



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota to held on Tuesday, June 20, 2017, in the Bogota Senior Center at 6:30PM.

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

Mayor Kelemen requested that everyone remain standing after the Flag Salute in order to have a moment of silence for Patricia Brickley who recently died. He said that Patricia Brickley was involved in many areas in Bogota and deserved acknowledgement from the Mayor and Council.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Fede, Gates-Ferris, Murphy and Napolitano were present. Councilman Macfarlane was absent. Councilman Miranda arrived at 6:43pm during closed session. Other Attendees included Borough Administrator Scarpa, Borough Attorney Bossong, and Labor Attorney Brian Giblin.

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 31, 2017.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to go into Closed Session for a Personnel issue. Motion carried and Resolution 17-105C was approved at 6:40pm.

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

Lisa Kohles asked if Frank DiMaria was riced this evening.

Connie Carpenter said that the letter that was sent out with the tax bill was a campaign letter. She questioned the corrective Action Plan for the 2015 Audit. She discussed the 2011 and 2014 Audits, and said that bonds are loans that have to be paid back.

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

Councilwoman Murphy said that she felt it was a campaign piece as well and felt that her name should not have been on the letterhead. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris also did not want her name to be on the letterhead because she may not agree with a letter that goes out with her name on it. Councilman Napolitano pointed out that it is the town letterhead. Borough Attorney Bossong explained that the letter could only be considered a campaign letter if their names had been left off the letter. Councilman Napolitano explained that all the good things mentioned in the letter were being attributed to the entire Mayor and Council. Mayor Kelemen said that he would not sign a letter if it were not true. Councilwoman Fede pointed out that for many years, a letter goes out with every tax bill.

Councilman Napolitano read a quote from one of many articles from "The Record" in 2014: "Thomas Neff, Director of Local Government Services, said that "their efforts to control costs appear to be sorely lacking as is evidenced by over-expenditures in prior years and personnel actions that are unsustainable.

The State stepped in to control costs because costs were not being controlled on the local level."

Discussion took place concerning the difference between state watch and state monitoring. Administrator

Scarpa explained that the town was put on State Watch in 2014, and the Director of Local Government Services was monitoring all spending. He said that transcripts are fully available for anyone to see the testimony before the State.

Police Chief Maye presented badges to the recent Police Reserve graduates. He explained that Police Officer LaFerrera is in charge of the auxiliaries, and that the auxiliaries help with fire and ambulance calls. They show up at all hours. He said that two female auxiliaries went for matron training to help with female arrests. Their names are: Craig Spliedt, Rob Foster, Carlos Mercado, Wayne Sorge, Jessica Rozola, Abdolina Cid, and Jesse_____.

Mayor Kelemen presented a check from the Governing Body and the Bogota Police Department to Sgt Craig Lynch for the Bogota Police Youth Academy. Sgt. Lynch explained the great success of the academy in forming future leaders. This year's class will be the 7th class in the 8 years the Academy has been in existence.

Mayor Kelemen introduced the Labor Attorney, Brian Giblin, to discuss Ross Wagner, a police dispatcher who was issued a rice notice and chose to have the hearing at the open session. Mr. Giblin explained that Ross Wagner was injured in a non-work related accident, and has been out of work for over a year. A dispatcher's job is not physical and could be done by a police officer who was on light duty. He asked if the Mayor and Council would like to discuss the details in closed session.

Ross Wagner explained that he had knee replacement surgery in May of 2016. He said that he has scar tissue build-up and cannot sit or stand for a long period of time. He said that he may need another surgery.

Police Chief Maye explained that the Police Department has four full time dispatchers and with Ross Wagner being out, part timers have to work extra hours to cover his time. One of his part times had to work 10 days in a row on 12 hour shifts. This can be a safety issue due to overwork.

The Mayor and Council decided to go into Closed Session after completing other items on the agenda.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC17-06 Payment of Claims

17-105 Tax Refund for Block 58, Lot 3

17-106 Liquor Licenses

17-108 Hiring Part-time Civilian Police Dispatchers

17-109 Hiring Recreation Summer Camp Counsellors

17-110 Change Order Javier Construction for fixing holes in neighboring property
17-111 Change Order Javier Construction for New Trench Drain and oil Interceptor

17-112 Hiring Summer DPW Help — Albert A. Albino

17-113 Hiring Summer DPW Help — Vince DiMitre

The following Resolution was removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately after discussion. Administrator Scarpa pointed out that only \$6,345.50 was spent for the first 6 months of the Holy Name Ambulance. \$15,000 was budgeted for the year. The volunteer ambulance had a budget of \$40,000 or \$50,000 a Year. He reminded everyone that only 27% of calls were answered by the Volunteer Ambulance Corp. The rest of the calls were answered by hospitals including Holy Name Hospital.

17-107 Renew Agreement with HNH

(Mayor Kelemen reported that the Rescue Squad would take the old ambulance, and he suggested selling the new ambulance and giving the money to the Fire Department to get a new truck for Hose 2. This will be discussed at a future meeting.)

Mayor Kelemen and Council President Napolitano distributed awards to Bogota Jr/Sr High School National Honor Society Members and National Junior Honor Society Members. Mayor Kelemen congratulated the Honor Society members and their parents, and urged them to continue their commitment to education.

Council President Napolitano also congratulated the Honor Society members and explained the importance of education to be successful and make a difference in the world.

The following Ordinance was Introduced and Approved

#1499 —Amending Chapter II Section 10.5 Entitled "Fire Department" "Membership Qualifications and Application Procedures" To Increase the Retirement Age from Seventy-Five to Eighty Years of Age (Public Hearing will be held on July 20, 2017.)

