



In God We Trust

Minutes
December 18, 2025
Open Session
7:30pm

BOROUGH OF BOGOTA
Mayor and Council | Regular Meeting

Meeting of the Borough of Bogota Mayor and Council meeting held on this date December 18, 2025 in Borough Hall, 375 Larch Ave, Bogota, New Jersey at 7:30 P.M

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1, et. seq. the notice for this meeting's time, date, location, and agenda fulfilled the requirements by a copy of the Annual Notice of Meetings being sent to the newspapers officially designated for 2025, filing a copy in the Borough Clerk's Office, and posting it on the Borough bulletin board.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilman Mitchell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Fede- memorialized the passing of Ed. J. Rode and Surrogate Michael Dressler.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Fede	Present
Council President Kohles	Present
Councilwoman Carpenter	Present
Councilman Hordern	Present
Councilman McHale	Present
Councilman Mitchell	Present
Councilwoman Vergara	Absent

Also attending were Borough Administrator O'Malley, Borough Attorney Betesh, and Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard.

CITIZEN REMARKS: One (5) minute time limit per person

Motion: Councilman Mitchell made a motion to open Citizen Remarks. Seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Joe Wynman- asked whether there were answers to the questions he posed at the prior meeting as well as for the total amount of bonds issued plus the planned bonds for the next six months. He also posed a question about the rates charged by towing companies and questioned why the Rescue Squad members were appointed as members of the Fire Department. He asked about the mailbox on 15 Palisades Ave, as it is in the right of way. Lastly, he questioned if all the computers in the Borough are running Windows 11 or a different safe operating system, as Windows 10 has finished.

Robert Foster- there has been no meetings with Rescue Squad members about the merger and no productive dialogue with the Fire Department. There are no proposed changes to the Rescue Squad or Fire Department ordinances that are on the books. The Council has removed the Rescue Squad's titles, vehicles, equipment, leadership and headquarters, while assigning them to probationary status and additional training. It is not realistic to expect members who are older to go through Firefighter 1 training.

Andrew Fede- congratulated Mayor Fede, Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard, and the Girl Scouts on decorating the holiday tree, which won an award for being the best tree in Bergen County.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD

The Mayor and Council paused the public comment and recognized the Girl Scouts for their work in decorating the tree which led Bogota to win the Annual Municipal Tree Decoration Contest at Bergen County's Winter Wonderland.

CONTINUATION OF CITIZEN REMARKS

Andrew Fede- congratulated Mayor Fede for being a partner at a top 100 law firm in New Jersey and being the first female Rescue Squad Chief in Bogota's history. The Council is making a mistake in merging the Rescue Squad. The resolution being considered at this meeting appoints the Rescue Squad members to the Fire Department and directs them to report for duty on January 1, which the Council cannot do since they are volunteers. The Audit Committee Report has a list of duties that the Rescue Squad performs and does not contain a list of failures. He does not think that they can be merged because they are separate entities and you cannot force someone to volunteer. It is also not fair to the Fire Department and usurps their whole process.

Louis DeStefano- from large cities to big towns, he sees no difference in the behavior of democrats as do not act in the best interest of the people. The Rescue Squad is a needed entity in town and has important duties. Democrats destroy things that work and blame others. He has been against the establishment for 50 years and is not afraid of retribution. No matter how it is done, politicians always get what they want.

Rebecca Foster- outlined problems that she sees in the resolution that merges the Rescue Squad. The resolution directs Rescue Squad members to report on January 1st, which is in only a few weeks during the holiday season. The resolution says that the Rescue Squad members will perform the same duties, but the Deputy Fire Chief wrote that the Rescue Squad will only be probationary members and will not do the same things they were doing as Rescue Squad members. When Paramus merged, they maintained the Rescue Squad officers and were made full members of the new department. The reason that the Council did this was to push volunteers out.

Motion: Councilman Hordern made a motion to close Citizen Remarks. Seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. The motion passed with a voice vote.

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CITIZEN REMARKS

Borough Attorney Betesh- identified himself as the author of the Rescue Squad resolution. He asked the Borough Administrator to get in touch with the Rescue Squad Chief to identify the members of the Rescue Squad who wished to continue their service in the Fire Department so it could be included in the resolution. He never received a list.

Mayor Fede- explained that he did not receive any names because no one wants to join a new department without knowing what it is going to look like. There were many unanswered questions about the duties and the structure of the merged department. They did not want to join a new department without knowing more about what they were signing up for.

