



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, August 3, 2017, in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:00PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Macfarlane.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy and Napolitano were present. 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 July 17, 2017.

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

Connie Carpenter thanked Administrator Scarpa and Superintendent Kohles for repairing holes on the property at the Swim Club. She was glad to hear that the minimum bid for the ambulance was increased. She asked if the deposit from the Developer of the 421 units was received.

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

Administrator Scarpa said that the deposit from the developer has not been received yet.

Mayor Kelemen explained the following Resolution that was acted upon after the Closed Session of the 7/20/17 meeting, and passed by a 4-0 vote: 17-126 Terminating F/T Police Dispatcher Ross Wagner

Discussion took place concerning Resolutions 17-128, 17-130, and 17-134 before voting on the consent agenda.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

- 17-127 Settlement of Tax Appeal for River Rock Equities Inc. – Block 113, Lots 7 & 8
- 17-128 Allowing Ridgefield Park/Bogota Soccer Association permission to schedule Recreation Soccer Games
- 17-129 Tax Sale Certificate for Block 77, Lot 25
- 17-130 Authorization to Auction the New Ambulance
- 17-131 Petty Cash for Administrator
- 17-132 Petty Cash for DPW
- 17-133 Petty Cash for Police Chief
- 17-134 Award of Contract for Pascack Valley Cooperative Pricing System(#107-PVCPS) 2017 Road Paving Program to D & L Paving Contractors, Inc. (as amended due to typographical error)

Ordinance #1501 was removed from the agenda to be introduced at the next meeting.

Approvals:

- Council Approved St. Joseph's Church raffle licenses for the Carnival in September. Borough fees were waived.

-Minutes 7/20/17 were approved with Council members Fede, Macfarlane, and Napolitano voting "yes", Council member Gates-Ferris voting "No, and Council members Miranda and Murphy abstaining.

Reports

Mayor Kelemen reported that he and Councilman Napolitano met with Congressman Josh Gottheimer about the flooding on River Road and how the County wants to close down River Road for a year for the culvert. He also spoke about the flooding on West Fort Lee Road which is a county road. He would like the County to dredge River which has not been dredged for about 15 years. He also explained to Congressman Gottheimer that the Main Street Bridge is almost 80 years old, and the County should examine it. He pointed out that the CSX train bridge is very old, and CSX needs to examine and repair it. He announced that Administrator Scarpa will be handling the Police Contract negotiations on behalf of the Borough. He said that the Borough Hall elevator broke on Friday and the Clerk helped the Seniors to have their meeting on the main floor of Borough Hall. Painting is being done in Borough Hall which had not been done in twenty years. Also, frayed rugs will be replaced and floors will be sanded. Outside pillars will be replaced and eventually the outside of the building will be painted. He said that the Swim Club is doing well.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris: Noise – She said that she attended the Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisory Committee meeting last week. She reported that the pilot of the new flight route over Route 17 is voluntary and many pilots chose not to use it. Also, the number of flights in and out of Teterboro has increased, so the noise complaints have increased as well. She said that lawmakers want to override Governor Christie's veto on trains. She would like a resolution to support the override.

DPW – She reported that the DPW workers are doing a lot of street cleaning and painting yellow lines.

(She offered to help the clerk to process RFQ's electronically if allowed.)

Councilman Miranda: Police – He said that he received many complaints about speeding on the roads. There were over 50 ambulance calls in July, 259 summonses, over 600 general calls, and approximately 300 motor vehicle violations.

Recreation – He reported that the Summer Camp has 79 children registered and is doing well. The new sign is up and running in front of the Recreation building. Movie night had 94 attendees. The Recreation Committee and Director contacted a company to repair the broken lights. The new signs in the park look nice. There are over 30 children enrolled for football. DPW did a good job cleaning the parks, and summer camp is doing well. The Fall Festival will be held on October 28th. He said that the Recreation Committee and Councilman Macfarlane would like to sell printed mugs with the borough emblem, and they would like to offer free beer with the mug. (Mr. Scarpa explained that JIF does not want alcohol served.)

Councilwoman Fede: Environmental Commission – She explained that for Sustainable Jersey certification, she is working with the Administrator and the DPW on tracking units of gas and electricity.

She is not sure if the Borough received the tree grant yet. The Clerk and Administrator are putting together the tree and damaged sidewalk list. The Five Year Community Forestry Plan has been approved.

The Garden Committee rededication ceremony and party will run from 4pm till 8pm on Saturday with light refreshments.

Rescue: She reported that the Rescue Squad is participating with the Police Youth Academy. The Ambulance that is being given to the Rescue Squad must be emptied. She asked about the possibility of the Rescue Squad using the area

below the stairs in the Rescue Building for storage space. It needs to be opened and cleaned out.

(She said that on August 18th a local author will be at the library lecturing on how to publish a book while keeping your job.)

Councilman Napolitano: Senior Citizens - He reported that the Seniors did not have a meeting.

Finance - He said that the Borough is more financially healthy than it has been in years. Revenue is up and spending is down. He reported that from 2009 through 2014 Bogota received \$150,000 in grants that were not used. From 2015 to the present, Bogota received over \$600,000 just in Municipal aid. Mr. Scarpa helped get County Grants, so Bogota received close to a million dollars in grants from 2015 till now. He said it is important to use the grant money when it is received.

Infrastructure – The Palisade Avenue Project is complete which was a County grant. The Municipal aid grant for the Leonia Avenue Project Phase III has been approved. He spoke to the County engineers About the Midtown Bridge and the culvert. The midtown Bridge will be completed in December. He explained that the culvert is one aspect of controlling the flooding problem. There is a need for a multi-faceted approach to control the flooding. The Pascack Valley Cooperative Road Work will begin soon for Gray Street, Kovar Street, E. Fort Lee Road, Elmwood Avenue and Larch Avenue.

Buildings and Grounds – He attended a meeting in Trenton Government Community Relations and local Aid to review the “Safe Routes to School” grant, and received tips on how to improve the score. This evolved from a meeting with the Superintendent. Travel plans for the students, etc. can be added to the Safe routes grant to increase the score. The Master Plan is being worked on. The DPW building is on schedule for September or October completion.

Councilwoman Murphy: Fire Department – She said that the Fire Department does not meet in the summer. The LOSAP money was not deposited. Councilman Napolitano reported that there were training exercises with the NYC Fire Department on West Fort Lee Road and Larch Avenue.

Councilman Macfarlane: Board of Health did not meet.

Board of Education did not meet.

Library Board did not meet. He wanted to report on the great service the Library offers for passports.

(He commented on the pleasant experience he encountered at the Swim Club.)

Administrator Scarpa ordered covers for the large radiators on the second floor. He also ordered more recycling buckets for Borough Hall. He announced that the necessary reports for pension contributions have been filed. Municipal Administrators from many towns met at Borough Hall. Birds in the soffits at Borough Hall and the Fire Department will be removed on August 7th. Holy Name ambulance responded to 51 Calls in June and 34 calls in July. The response time for most of the calls was 5 minutes or less. Bogota received a Certificate from the DEP for the Community Forestry Plan. The Storm Water Certification Report was submitted for 2014, 2015, and 2016, so the town is in good standing with the DEP. Mosquito control sprayed the field before the movie at the Recreation Center. Section 3-12 in the Bogota Ordinances talks about “No Alcoholic Beverages in parks etc”.

Attorney Bossong said that Bergen County Housing no longer acts as the Administrative Agent for municipalities. The County suggested the NJ Housing Mortgage Finance Agency. He will present their proposal to the Council for Council approval.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: August 17, 2017