to block water. The sheet rock is wet and the problem needs to be addressed. Mr. Scarpa said to go ahead and do it. Councilman Robbins said that Hose 2 has two 50 year old dryers that they would like permission to dispose of since they are of no use to anyone. They are in the process of getting quotes for new dryers. Mr. Scarpa said to get rid of the old dryers. He said that the new bond will be ready in three months, but they may be able to use the old fire truck bond for the dryers. The old bond mentioned accessories, and the dryers would fall into that category. Teterboro had no complaints for December 2019.

Councilwoman Fede mentioned Sustainable Jersey recertification and said that there will be many requests and hopefully it will be done by May. She will be submitting the annual Forestry Plan report and Tree City USA report (19 years as Tree City USA). She said that the borough did a regional EPS styrofoam drive with the County and that program grant won a County Award. She said that many people from Bogota came to the Hackensack Yacht Club on December 28th with styrofoam, and they will be having more EPS drives in the future. Utility bills have been paid, so that issue is finished. She said that she had been tracking energy, so she was made aware of outstanding bills. She said that the Ryan Bridge monument is complete. It has a granite base and face. The old placard is on the face and above it is an engraving of Ryan's portrait. The commander would like another ceremony, but she would like it scaled down. She would like the Green team and Creative team on the agenda for the next meeting. She would like to honor a citizen

that passed away at age 36, Rudy Heydt, who was a union electrician. He volunteered with Bogota Beautiful and with Rebuilding together North Jersey, where he rewired low income homes that were unsafe.

Councilwoman Murphy also wanted to honor Rudy who was a very good person. She had no report. She will put a schedule together with her new assignments for the next meeting.

Councilman Napolitano said that he and Councilwoman Fede met with the police chief and captain about budget issues, staffing situations, and policy issues which will be discussed at a future meeting. He said that Ken Kalman said that he can get the dryers removed for free. The attorney said that if it is garbage to be thrown out, it can be done. He said that the Senior advisory board meeting will be rescheduled because the bus driver was ill. The Planning Board Reorg meeting took place. Neglia is the Planning Board Engineer and Kevin Kelly is the Planning Board Attorney. The CFO and staff worked all weekend to roll over to 2020. Mr. Lerch will be preparing the Financial Statement. Mr. Lerch will be meeting with Mr. Wielkocz for preparing the budget. He suggested to remove the February 20th meeting and combine it with the budget meeting on February 27th. Mr. Scarpa said that he will have the multi-purpose bond outlined for the February 27th meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to cancel the February 20th Regular meeting and combine it with the Budget meeting of February 27th. Motion carried.

Councilman Napolitano said that he spent hours in Trenton going over grants. Councilwoman Fede will reach out to Rutherford that received the grants. Mr. Scarpa said that someone could OPRA the grants from towns that were successful. Councilman Napolitano said that some of it can be found on the website. He will work with Mr. Scarpa to get road work done. Mr. Scarpa said that if we go out to bid early, by March, we can get a lower price. He said that Bogota is on the list for curb cuts this year. Paving cannot be done until curb cuts are done.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that the County had a Reorg meeting. Mary Amoroso was named Chairperson.; Dr. Joan Voss was named Vice Chairperson, and Chair Pro-Tempore was Steven Tanelli. There was an email sent from Senator Weinberg's office concerning Narcan to all the Council, and she hopes the police liaison will forward the email to the Police Chief. Code Enforcement total income was \$64, 420. There are 24 vacant properties.

Councilman Connors said he attended the Board of Education Reorg meeting. Lisa Kohles, Amanda Montgomery, and Adalia Alvarez were all sworn in. Lisa Kohles was chosen as President and Amanda Montgomery as Vice President. At the next Board of Education meeting, it was announced that the football team was moved to a different conference. It will stay one year in the new conference and then come back. His position on the Board of Education will be filled at the next Board of Education meeting. The Superintendent of Schools said that the latest survey of the number of students from the new buildings to attend the schools could be as low as 50 or as high as 200. He said that a Vaping assembly will take place at Steen and at Bixby sometime in the future. He said that the Mayor attended the Recreation Committee meeting on January 8th where discussion took place on sharing space for baseball. With the help of Director Moore, an arrangement was made for Little Ferry to use Steen School on Thursdays and Bixby on Tuesdays for winter baseball practice. Jason Kearns is the Chairperson of the Recreation committee. The Mayor suggested increasing the members from 7 to 9 and assigning roles to individual members. He also mentioned the need to create updated by-laws. The new by-laws could incorporate new programs. He suggested a quarterly newsletter on recreation events. He would like to discuss billing by attorneys and practices of the attorneys in order to save taxpayer dollars.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he will be going around town with the engineer and DPW Superintendent to plan road resurfacing for 2020. He will work on the multi-purpose bond and the Best Practices for videoing. The recycling calendar was mailed to everyone. There were 509 sidewalk slabs repaired in 2019. The Fire Prevention Bureau now has office hours. Leonia Avenue Phase V bid was awarded tonight. The garbage bid was awarded as well. Marini brothers did emergency work on Walnut Avenue.

Borough Clerk Cook reminded everyone to follow the Open Public Meetings Act. She explained again that if there is a complaint about the minutes, it should be expressed at the public meeting just before voting on approval of the minutes. Complaints about the minutes will be part of the minutes for that meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to go into closed session. Motion carried at 9:39pm.

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to hire Bruno Associates as the grant writer for the year 2020 for \$36,000. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:15pm.

Minutes Respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.