Borough Attorney Betesh- he would have done his best to answer questions if he knew that was the issue. He had a meeting with the Fire Chief to discuss the transition; either of them would have tried their best to answer any questions. Without that information, he wrote the resolution to include all Rescue Squad members; he understands you cannot force volunteers to do things. January 1st is the first day that rescue services would be performed under the umbrella of the Fire Department, which is why it was included in the resolution. Under the current regulations and policies, all new Fire Department members are on probationary status, however, the resolution states that the application process is waived because it is a merger. The other rules and regulations that apply to members of the Fire Department apply here and must be followed. The resolution was intended to provide guidance and allow leeway for the way the merge would be implemented. The resolution adopted on December 4th instructs the Borough Attorney to draft new ordinances, which cannot be passed until next month after the new year. The Fire Department Ordinance does not need to change for the merger of members to take place. He noted that many other municipalities in Bergen County have merged their Rescue Squad.

Mayor Fede- the process is Paramus is much different than what Bogota is doing. Paramus changed the fire ordinance and removed the rescue ordinance from the books. The Paramus Rescue Squad members went to Firefighter 1 training and were qualified to join the new department. They also kept their trucks, headquarters, and leadership during the merger. The structure and process should have been created before the merger was implemented. The fire chiefs wrote to her and said that the Rescue Squad members would be Fire Department members and the Department will not do board ups, pump outs and road work. This means their skills and

training would not be utilized and there is no opportunity for leadership positions. Paramus has a \$150,000 line item and a much different process for their Rescue Squad merger; it should not be compared to Bogota.

Borough Attorney Betesh- his point was that rescue squad mergers have been taking place in every other community in Bergen County, leaving Ridgefield Park with the only standalone Rescue Squad.

Mayor Fede- attended the Firefighter 1 class graduation and saw other towns graduating multiple members, meaning that the towns adequately planned for the merger. There has been no dialogue about the merger in Bogota and the terms have been dictated to the Rescue Squad. The Fire Department has not been welcoming to Rescue Squad as the merger was discussed and implemented.

Borough Attorney Betesh- the town has an ordinance which sets the towing fees that can be charged that likely matches what the State Police charges. He requested that the towing resolution 2025-258 be postponed until the next meeting as there was a question about the notice to the towing companies.

Councilman Hordern- explained that each towing company spends one week on call where they are called out when towing services needed, which is rotated between the qualified companies.

Borough Administrator O'Malley- the company at 15 Palisades added the mailboxes without any notice to the Borough and likely they will be asked to be removed before they receive a certificate of occupancy. He will provide the total bonding amount via email. He has the only PC that runs Windows 10, which should be updated in the next few weeks. All other computers have been updated.

Councilwoman Carpenter- the Borough's debt is approximately \$25 million; \$727,300 of debt will be closed out at this meeting. Bogota has a 2.2% debt to income ratio, which is ideal and 3.5% is the maximum. The ratio will fall to around 2% with the debt close out being done at this meeting. In responding to questions that were posed at a prior meeting, she questioned which duties were assigned to the Rescue Squad. All legal duties that are approved by the town's insurance company will be completed by the Fire Department. The Firefighter 1 training class will provide the Rescue Squad members that are joining the Fire Department with the needed training. Rescue Squad equipment will be inventoried in January and any duplicative or unneeded equipment will be sold, anything needed will be kept by the Borough. The Rescue Squad members joining the Fire Department will be eligible for LOSAP.

Councilman Hordern- state rules and regulations require that until a person takes Firefighter 1 training, they are a probationary member of a fire department. Local and county certifications earned are meaningless until they are approved by the State Division of Fire Safety, which regulates every fire department.

Mayor Fede- in continuing to answer prior posed questions by Mr. Wynman, she noted the town already has a list of equipment that it owns which is divided by department. The implementation is scheduled to occur on January 1, 2026. She noted that many of the questions were about Rescue Squad functionality, which will not exist in the new structure.

DISCUSSION

Council Meeting Once Per Month

Council President Kohles- asked the Mayor and Council what their thoughts would be on having one Council meeting per month, at the end of the month. Councilmembers are on multiple committees which creates a lot of meetings in addition to the Council meetings. There is already one meeting per month in the summer.

Councilman Mitchell- agreed with having one meeting per month, as it would be more efficient and easier on the Clerk. The Mayor and Council can always hold an emergency meeting if needed.

