



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, May 18, 2017, in the Bogota Senior Center at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Murphy.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen, Council members Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy and Napolitano, Other Attendees included Borough Administrator Scarpa, Borough Attorney Bossong, and CFO DiMaria.

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 May 16, 2017.

Mayor Kelemen and Councilman Napolitano congratulated the members of St. Joseph's National Junior Honor Society and their parents, and presented awards to St. Joseph's National Junior High School members and stressed the importance of education.

Citizen Remarks: One Five (5) minute time limit per person

Connie Carpenter asked why the user friendly budget was not on the website and questioned the Corrective Action Plan.

Lisa Kohles question the rice notice.

Nick Zamptti said many people do not pick up after dogs when they walk them.

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

Borough Attorney Bossong explained that the Corrective Action Plan was an internal matter and will be dealt with shortly.

The following Resolutions Consent Agenda was approved:

PC17-05 Payment of Claims

17-092 Resolution Authorizing Issuance of PO #3040349 for a Sweeper

17-093 Resolution Authorizing issuance of PO #3040346 for two trucks for Fire Department

17-094 Settlement of tax Appeal Block 40 Lot 10

17-095 Change Order for 2016 Leonia Avenue Road Improvement Project, Phase II

Public Hearing on CY Budget 2017: Motion made by Councilman Napolitano and seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to open the meeting for the public hearing on the budget. Motion carried.

Connie Carpenter asked about written consent from the DLGS, the confiscated funds to the Bergen County Prosecutors office, the Swim Club rental fee, the anticipated Surplus, and the funds from the Developer.

Motion to close the public hearing on the budget was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Motion carried.

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinances took place:

#1497 Amending Chapter VII Entitled "Traffic" Schedule XVII to add Handicap Parking Spaces near VFW

#1498 Amending Chapter VII Section 9 Entitled "Bus Stops" and Schedule XII to Relocate an Existing Bus Stop

Mayor Kelemen announced Bogota Beautiful did a great job at Fireman's Park . which is a memorial to WWI soldiers. He thanked Amaru and his friend who donated materials to make a nice walkway. Next week he will visit Steen School for Career Day. On June 12th the 6th grade will be coming to Borough Hall for a tour and for Breakfast with the Mayor at 9:00am. All Council members are invited. On June 5th at 8:30am, he will help to open the Week of the Arts at Bixby School and at 9:20am in Steen School. in Steen Week of Arts He thanked Sgt. Cole and Officer Luciano for helping to correct the lighting problem by West Shore Avenue. Councilmembers were asked to call Chief of Police if they notice any lighting problems anywhere in town. Sidewalks under the train trestle are deteriorated. PSE&G agreed to repair there. A tree fell in front of Borough Hall. Sgt. Cole and the Fire Department responded right away to block off area and to keep people safe. PSE&G had to come to remove branches from the wires before the tree could be removed. He had contacted the County concerning the Culvert and Fort Lee Road but heard nothing from the County. He met with a representative from Just Inspire, an organization that offers grant money to municipalities to fight drugs. A man was arrested 1,000 feet from Bogota High School for selling drugs. We need a war on drugs now.

Councilwoman Ferris had no report.

Councilman Miranda: Police Department - He thanked Police Department for doing a great job at schools.
Recreation Department: He said that Flag Football will take place soon.

Councilwoman Fede: Environmental Commission – She reported that the Community Forestry Grant Application was submitted to the DEP with help from the Administrator and Grant Writer. This is a three year program for \$30,000 - \$10,000 per year. The 5 year Community Forestry Plan was submitted to the DEP this week. Four members of the Environmental Commission are taking Urban Forestry training classes. The Commission will be focusing on an ash tree pest that destroys ash trees. Green Fair was a great success. All 200 saplings have been given away and will be planted. Community Garden has expanded and needs some renters. Rebuild Together tickets are being sold for \$10. The prize includes electrical help for a day and a \$250 Lowe's card.

(She met with the Swim Club and discussed the condition of the parking lot and the relocation of the recycling center.

She congratulated Craig Bossong for being chosen 2017 New Leader of the Bar by the New Jersey Law Journal. Only 50 attorneys have been given that distinction.

Rescue: October 10, 2017 will be Volunteer Day at Valley National Bank or at Olsen Park for squad recruitment and to show the equipment.

Councilman Napolitano: Senior Citizens: Bergen County senior services will hopefully give a presentation concerning Meals on Wheels and Transportation.

Infrastructure: Mid town Bridge was demolished. The Leonia Avenue Project and West Shore Avenue Project are moving with paving, sidewalks, and drainage. The Pascack Valley Cooperative will start soon for Gray Street, Kovar Street, East Fort Lee Road and Elmwood Avenue. Palisade Aenue Project will begin in June or July. The Planning Board is waiting for the committee to meet for the Master Plan. He and the Mayor met with Susan Myer of Just Inspire who can help get grant money for speakers to talk about substance abuse etc. He would like a joint meeting with the police and Board of Education to move forward on the war on drugs.

Finance: The budget is under Cap with a 0% tax increase. He pointed out that in 2014, the introduced budget was 5% over Cap which was not aloud, so changes had to be made. He quoted news articles from 2014.

Councilwoman Murphy: Fire Department – She said that the next officers’ meeting will be Wednesday, June 8, 2017, and she will be there. On Memorial Day there will be a 10:00am inspection . She reported that the Community Garden Asked if the Fire Dept could fill rain barrels when needed.

Mayor Kelemen explained that they have done that in the past. He also reminded everyone that the Memorial Day ceremony will take place at 11:00am in front of Borough Hall. Parade marchers should meet at 1:30pm at Cypress and Palisade Avenue

Councilman Macfarlane: Board of Education – He explained that the Board of Education had a public hearing on budget.

Administrator: PSE&G will do repairs under the train trestle on Wednesday. The DPW building will be ready in August. Safety fencing was purchased for the ball fields to prevent players from running into the street. A new sweeper and 2 SUV’s were approved tonight. These will be paid with the bond money.

All pavers were repaired. Some new pavers were lifted when the tree fell, but they will be repaired. West Shore Avenue improvements will curbs, sidewalks, and some street repairs as well. He went to the Central Avenue firehouse. It needs new gutters and down spouts. Squirrels and mice need to be removed from the building. The Rescue building needs waterproofing Safety enhancements for Borough Hall, the Library , and the police include key swipes and panic buttons. The Recreation Building will also be secured. As well as upgrading the police desk with new Monitors . A hearing was scheduled with the County for a grant application for \$13,000 for safety cushions , but a bomb threat at the County cancelled the hearing. Pascack Valley bid specs will be ready June 20th.

June 10th will be Shred Day from 9am to 1pm at 162 West Main St, Recreation Center. He asked that all Remember Memorial Day and those who died for our country.

Borough Attorney Bossong explained that Resolution 17-094 clears up old appeals. One in Ridgfield Park is still opened. He said that the Council needs to go into closed session for attorney/client issue.

Motion for Closed Session was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy at 8:45PM. Motion carried and Resolution 17-095C was added to the agenda.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00pm. Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to move the June 22nd meeting to June 20th at 6:30pm. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane to change the start times for the July and August meetings to 7:00pm. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.