



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, August 17, 2017, in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:00PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Fede.

Mayor Kelemen asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence in honor of four recently deceased individuals - Patricia Nicolosi – mother of Lenard Nicolosi former Bogota Mayor and Administrator

Vincent and Noreen Gallante's mother

Russ Gomes – Secretary to the Bogota Senior Citizens

James Van Sadlers – Former member of Bogota Volunteer Fire Dept. and First Aid Squad

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

Sherri Solomar complained that the sound of the fire horn at night woke up her children, and requested that something be done to change that. She suggested text messaging fire calls after a certain time or to do something to minimize the noise from the fire horn at night.

Jorge Nunez requested approval for a block party to be held on August 26th on Central Avenue. He also requested minimizing the noise from the fire horn at night.

Michele Rugar commented that she was happy to see discussion about the culvert on the agenda as well as the discussion about overriding the Governor's veto because the volunteers would benefit from knowledge of some kind of response plan.

Connie Carpenter asked how many applicants there were for the new position, questioned why the budget is sitting at the state on August 17, and asked when the Best Practices report would be completed.

John Mitchell said that he is proud of the way the town is going including the roll off truck and new salter for the DPW, turn out gear, the new soccer program, the park swing for the handicapped, the fence around the field to protect the baseball players, painting and lights in Borough Hall, new street signs and park signs, the \$5,000 given to the Police Youth Academy by the governing body and the police. He thanked Administrator Scarpa for his work, and he asked about the grant writer.

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

Councilwoman Murphy asked if the issue of sirens could be addressed. Administrator Scarpa thanked John Mitchell for his comments. He then explained that the Fire Department has been approached before about the fire horn at night. They will look into it again. A number of towns do not use a horn at night. New

technology could help. He reported that there were two applicants for the new position. He commented that some towns have self-examination of their budgets and do not have to wait for state approval. Bogota just got off of state watch, so self-examination is not possible at this time. The budget was sent to the state in May, and we are waiting for it. Councilman Miranda would like an ordinance passed to stop the horns at night. Councilwoman Fede explained that Bogota received a \$30,000 grant for trees with the help of the grant writer. It will give \$10,000 a year for tree planting. The town can match it in-kind or with volunteer services.

Discussions:

Mr. Scarpa explained that animal issues have increased in Bogota, so increased Animal Control services are needed. Bergen County Animal Control has a larger facility and more staff available than Bergen County Humane Enforcement and the costs are comparable. The facility is open 24/7. The clerk reported that the Health Inspector for Bogota requested the change to Bergen County Animal Control because it is better equipped for the animal complaints in Bogota at the present time.

Councilman Napolitano reported that he attended a meeting about the River Road Culvert on August 15th at the County with Mayor Kelemen, Administrator Scarpa, Police Chief Maye, Borough Engineer Costa, County - Deputy Chief of Staff Mark Shreiks, and County Engineer Femia. They discussed the grant the County has for the project and how to minimize the problems associated with the project. Bogota Engineer Costa pointed out that pre-cast footings are a time-saver and that PSE&G has another project coming up in the same area. He suggested a four-sided structure instead of three-sided for more efficiency. He explained that the siphon would have to be maintained by the town which would be a lot of added work. Administrator Scarpa pointed out that this job was created in 2003 and the County had until next May to secure the grant money from the state. Mayor Kelemen explained that he would not sign off on the job when it was first presented to him because of the interruption of all the businesses in that area. There is also the concern of emergency services vehicles not having adequate access to calls. He said that Borough Engineer Costa gave excellent recommendations to build a more efficient culvert in a shorter period of time. Councilman Napolitano pointed out that 8 months ago when Mr. Costa suggested the four-sided structure and Mayor Kelemen refused to sign the agreement, the County said there could be no compromise. AT this recent meeting, the County was more open to suggestions. It was a very good meeting.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris requested a discussion on endorsing the Override of Gov. Christie's conditional veto of the oil train bill. She said that the issues are trying to balance safety of the community and the ability of the first responders to know what's in the materials in the trains should there be a derailment. She said that there is also the concern of information of dangerous materials being leaked to terrorists. She said that we need to balance the two, but she would like the first responders to know of the dangerous materials and what is the best response. Councilman Napolitano spoke to Congressman Gottheimer and explained to him that Bogota does not have the equipment to handle a train disaster. He said that the railroads such as CSX and fuel companies should have to pay for the equipment. He said that fuel is not the only issue. There are other dangerous materials in the cars. Also, the railroad bridge may not have been inspected for a very long time. Councilwoman Murphy supports transparency and wishes to address the next set of what to see. Councilwoman Fede feels ambivalent explaining that the Right to Know reports are only as good as the people looking at them. The requested resolution is ceremonial. There are reasons why certain things should be kept quiet. The fire department and OEM need to be trained as much as possible. Councilman Napolitano agreed that the resolution is ceremonial, but felt it was important to get the information and give it to the first responders. Then make a case for the need for equipment, maybe have a central location. Councilwoman Ferris said it was important to make a statement that this is an issue and that Bogota supports Senator Weinberg's efforts. It was agreed that Borough Attorney Bossong will prepare a resolution for a future meeting.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC17-08 Payment of Claims