Councilman Hordern- asked about how having only one meeting a month would affect payments and disbursements for the payment of claims.

Councilwoman Carpenter- it would not affect utilities, as they are required by law to be paid even without Council approval. The only items that require Council approval are larger items and repairs. All vendors who work with municipalities are aware that payments must be approved and that it may take some time to receive it.

Council President Kohles- the CFO is only in two days a week and purchase orders are being rushed in so they are paid on time.

Borough Administrator O'Malley- proposed having two meetings in certain busy months or doing it on a trial basis. He does not have experience with monthly meetings outside of the summer months. The staff functions in two-week intervals, which is what they are used to. It would also depend on how comfortable everyone is calling emergency meetings.

Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard- having one meeting a month is negligible as she adds resolutions to the agenda as soon as she receives them from the professionals, which is what delays the agenda. Any questions about payment should include the CFO as he may have input on the matter and vendor payment cut off dates. She recommends having the work session meeting be a true work session, lasting a short time and excluding any resolutions.

Councilman Hordern- would like to hear from the CFO before making a final decision on whether to move to one meeting a month.

Borough Attorney Betesh- from a legal standpoint, there are not many time-sensitive matters so a monthly meeting would work.

Borough Administrator O'Malley- explained the timeline of the agenda setting in two-week intervals. He will speak to the CFO about the proposal to move to one meeting per month.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

1645- Bond Ordinance for Improvements to Storm and Sanitary Sewers in the Amount of \$350,000

Motion: Councilwoman Carpenter made a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance 1645. Seconded by Councilman Hordern. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Joe Wynman- has had trouble with his sewers for as long as he has lived in Bogota. He has a clogged sewer every six months. His neighbor's house has a secondary vent that outputs sewer gasses during storms.

Borough Administrator O'Malley- spoke with Mr. Wynman this week and indicated that he would have the Borough Engineer investigate his sewer issue. The funding is for a sewer main break that occurred behind Elm Avenue on Labor Day. Before any street is repaved, the sewer mains are filmed to find out their condition and they are replaced as needed. Many sewer pipes in Bogota are clay, which are very old. He is trying to dedicate sewer connection fees to a trust fund which will be used for sewer main repairs and replacements. Since the sewer mains are underground, it is very expensive to fix them. The Borough working on making improvements in the area around where he lives.

Motion: Councilman Hordern made a motion to close the public hearing on Ordinance 1645. Seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Motion: Councilwoman Carpenter made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1645. Seconded by Council President Kohles. All Councilmembers present voted yes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Councilman Mitchell made a motion to remove 2025-258 and 2025-262 from the consent agenda with 2025-258 being considered at the next meeting and 2025-262 being voted on separately. Seconded by Councilman McHale. All Councilmembers present voted yes.

Resolutions

2025-259 Cancel Certain Grant Balances Resolution

2025-261 Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Outstanding Checks

2025-264 Budget Transfers

2025-265 Resolution to Cancel Capital Balances

2025-266 Recreation Seasonal Hires – Basketball Scores Keepers

2025-267 Recreation Seasonal Hires – Basketball Site Supervisor

2025-268 Resolution to Advertise for Bids Olsen Park Improvements Project

2025-269 Renewal of Membership in the South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

Motion: Councilman Mitchell made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilman Hordern. All Councilmembers present voted yes.

Resolutions to be Voted on Separately

PC25-19 Payment of Claims

Motion: Councilman Mitchell made a motion to approve PC25-19. Seconded by Council President Kohles. Council President Kohles recused herself on any items related to the DPW or Superintendent Kohles, voted no Purchase Order 251799-Enterprise, and voted yes on the remainder of items. Councilwoman Carpenter voted no on Purchase Order 251799-Enterprise and yes on the remainder of items. Councilman Hordern recused himself on any items related to the Bogota Fire Department and voted yes on the remainder of items. Councilmembers McHale and Mitchell voted yes.

2025-260 Authorizing the Hiring of Seasonal DPW Plow Drivers

Motion: Councilwoman Carpenter made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-260. Seconded by Councilman McHale.

Councilman Hordern- suggested that the pay be increased for seasonal plow drivers as the pay has not been adjusted in 15 years. He also recommended that there be two pay scales, one for drivers with CDL's driving bigger trucks and a different one for pickup trucks.

The Mayor and Council discussed and questioned the contents of Resolution 2025-260, which references granting benefits in the employee handbook and applicable collective bargaining agreements to the drivers.

