



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, to be held at the Bogota Senior Citizen Center, 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ, on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7:00pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris.

Mayor Kelemen asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for Dorothy Smith who died on January 9<sup>th</sup>. He explained that Mrs. Smith was a resident of Bogota her entire life and dedicated herself to her family and to the community.

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, 2018.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Murphy, and Napolitano were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh and Borough Administrator Scarpa. Councilman Robbins arrived at 7:15pm.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Mayor Christopher Kelemen welcomed everyone to Bogota's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Kickoff for the year-long celebration. He read congratulatory letters from Senator Weinberg and Governor Murphy. He welcomed Catherine Bess from Congressman Gottheimer's office and Assemblyman Gordon Johnson as well as former Mayor William Pat Schuber. He complimented Councilwoman Gates-Ferris for all the work she did as the Chair of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and is looking forward to the special Gala in November.

Honorary Chairperson William Pat Schuber welcomed everyone to the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and thanked Councilwoman Gates-Ferris for reaching out to him and for all the events planned for the year.

Borough Administrator Joseph Scarpa announced all the officials who sent Congratulatory Proclamations to Bogota including:

- *Governor Philip D. Murphy*
- *Congressman Josh Gottheimer*
- *Congressman Cory Booker*
- *Senator Loretta Weinburg*
- *Assemblywoman Valerie Huttie*
- *Assemblyman Gordon Johnson*
- *Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III*

Assemblyman Gordon Johnson read a Proclamation presented on behalf of Senator Weinberg, Assemblywoman Huttie and the State Assembly and Senate

Councilwoman Kathryn Gates-Ferris introduced the Planning Committee members and reviewed the year-long celebratory events calendar which was made available for everyone.

Council President Mary Ellen Murphy read proclamations for Special Residents as of January 1, 2019  
Most Senior: Josephine Salvano (97 years old)  
Longest resident of Bogota: Dorothy Smith (90 years)

Town Historian Henry Komorowski presented a description of Bogota in 1894 and explained that Bogota got its name from the two families that lived in the area in the 1890s, the Bogarts and the Bantas. He also explained about life in Bogota in the 1890s.

Library Director Chelsea Coleman introduced the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Website: bogotanj125.org

Mayor Kelemen called for a short recess before continuing with the regular meeting.

Councilwoman Murphy asked for Resolution 19-039 be pulled from the consent agenda and voted on separately. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he asked for the resolution to be put on the agenda.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC-01 Payment of Claims

19-035 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 42, Lot 6.01

19-036 Tax Sale Redemption for block 55, Lot 6

19-037 Reassign Melissa Terpstra from part-time dispatcher to full-time dispatcher

19-038 Advertise RFQs

The following resolution was voted on separately after discussion.

19-039 Hire Bruno Associates as Grant Writer

**Approvals:**

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve St. Joseph Academy's request to have a pocket book bingo with a raffle and 50/50 on February 8, 2019. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve Engine Company #1 accepting Joseph DeMauro, Jr. as a qualified driver. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the Rescue Squad's request to have their annual boot drive on April 27, 2019, rain date May 4, 2019 from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano to accept the Minutes of Sine die meeting Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to accept the Minutes of the Reorg Meeting January 3, 2019. Motion carried with amendments. Councilwoman Carpenter recused herself from voting on the resolution hiring the purchasing agent and on her sister being put on the Board of Health. She did not abstain. Also, Councilwoman Carpenter requested that the discussion concerning the engineer be included in the minutes. All Council Members agreed to adding the discussion of the engineer.

Discussion: Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to accept the amended by-laws. Councilman Napolitano requested discussion since the Special Committee appointed by the Mayor never had a meeting. Councilman Robbins said that he sent emails to the committee members and did not receive responses. Councilman Napolitano said that he did send responses, but since they were not received, they should discuss the amendments at this meeting. He asked why these amendments were needed. The Borough Attorney said that By Laws are superseded by the Borough code specifically Section 2-4 of the Borough Code. Discussion ensued. The minutes sent in word was removed from the amendments for further discussion. Minor adjustments were made to the amendments, and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:

19-040 Accept the amended By-Laws for 2019 after discussion

Borough Attorney Betesh then said that the Council committee assignments from the Reorg meeting were not legal unless they were voted on by the Council, so Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to add the following Resolution to the agenda. The Resolution failed with only Councilman Napolitano voting Yes.

19-041 Vote to validate the current Committee assignments

Borough Attorney Betesh said that is okay for a Council member to second a motion and then vote No.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to add the following Resolution to the agenda. Motion carried.

