



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, June 7, 2018 at 7:35pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Fede.

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, 2017.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy, and Napolitano were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong and Borough Administrator Scarpa

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

Connie Carpenter asked about the status of the Annual Financial Statement, the Budget for 2018, and the Corrective Action Plan.

Michele Rupar asked if the tax payment being made to 297 Palisade Avenue (referring to Resolution 18-093) would have any effect on the budget. She asked where the AT&T installations would be, and she requested that someone go over the vote taken on May 17 to hire Costa Engineering for the RCB project.

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

Administrator Scarpa said that Ray Herr would be preparing a corrective action plan, and the 2018 Budget will be introduced at the next meeting. He said that the AFS is tied in with the budget. He also explained that the AT&T installations would be on the phone lines only. Borough Attorney Bossong explained that Resolution 18-093 was the release of a performance bond which is a bond held by the town until a construction job is completed successfully. It is then returned to the contractor. A performance bond is a protection for the town. It has no impact on the budget. Councilman Miranda explained that the Borough Engineer would be paid by the developer through escrow funds. The town would not be paying the Borough Engineer for RCB related work.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

18-089A Tax Sale Redemption for Block 75, Lot 12

18-090 Tax Overpayment Refund for Block 72, Lot 1.01

18-091 Tax Overpayment Refund for Block 72, Lot 6

18-092 Authorizing Release of Performance Bond and Waiver of Maintenance Bond for 297 Palisade Avenue

18-093 Granting Permission to AT&T Corp to install communications facilities along, under, and over the public right of way in order to provide communications services to the public

18-094 Authorize amendment to Bergen County Animal Control Shared Services Agreement

18-095 Issue Liquor Licenses for 2018-2019

The Following Ordinance was Introduced:

#1514 An Ordinance Amending Schedule VII of chapter 7-3.6 Entitled "time Limit Parking" – to Establish an Exception for Active Borough Volunteers

Public Hearing and Adoption of the Following Ordinance took place:

#1513 An Ordinance Amending Schedule I of Section 7-3.3 Entitled "Parking Prohibited at All Times on Certain Streets" to Allow Parking at the Southern Terminus of Linden Avenue

The following Approval took place

Minutes of 5/17/18 were approved with only Councilwoman Gates-Ferris voting No and Councilman Macfarlane abstaining since he was absent from the May 17, 2018 meeting.

Discussion

Police test for Sergeant: Administrator Scarpa announced that the chief's test was available. It was developed by the International Association of Police Chiefs. He is hoping to have it in Bogota by September.

Bogota Beautiful Utility Box Project: Councilwoman Fede explained that Bogota Beautiful and the Environmental Commission have been considering the Utility Box Project for a while. She asked Amaru Bustamonte to come and speak about it. He gave out a pamphlet to the Mayor and Council and explained that Hackensack participated in a utility box project last year thanks to the partnership of the Northern Bergen Community Foundation – the Arts Bergen Division and a Hackensack Creative Arts team. (Utility boxes in Hackensack were painted by local artists.) Amaru invited Maureen Manafore, a teacher at Fairleigh Dickinson, to speak to the Mayor and Council. She explained that there are steps for this project. First, the Mayor and Council have to approve it. Creative Place Making involves getting a group of residents, artists, business owners, etc. together to determine projects that will grow out of the municipality. The plan would include identifying a location and hiring artists to do the work. Another step is to obtain funding for the project through grants etc. Councilwoman Fede explained that the Environmental Commission will discuss putting together a creative team that will be diverse to include all parts of our community.

Reports

Mayor Kelemen announced that the next Volunteer Dinner will be held on January 12, 2019, if the catering hall is available. He said that Library Director Coleman sent an email about a focus group on June 20th. ARC held its annual walk on Sunday at Olsen Park. He did not know about it, or he would have been there. He attended the Drunk Driving Seminar, and he opened the Week of the Arts at Bixby and Steen School. The Week of the Arts was started about thirty years ago by Mrs. Burns. He also announced that next week would be Breakfast with the Third Graders. The Steen School Court was dedicated to Terry Ciccone, a long time gym teacher who is retiring. Last week he attended the Eastern Bergen County Board of Realtors and sat on the Mayoral Panel with the Mayors of Teaneck and Fort Lee answering issues on pot holes and air B & Bs. Also discussed were fair ways to hire contractors, recreation improvements, and rules about realtor signs. He reported that the building inspector said that there are very few CO applications which can present danger to tenants if their rental is not inspected before they move into it. We need to crack down on that. He said that Memorial Day was really nice. There was a good showing by the Council, and the Police and Fire Departments. He said that the Memorial Day tradition is very strong, but the VFW and American Legion are dwindling. He expressed gratitude to Walter Croft and Alex Hernandez for all the work they do for the parade. He would like to put together a parade committee from different parts of the town and have a holiday parade. He spoke to the Administrator about trimming the trees for the fire trucks.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris: Library – She said that June is Friends of the Library month, and the library is selling little bags for \$15. She was happy for the showing for the Memorial Day Parade and thanked the DPW and the Police and Auxiliary and Fire Department for all that was done for the parade.

Councilman Miranda: Police Department – He reported that the police did a good job closing off the streets for the Memorial Day Parade. He suggested offering an APP for residents that will provide a lot of information. He passed out a pamphlet about the APP.