Borough Administrator O'Malley- indicated that this resolution was used in prior years to hire seasonal drivers and he did not realize the section about benefits was included. There is urgency for the DPW because of the recent snowfall.

Motion: Councilman Hordern made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-260 with an amendment removing the text 'and shall be afforded benefits as described in the Borough's Personnel Handbook and applicable collective bargaining agreements' from the Resolution. Seconded by Councilman Mitchell. All Councilmembers present voted yes except for Council President Kohles who abstained.

2025-262 Authorizing the advertisement of RFQs for 2026

Motion: Councilwoman Carpenter made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-262. Seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

Borough Attorney Betesh- asked that the resolution be pulled because the appraiser is not on the document but is on the final RFQ list. He also requested that it be pulled because he received a proposal from the grant writing company that included options for other services like grant management. If the Borough used those other services, it would bring the amount above the bid threshold, in which case they should be added to the resolution.

The Mayor and Council noted that the extra services had not been used in the past and would likely not be utilized in the future.

Vote: All Councilmembers present voted yes.

Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard- declared the motion passed and indicated she would send out an email that tax appeal attorney was added to the RFQ list to be advertised.

2025-263 Approving merger of Rescue Squad Volunteers to the Bogota Fire Department

Motion: Councilwoman Carpenter made a motion to adopt 2025-263 with an amendment changing 'shall' to 'will' in the text. Seconded by Council President Kohles. All Councilmembers present voted yes, except for Councilman Hordern who recused himself.

APPROVALS

Regular Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2025

Motion: Councilwoman Carpenter made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes – December 4, 2025. Seconded by Councilman Hordern. All Councilmembers present voted yes.

Ramadan Ceremony for February 7, 2026 with a Rain Date February 8, 2026

Borough Administrator O'Malley noted that attendance at the February 8th rain date may be low because it is Super Bowl Sunday.

Motion: Councilman Hordern made a motion to approve the Ramadan Ceremony for February 7, 2026 with a pending unspecified rain date. Seconded by Councilman Mitchell. All Councilmembers present voted yes.

Raffle License Application and Waive Fee of \$20.00 February 14, 2026, 5pm-11:59 pm

Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard- clarified that the VFW is holding the raffle.

Motion: Councilman McHale made a motion to approve the Raffle License Application and Fee Waiver. Seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. All Councilmembers present voted yes.

2nd CITIZEN REMARKS: One (5) minute time limit per person

Motion: Councilman Hordern made a motion to open 2nd Citizen Remarks. Seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Andrew Fede- when he was Borough Attorney of Norwood, they met twice a month, but subsequently transitioned to meeting twice a month only in January, February, and March. He supports meeting twice a month. He said 'shall' and 'will' mean the same thing and thanked the Council for making the change. The resolution states the same services will be provided, which are listed in the Audit Committee Report as including rescues, board-ups, and pump-outs. The Fire Department will have to provide the services outlined in the Audit Committee Report, and suggested taking a year to work it out.

Joe Wynman- counted seven responses to the list of questions he previously gave to the Council. He asked that the responses be in writing, as he previously submitted an OPRA request that is due on Wednesday.

Rebecca Foster- heard about an Audit Committee Report on September 18th that was supposed to save the town money. At the meeting, a sewer monitoring system and a raise for seasonal snow plow driver were discussed, and the taxes continue to increase. She questioned whether the Borough Attorney's line item and council stipends would be reduced to save money if the Council only meets once a month.

Mary Wynman- requested an increase in the lunch allowance for senior citizens since the group is now over 100 members.

Louis DeStefano- questioned if the proposal to move to one meeting per month was due to the increase in residents attending meetings and asking questions. He agreed that council stipends should be reduced if the Council adopts the proposal to meet once per month. He asked if any of the Councilmembers called state legislators about the increase in health insurance premiums. There is no salute to the flag or morning announcements at Bogota High School, though every other school district he worked in has it. He requested the Council investigate this, as 60% of property taxes go to the school district, and the flag should be honored.

Deputy Fire Chief - explained that the officers of the Rescue Squad and Fire Department cannot merge because the Fire Department ranks are full and they are required to have certain certifications, including Firefighter 1 and Incident Management Level 1 which are needed to be in management. He thought that the meeting that was held and the second meeting which turned into an email was the start of the communication to work on the merger. He did not intend to seem unwelcoming to the Rescue Squad members; he welcomed the Rescue Squad members to join the Fire Department.