The following minutes were approved with Councilwoman Fede and Councilman Miranda voting 'Yes', Councilwoman Gates-Ferris and Councilwoman Murphy voted 'No', and Councilman Napolitano abstaining because he did not attend that meeting. Mayor Kelemen broke the tie and voted 'Yes': 6/1/17 Minutes

Reports

Mayor Kelemen announced that Volunteer Dinner will be held on January 6th at the Fiesta. He reported that Last Monday Steen School's third grade visited Borough Hall for breakfast and a tour of the building. He thanked Police Chief Maye, Council President Napolitano, Borough Clerk Cook, and Administrator Scarpa for their help and participation in the event. After breakfast, the students toured Borough Hall to learn the many functions of the staff including the Police Department. It was a great team effort. Mayor Kelemen then congratulated all the students graduating from all the Bogota schools. He attended Academic Awards Night at the high school and saw many scholarships and certificates being awarded. He Attended the Bucs Booster Dinner and was disappointed at the poor participation by the Council. He said that the Hall of Fame Dinner was a great success. Sixteen alumni were inducted in the Hall of Fame, and the inductees spoke from the heart. He is proud of Police Chief Maye, the Reserves, the Police, the DPW, Rescue, etc. He said that a resident complained about the condition of the CSX property, and Fire Marshall Kern said that CSX cleaned up the area today. He reported that the William Burke Lodge is handing out donations to the emergency services organizations tomorrow, and he requested that at least one representative.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris: Transportation – There was a transportation meeting that she did not attend because she did not receive the notice in time.

Library – She attended the Library Board meeting. The Memorial Service for Nikki Spiegel was a success. Members of the Library Board have to earn CEUs now, and they can be obtained on-line.

DPW- The DPW workers are still having problems with pension payments. (She asked that the road markings on West Shore Avenue be addressed.)

Councilman Miranda: Recreation – The new animated Recreation sign was put up. Recreation Baseball has ended, and Bogota teams were undefeated against Hackensack and Rochelle Park. Football enrollment is in progress. Ridgefield Park Soccer would like to help Bogota with a soccer program. Summer Camp fees remained the same. New doors will be installed on the park bathrooms.

Police Department – The Bogota Police Department gave out more tickets and generated more revenue than Little Ferry this month.

Councilwoman Fede: Environmental Commission – She was contacted by the Borough Engineer about the replacement of trees on Leonia Avenue, and she explained the need for mark-outs and for choosing appropriate trees for that area. She is concerned about the condition of some of the trees in the park. Hazard assessments must be done to determine what tree need to come down and what trees need to be trimmed. Shred Day was a success.

Rescue Squad – The Rescue Squad will be marching in the Fourth of July parade in

Ridgefield Park.

(She attended the High School Academic Awards, and she and her husband gave a Scholarship to a deserving student.)

(She commented on the actions of the Board of Education attorney at the Joint meeting of the Mayor and Council and Board of Education. The Board of Ed attorney was rude and out of place. If the Board of Ed members had questions, they should have asked the questions.)

(She asked the Borough Attorney to speak to the Council members about texting during A public meeting.)

(She remembers the Council approving a raffle license for St. Joseph Church to run a Tricky Tray. She does not recall the Council approving any other Tricky Tray Raffle License.)

Council President Napolitano: Senior Citizens – The Senior Citizens had a very successful meeting with Cake and coffee and a magician. There was also a Presentation by Lorraine Giraino who explained all the for Senior Citizens by the County. She discussed Meals on Wheels, CHORE, the County Picnic in September, Snow Shoveling, etc.

Finance – He is proud that the town was able to give \$5,000 to Sgt. Lynch For the Police Youth Academy. He sees nothing wrong with the letter that was sent with the tax bill. There are articles about the financial problems of the town during former administrations. In one article, the CFO said that the local government overspent four years in a row. He met with Chris Tully from Gottheimer's office. They discussed FEMA grants, And Mr. Tully promised to help secure the SAFER grant.

Infrastructure – Leonia Avenue Phase II is basically complete. A senior on Leonia Avenue said that the flooding in her apartment Has been corrected. The West Shore Avenue Project is progressing. The Borough Engineer received County approval for the newly painted lines on West Shore Avenue. The Palisade Avenue project will begin sometime in July. The Pascack Valley Cooperative paving may begin in August. The Midtown Bridge is gone, and the new bridge will hopefully open in the winter. Councilwoman Fede donated artwork for the Conference room, and Nick Barese is putting pressure on abandoned homes.

Councilwoman Murphy: Fire Department – She said that LOSAP money was supposed to be sent in April, but it still was not sent.
(She said that she meant no disrespect for texting during a public meeting.)

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that the Holy Name Ambulance responded to 217 calls from January 2017 through May 2017. The Clean Communities Grant was approved for \$12,588.62. The DOT grant for Leonia Avenue Phase III was approved for \$165,627. The Borough will still have to Apply for a 4th Phase. A police grant provides up to 75% of one police officer's salary for 3 years. The 200 Club also has grants available. The West Shore Avenue Grant covers parking spaces, 11 storm drains, crosswalks, and handicap ramps. The roadwork is done and curbs are done on West Shore Avenue. The Cooperative Paving program is being reviewed tonight in Westwood. Trees are being inspected.

Borough Attorney Bossong explained that texting should not be done at a public meeting. He also reminded the Mayor and Council that all email and texts are subject to OPRA requests.

Motion was made to go into Closed Session by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates Ferris. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda at 9:15pm.
17-113C Closed Session – Personnel

When the meeting reconvened, Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook