

## Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, October 19, 2017, in the Bogota Council chambers at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Murphy.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Fede, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy, and Napolitano were present. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris was absent. Other attendees included Borough Administrator Scarpa and Borough Attorney Bossong.

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, 2016.

Mayor Kelemen presented a Proclamation to Patricia Browne, the former Senior Bus Driver who served the town for 25 years.

Councilman Napolitano motioned, and Councilwoman Murphy seconded, opening up the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Amanda Montgomery, a Board of Education member, gave a report about special education finance savings for the Bogota Schools.

Michele Rupar asked if the Mayor and Council received the report from Mr. Waters about the Riverfront Project. She asked what the 45 day appeal period was. She asked if Mr. Costa submitted his changes to the County. She said that the bicycle lanes on the George Washington Bridge cannot be widened.

Michael Connors congratulated the Board of Education on saving money in the special education area and asked if the savings will be coming back to town as a property tax relief.

Ted L'Estrange spoke about genocide by scalpel, organ harvesting, etc. in China.

Connie Carpenter asked if the Best Practices Worksheet was completed. She asked about the 2016 budget, and she asked budget questions.

George Silos read some emails from the former Mayor and former administrator and former finance employee. He asked if it was appropriate for the former Mayor to use his personal email for business items.

Lisa Kohles questioned attorney bills from 2014.

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

Borough Attorney Bossong explained that the 45 day appeal period begins after receiving County land-use approval. He estimated that Mr. Waters received the approval in Mid-July, so the appeal period would go to the end of August. He said that a copy of Mr. Water's report was provided to all Council members as well as the Environmental Health Plan. He said that he will look into the legal bills from 2014. He also said that personal emails should never be used for government business. Councilwoman Murphy asked about the audit and the Best Practices worksheet. Councilman Napolitano said that the County and Costa attended meeting for the Culvert Project with the DEP. The County will be making the changes since it is a County project. The suggestion was not to disturb our sewer lines, so they could move forward without our signature. Also suggested was not to use syphons as that would cause a great maintenance issue for the Borough.

Councilman Napolitano said that the George Washington Bridge is beyond Bogota's jurisdiction. There is DOT money for bike lanes. He attended a Parks' Master Plan and presented to the Committee that it would be advantageous for the Borough of Bogota to be able to bike to Overpeck Park safely.

Councilman Macfarlane said that the \$1,000,000 that the Board of Education saved allowed for the plans for the front entrance driveway, and to pay many overdue bills. Councilman Miranda asked about the Board of Education cushion and why the Schools receive so many tax dollars. He is thankful for seeing some improvements. He said that the NJ Taxpayer guide shows Bogota cost per student at \$19,800 and other towns such as Ridgewood are a little less than that. Mayor Kelemen thanked the Board of Education and said that this Council is Board of Education friendly. He is grateful for any improvements to education. He told Mr. Silos that he never uses his personal email for town business. He told Ms. Rupar that the County is doing the Culvert work, not the town. The town will support the County's work on the Culvert.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC17-10 Payment of Claims

17-152 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Leonia Avenue Phase IV Project

17-153 Change Order #5 for new DPW building - Upgrade Electric Water Cooler

17-154 Hiring Part-time Crossing Guards

17-155 Resolution of Support Authorizing the Sustainable Jersey Grant Application

Approvals:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the Minutes of 9/21/17 and 10/5/17. The Minutes were approved with Councilman Miranda abstaining, Council members Fede, Macfarlane, and Napolitano voting YES, and Councilwoman Murphy voting NO.

Discussion:

Neile Wiessman spoke before the Mayor and Council about widening the bicycle lanes on the George Washington Bridge. He requested a resolution to present to the Port Authority. The Mayor and Council looked over a sample resolution, made some modifications, and the following Resolution was added to the agenda and approved:

17-156 Request to the Port Authority of NY/NJ to Widen the George Washington Bridge's Sidewalks

Mayor Kelemen thanked Councilman Miranda for all the food and supplies he collected and delivered to Puerto Rico. He spoke to a woman about Bogota as a Stigma free Community and would like to put signs up promoting it. He wished Radwa Ali good luck in her new facility. He has heard concerns from residents about tennis court lights. He said that the Recreation Committee is considering a Christmas Decorating contest. He offered compliments to the police for the work they did on the armed robbery

that took place. He reported that Emergency Services met last week and the turnout was not good. They want to have it in St. Joseph's parking lot next year. He met the new pastor of St. Joseph's who is community friendly.