Motion: Council President Kohles made a motion to close 2nd Citizen Remarks. Seconded by Councilman McHale. The motion passed with a voice vote.

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO 2nd CITIZEN REMARKS

Council President Kohles- noted that the town holds elections each year and some of the commenters had previously run for council. Bogota voted for the Councilmembers that were elected. She is proud of her legacy and the volunteer work she has done for the town and her children. The Council receives stipends, as every other town does, in recognition of the immense amount of work councilmembers do.

Councilwoman Carpenter- agrees with the idea that Bogota High School should salute the flag in the morning, she has seen the Pledge of Allegiance at school events in younger grades. She recommends the speaker address the question to the Board of Education or speak to the principal directly. She asked where the information came from that taxes were increasing, as if that were to happen, it would occur in August. The municipal budget has not yet been approved, and information on the tax rate is still pending from the county. She has seen more people refuse to put up political signs because they are afraid of the political climate.

Mayor Fede- observed but did not attend the meeting with the Fire Department because she was told she had a conflict of interest. One of the fire officers was belligerent; all about negativity and bad experiences. The resolution directs the Borough staff to take steps to facilitate the merger; neither the Rescue Squad nor Chief is mentioned in it. The Rescue Squad came up with a list of questions about the merger, and every answer was no. No activities that Rescue Squad members are trained to do were included.

Councilman Hordern- commented about the lack of communication regarding department heads leaving and Mayor Fede becoming the Rescue Squad Chief.

Councilwoman Carpenter- requested a copy of the meeting recording.

Councilman Hordern- the medical insurance premiums charged by the state are going up, which will impact the Borough; his personal health insurance changed for the worse and is very expensive. The town should explore different possibilities to lower costs while keeping good insurance for the employees. His children attend Steen School, and the school recites the Pledge of Allegiance. He is very patriotic and will call the Superintendent about saluting the flag at the high school. Patriotism is important and should be taught to each generation.

Borough Administrator O'Malley- recounted the timeline of communications about the meeting and the Rescue Squad and Fire Department transition. He is open to setting up additional meetings about the topic and making everyone feel more comfortable. Healthcare costs are increasing; he and the CFO have taken steps to get an analysis of the town's current healthcare statistics. He has been asking around about different possible steps to lower costs. The risk managers are in the process of gathering more information, which will be shared with the Council, unions, and employees for further discussion. Healthcare costs are a state problem, it is not something that the town mismanaged. New Jersey has only six carriers, other states have up to 25, which is putting pressure on the employers and insureds. The catch basin monitoring system was purchased with grant money at no cost to the taxpayers.

Councilwoman Carpenter- the catch basin monitoring program will also help with the town's insurance. She recommended a self-insurance company to the Borough Administrator as a different health insurance option, but Bogota was not accepted due to its size. The health insurance cost increases are affecting the entire country, not just the state and town. The town is seeking alternative ways to lower costs.

Mayor Fede- the Luka's lunch for the senior citizens was funded from special events, not from the seniors' budget. There was money put aside for volunteer night this year, which did not occur. Monies were found from other sources to support the seniors this year.

Borough Administrator O'Malley- reiterated that he will meet with the seniors as the budget is formulated for the upcoming year. He also offered to meet monthly with officers of the senior association and the council liaisons in the evenings.

Councilwoman Carpenter- requested a list of the members of the senior association denoting which are residents of Bogota. In speaking to members, she learned that some are not from Bogota.

REPORTS

Mayor Fede- next year is the 250th anniversary of America, and she would like to create a committee to plan celebrations to commemorate the event. She is looking for two councilmembers to volunteer, and then she will open it up to the public to join. She attended the Fire Chiefs Election Dinner, which caused her to miss the ceremony where Bogota won the best county tree award. The recycling calendar was finalized and sent to press; it was also uploaded to the website. Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard will be departing the Borough for a new opportunity elsewhere. She wished her well. Her departure is a big loss to the Borough because of all the work she does and her dedication to her position.

Council President Kohles- did not have any reports and added that she will make a call about the Pledge of Allegiance at Bogota High School.