19-042 Vote on Revised Committee assignments presented by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris with the amendments of removing the Police Committee, adding Grants to the Finance/Tax liaison, and adding State to the County liaison.

Borough Administrator Scarpa explained that discussion had taken place about adding SLEO3s to the police force for the schools. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to add the following Resolution to the agenda. Motion carried.

19-043 Approving Contract terms set forth by Borough Attorney in inter local service agreement for SLEO3.

RICE NOTICE in open session: Mr. Scarpa said that Daniel Klima voiced concerns with his employment. One request made was for administrative leave. This is a provision provided for in the DPW contract that a leave of absence may be granted by the governing body. He told Mr. Klima in a letter that he would be riced, so the governing body could discuss it. He said that he was not going to recommend granting leave to Mr. Klima. The council had to decide. Borough Attorney Betesh said that the basis of the request had a number of items enumerated, but they were not made within the ten-day requirement. If grievance procedures are not followed in the proper time frame, they are considered abandoned. If the Council does not want to grant the leave of absence, the employee will not be entitled to it. It was not granted.

Mr. Scarpa also said that there is no mandate for a foreperson. The Borough Ordinance says that one may be assigned. It also says that there shall be an Assistant Superintendent. He requested that Dan Craddock be appointed Assistant superintendent. Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to add the following resolution to the agenda. Motion carried.

19-044 Appointment of Daniel Craddock as Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Public Works.

#### Reports:

Mayor Kelemen said that he spoke to officials in the State as well as the Bogota OEM Coordinator Woegens about the approaching storm. Mr. Woegens said that the police and DPW are on the alert.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris had no report.

#### Councilwoman Carpenter:

Recreation Committee – She said Jason Kearns was elected Director and Walter Fowler was elected as second in charge. She said that Jim Moore spoke about the calendar for the year, and she said that many members were not at the meeting.

Finance – She signed purchase orders and said that everything looked clean.

Board of Education – She offered congratulations to a teacher who received \$684,000 in grants for the preschool program that is doing well. The Board of Ed will be honoring the boys and girls cross country and volley ball at the next meeting for outstanding seasons. A wellness committee is starting for teachers shortly. A sign for the school will be coming next month.

#### Councilman Napolitano:

Police department – He reported that there was an issue with cyber security and routers that was taken care of.

BACSA – he contacted Pauline McDonald who is setting up a date for the next meeting. They work closely with the police and the schools.

Veterans – He spoke to Alex Hernandez about the Veterans' meeting tomorrow about the Valentine dance. Loyalty Day is coming as well as Memorial Day.

#### Councilwoman Murphy:

Planning and Zoning board – She said that she attended the Reorg meeting, and nothing much happened. One bill was paid. The next meeting will be January 22, 2019.

Fire Department – She is going to reach out to Fire Chief Breuss and Mayor Kelemen to have a sit-down.

#### Councilman Macfarlane:

He said that he just returned from vacation and just wanted to say that he had a wonderful time at the Volunteers' dinner.

#### Councilman Robbins:

Code Enforcement: He said that \$63,276 was received for summonses. 389 notices were sent out. 62 summonses were issued with 1 pending. There are 34 abandoned properties registered now. \$49,334 was received in registration fees for 2018. \$29,134 was received in Registration fees for 2017.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he met with the new appointees including the engineer, auditor, attorney, and risk manager. The engineer will submit a proposal for each job. The Borough received \$18,265 in an open space grant for Olsen Park Playground equipment. The Recycling Calendar went out. \$10,666 was received for the 2016 tonnage grant. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting for the Cedar Lane Bridge. He will be attending it with Neglia. The Safety Meeting report was submitted to the Risk Manager.

Borough Attorney Betesh said that SLEO3 agreement will require a revision to the Police ordinance. He will try to have it ready for the next meeting.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the Construction official reminded him that engineering work for the new development will need to be done by the Borough, so the council will have to vote for an engineer to be in charge. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Gate-Ferris, to add the Following Resolution to the agenda. Motion carried.

19-045 To Approve Neglia Engineering as Project Engineer for River Club Development

Mr. Scarpa also announced that the next Volunteer dinner will be held on January 4, 2020 at the Fiesta.

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

Michele Rugar asked if the minutes in word would be addressed again at the next meeting and said that she will talk about it again then.

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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to go into Closed Session at 10:21pm. Motion carried.

When the meeting resumed, motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to accept the contract for DPW Superintendent Gordon Kohles. Motion carried with only Councilman Napolitano voting No.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:31pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.