Recreation Committee – He reported that the "Healthy Kids Running Series" would be a good addition to Recreation programs for children. The program helps children to run better. Recreation Committee

would like to offer a 3 day fee for summer camp along with the 5 day camp. He asked about job description for the Recreation Director.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy , seconded by Councilman Miranda, to support the Recreation Committee's request to add a three day option for the summer camp. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Fede: Environmental – She reported that a brief meeting was held with the Fire Chiefs about Fireman's Park. It was decided to leave it where it is. She said that the Trex box is full and 60 planting locations were picked along gateway streets for trees. Bogota Beautiful's wildflowers project is underway.. She reminded everyone that Shred Day is June 30. She would like plastic bag collection that day as well. She noticed that the Environmental Walkway could use a good cleaning and staining. It would be a great volunteer project for a group to do.

Veterans – She reported that only two Veterans were able to march in the parade due to physical disabilities. A vehicle will be needed to drive veterans in the parade. It was also suggested that the Grand Marshall be a veteran.

Councilman Napolitano: Finance – He reported that the tree trimming to 14 feet for the fire engines will have to be done. It will be a necessary expense. He said that the CFO, the auditor, Battaglia Associates, the Administrator, etc . are working together on the the budget and finance issues.

Buildings and Grounds – He feels there may be a need for a full time building inspector due to CO problem. He reported that Bogota is on the County agenda to receive \$210,000 for basketball and tennis courts, and he thanked Borough Engineer Costa and Grant Writer Welsh for this grant. He would like discussion to take place concerning the Munn and Elm Avenue property and also on the new community center.

Infrastructure – The Borough is going out to bid for the remainder of the Leonia Avenue project (\$380,000). He thanked Engineer Costa for this grant. The Safe Routes to School Grant will be applied for again as well as the Transportation Alternative Grant. Road work will be done on E. Fort Lee Road, E. Broad Street, Maplewood Avenue, Larch Avenue, and Palisade Avenue.

Senior Citizens – He reported that the Senior Citizens had a bilingual meeting with the county. 30 to 35 Spanish speaking seniors attended. The Seniors received a lot of valuable information at that meeting.

BACSA – He reported that the DUI demonstration took place on June 1st. Seeing everyone working together (volunteers, students, police, schools, etc) showed Bogota at its best.

Planning and Zoning – He reported that the Site Plan was signed for the River Development. The design is changing from 5 buildings to 4 buildings. They should be out of the ground by August.

Councilwoman Murphy: Fire Department - She reported that she attended the Fire Chiefs' meeting last night. She said that the trees need to be trimmed, so the fire engines do not hit them. She requested that the IT professional, Dino, check out the fire department computers to update them. The computers have not been considered a priority item, so they have not been put on the list for the capital budget.

A pancake fundraiser will be held at Applebee's on July 29th. Ken Kalman reported that the water pressure on Linden Avenue from West Grove Street to the south end of Linden Avenue was very low. Suez notified the fire department about this and will repair it. There needs to be pressure applied on Suez to do it. Mayor Kelemen added that the Fire Chief told him that the Master Boxes need to be discussed. She mentioned the new fire truck, and Administrator Scarpa said he has the specs for it.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to give authorization to go out to bid for the new fire engine for Company 2. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Library – She reported that the Library Director has a strategic plan and is targeting groups all over town. She said that it was nice that the library staff marched in the Memorial Day parade.

Councilman Macfarlane: Board of Education – He reported that three members of the Board of Education were angry because they did not get the choice they wanted for superintendent. It was in the newspaper and is a reflection on all of us. It is hurtful. Mayor Kelemen added that the Board of Education and the Mayor and Council have a good relationship now and are working together for the good of the Borough. Councilman Macfarlane also said that the parking lot project is going well and should be completed a few days after school starts.

Councilman Macfarlane requested that the July and August meetings be moved back to 7:00pm. Everyone agreed.

Administrator Scarpa spoke about a problem with the sweeper up by the high school. He will talk to the DPW Superintendent about it. He also noted that the fire escapes for Borough Hall need to be repaired as well as the roads mentioned by Councilman Napolitano which will be repaired through the Pascack Valley Cooperative System. He said that the Environmental Joint Insurance Fund did an audit of the our DPW facility and we received a score of 99 out of 100. He said that Holy Name Ambulance respond to 44 calls each month, and the response time is 6 minutes or less. He reported that the security system for Borough Hall is almost completed. He announced that PSE&G has a grant program for conserving energy with lighting. PSE&G will pay 70% of the bill to have new lighting installed and replace the old air conditioning system. The Borough can pay for this over a three year period. He reminded everyone that June 30th will be Shred Day from 9AM to 1PM at the Recreation parking lot. It will be posted on the website. He noted that West Fort Lee Road railroad tracks were repaired for Memorial Day, and a new server was installed at Borough Hall. He said that the DPW did a lot of work in front of Borough Hall. There are 44 Master boxes that we may have to eliminate them if there is no maintenance for them. This will be discussed with the Fire Chief.

Borough Attorney Bossong had no report.

The Borough Clerk had no report.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to go into closed session. Motion carried and the Mayor and Council left the Council Chambers at 9:30pm to meet in closed session in the Conference room. Resolution 18-095C was added to the agenda.

At 10:10pm, motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to return to Open Session. Motion carried.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.