Councilmember Carpenter- at the TANAAC meeting, there were two complaints about aircraft noise due to low-flying planes. Other towns on the Zoom meeting were complaining about helicopter noise. She announced on Facebook that BASCA is conducting a survey of students in grades 7, 9, and 11. In January, BASCA is holding a Zoom meeting at noon to discuss budgets that will be open to the public. She explained that she voted no on Enterprise each time because the charges from Enterprise change every month. If a car is being leased, it should be the same amount each month. This year, the Borough has spent \$125,532 in leased cars; she does not believe that it is saving any money. In outside car maintenance, the Borough spent \$41,935 in 2023, \$30,016 in 2024, and \$19,997 in 2025.

Councilman Hordern- the Recreation Committee meeting was cancelled, there were not enough members present. One Recreation Committee member resigned via email; she did not have enough time to dedicate to it. They need more children to sign up for the girls' basketball program. Cheering and first- and second-grade basketball are doing well, with many youngsters

signed up. The Library Committee meeting was cancelled because not enough members were able to attend. The next meeting will be in January. He attended the League of Municipalities Conference for the first time and came away with several ideas; the Conference was very educational.

Councilmember McHale- an annual letter was sent out to all business owners in town alerting them to the Borough Ordinances that need to be followed. Renewal notices have been sent to all vacant properties, which are due back January 1st. Progress continues at the cement factory, they are now removing the building in the front. Three violations were sent out for failure to shovel in the last snowstorm: one was a vacant property, one was a residential property, and one was a commercial property. For the Police Chief's Report: 10 arrests, 555 total summonses, 146 moving and equipment violations, 11 radar violations, 64 parking violations, 334 ordinance violations, no warnings, and a total of 1,562 calls for service. There were 12 instances where officers had to cover school crossing guard posts last month. He discussed the issue with the Chief and Lieutenant. The crossing guard company is having the same trouble the town did, though the company is sending the checks to pay the officers. The crossing guards are not coming in during inclement weather. A full-time dispatcher is resigning December 31st to take a job with the Bergen County Sheriff's Office; the town will have to hire someone to fill the position. No parking signs will be posted on Saturday and Monday between 8AM and 1PM as PSEG is planning to move large equipment through town. He would like action to be taken at River and Elm, there is only 18-24 inches of space between the creek and the bridge.

Councilmember Mitchell- congratulated the Girl Scouts and the Mayor on winning the tree contest for Bogota. He thanked Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard for her service to the town; she will be missed dearly.

Councilwoman Carpenter- wished Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard the best as she moves to a new role. She thanked the DPW for their work after the last snowstorm; the roads were in much better condition than in other towns.

Borough Administrator O'Malley- the Council passed a resolution to advertise for Olsen Park, he plans to have Neglia Engineer attend a meeting in January to present to the Council. He hopes to get the new recycling center off the ground in 2026, along with new websites for the Borough and the Police Department. He thanked Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard for her years of service to the Borough and praised her work. The Recreation Director will also be resigning shortly to take a new position at a higher salary; the Director rescued the Recreation Department and went above and beyond in his duties.

Borough Attorney Betesh- referenced that there is a deadline due to the upcoming reorganization meeting to decide the schedule and frequency of council meetings for next year.

The Council discussed the deadline and the options and process by which the meeting agenda is set and could be changed.

Motion: Council President Kohles made a motion to add Resolution 2025-270, concerning the 2026 meeting schedule, to the agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. All Councilmembers present voted yes.

Motion: Councilman Mitchell made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-271, which sets the meeting schedule as twice in January, February, and March and once in every other month. Seconded by Councilman Hordern. All Councilmembers present voted yes.

Borough Clerk Flores-Bolivard- sent out a notice to everyone about the way things will be advertised on the Borough website; it is no longer required to advertise in each newspaper. She has decided to move on from the Borough after nine and a half years. Before she leaves, she will make sure everything is in order and up to date in her office. It was an honor to serve the residents of Bogota and the Mayor and Council, including under prior administrations. She may not be the *Best clerk in Bergen County*, but she has been the *Best Clerk in Bogota*. She will be sending an official resignation letter at the beginning of January indicating her last day.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: Councilman Hordern made a motion to enter closed session to discuss affordable housing. Seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter. The motion passed with a voice vote.

OPEN SESSION

2025-272- Authorizing the execution of a mediation/settlement agreement with Fair Share Housing Center

Motion: Councilman Hordern made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-272. Seconded by Councilman Mitchell. All Councilmembers present voted yes.

ADJOURMENT

Being no further business before the governing body, **Councilman Mitchell** made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by **Councilwoman Hordern**. The motion passed with a voice vote at 10:38 PM.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the minutes.

Yenlys Flores-Bolivard, Clerk
12/30/2025