Councilman Miranda apologized for missing two Council meetings. He said the Bogota police sprang into action helping with collecting and packaging supplies for Puerto Rico. He said that FEMA finally stepped in. He thanked everyone who contributed. He said that Teaneck Police did a lot as well as the Bogota Auxiliary Police and Rescue. He said that John Mitchell put him in contact with the County. Councilman Miranda's company donated a lot of money to get the supplies to Puerto Rico. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris' volley ball team and her daughter helped. He thanked Councilman Napolitano for his help. Left overs went to Mexico. He thanked Administrator Scarpa for the Paver Wall for the electronic sign. The Fall Festival will be held from 12:30pm to 4:00pm on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Tennis court Lights and basketball lights were damaged in the parks from Hurricane Sandy. Now, they are being restored.

Councilwoman Fede – VFW: She reported that the VFW is having a Veterans' Day event on November 10, 2017 at 8:00pm.

Environmental Commission: She announced that Bogota is now a recertified Sustainable Jersey town. The Senior Citizens and DPW building are getting new appliances that are energy efficient. Schools could apply as well for grants. She took a class with the Environmental JIF concerning claims for pollution, tanks, etc. The engineers will assist with the training. She received two credits for the class. Sewer back-ups are covered. The Hess site has a preliminary Remedial Action Work Plan. They will be excavating 4,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil. The Hess site and the Sifford site must be cleaned. This is a private clean-up with no tax dollars used.

Councilman Napolitano – Infrastructure: The Midtown Bridge completion date will be February. They will come back in the spring for final paving. The town is still planning on paving E. Fort Lee Road once the DPW building construction is complete. The DPW Superintendent, the Borough Administrator, and Councilman Napolitano will work on a new list for next year for block grants, etc. He sent photograph of CSX bridge to the County due to damage to it. Tom Connolly of the County will work on CSX for assessment. PSE&G will be back to pull fiber optic lines. As for lane closings, there will be no trenching or road opening.

Buildings & Grounds: There is movement at 203 Queen Ann Road due to Support of Mayor and Council and Property Maintenance. There is a permit to demolish. There are 29 more abandoned properties. A tree branch came down o Main Street. Hardwood, DPW, and police handled it quickly. The tree was gone in half an hour. There will be an open house at Borough Hall. DPW

building is still moving forward.

Finance: The Municipal budget had less than a 0% tax increase this year. The Budget was adopted. He called the Division of Local Government Services and spoke to George Carmona who said that Councilman Napolitano was the only Councilperson from Bogota that he spoke to. There were no emergency appropriations. There were CAP wavers four years in a row, so no more CAP wavers were allowed in 2014. There has been no need for a CAP waiver since.

Senior Citizens: Seniors had a surprise party for Pat Browne, the retired Senior Bus Driver who worked in the position for 25 years.

Councilwoman Murphy – Fire Department: She said that there has been no meeting with the Fire Chiefs since the last Council meeting. November 1 is the next meeting.

Councilman Macfarlane – Library Board: He said that Radwa did many things during her three years as library director. He said that the library only receives 1/3 mil and could use \$10,000 or \$20,000 more.

Board of Education: He said that the traffic by the high school is very chaotic and a crossing guard would be a good idea. The school district has to pay for a safe building entry. Councilman Miranda and Mayor Kelemen said that they are working on getting crossing guards for high school.

Administrator Scarpa said that we have been a part of EJIF. The town gets money back for safety meetings. He reported that Storm water reports from 2010 are now done. There will be a luncheon on November 14<sup>th</sup>. New Bathroom doors have been installed. The Fall Festival and Ragamuffin parade will be held on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Shared court is getting a visit by the Bergen County Justice for an annual review. Tree takedowns and trimmings have started. There will be a meeting about the firehouse. Borough hall has new paint, blinds, carpeting etc. The landscaping looks good. Borough Hall is the focal point of the town.

Borough Attorney Bossong said that the court approved affordable housing plan, and the Special Master signed off. The Mayor and Council must update ordinances and resolutions to coincide with the new plan. A compliance hearing will be held. The town must meet the COAH requirements. 87 affordable housing units are needed. The town has 41 now. The Hess property will bring 42 units. 297 Palisade Avenue did not follow the COAH regulations. The former Board of Education attorney is suing the town and the Board of Education.

Councilman Napolitano requested that he become the liaison to BACSA, since he has heard nothing about it this year. Councilwoman Murphy agreed to let him be the liaison.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:23pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeanne Cook, Borough Clerk.