17-135 Changing Animal Control

17-136 Auction Ancillary Ambulance Equipment

The following Ordinances were introduced and approved:

#1501 An Ordinance Amending Chapter IX Entitled "Building and Housing" to create subsection XII – Entitled "Unsafe and Uninhabitable Structures"

#1502 Salary Ordinance for 2017 (with an amendment)

Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the following block parties:

- Bogota Beautiful requested a Block Party on September 9th on West Fort Lee Road between Larch Avenue and Elm Avenue
- Jorge Nunez requested a block party on Central Avenue between Queen Anne Road and James Street for August 26, 2017.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to accept the following minutes with a few amendments. Motion carried.:

-Minutes 8/03/17

Reports

Mayor Kelemen thanked Sgt. Lynch and Anna Geraghty for their hard work with the Police Youth Academy. Chief Maye, Captain Sepp, the Police Department, the Rescue Squad, Council and the DOW all deserve thanks for taking part in the Police Youth Academy ceremony on Tuesday night. The candidates were very well behaved. He said that the Swim Club is doing well. The DPW and the summer help are doing well. He said that 203 Queen Anne Road is getting cleaned up. The tree and sidewalk lists are very long, and he needs to look into next year's budget to take care of the enormous list. He said that he put a lot of pressure on Nick Barese to work on 203 Queen Anne Road and on the Hess property, and Mr. Barese is doing a great job. He congratulated Councilwoman Fede for her interview on Channel 12 about the emerald ash borer. He would like to reintroduce the Noise Ordinance. The League of Municipalities Conference will be from November 14 to the 16th. He is going to ask the Police Chief to look into safety bumps.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris: Transportation – She said there was no transportation meeting recently.
DPW – She said that Superintendent Kohles was on vacation, so she had no report.

Councilman Miranda – Police Department: He spoke to Chief Maye about speed bumps that can be lifted.
He would like to see Portable Emergency Phones in the parks.

Recreation Committee: Fall Festival will be October 28th, and committees are being formed. He reported that there is a company that will provide boxes for recycled clothing that is sent to other countries. (He said the clothes are not torn into rags.) This will bring money to the town and help with the Recycling report.

Councilwoman Fede – Environmental Commission: She attended the rededication ceremony of the Community Garden with Councilwoman Murphy. The Mayor, Council, Administrator, CFO and Clerk all received thank you gifts from Bogota Beautiful. She said that all departments are participating in the Sustainable Jersey application. It passed the first round, and the second round is due September 10th. Diane Mancini is helping. She was interviewed on Channel 12 about the Emerald Ash Borer. The town will be losing quite a few trees.

Swim Club – The Swim Club will be meeting in September. They will be bringing

some modified terms and conditions to the meeting for review.
(She attended the Police Youth Academy Graduation. She sponsored a cadet and suggested that it would be nice if everyone who sponsored a cadet were told which cadet he/she sponsored.)

Councilman Napolitano – Senior Citizens: He reported that the Senior meeting will take place on September 5th and the Senior Advisory Board will take place on September 11th. The Bergen County Picnic will be held on September 13th from 10am to 3pm.

Planning Board: He said they had no meeting.

Infrastructure: He said that pedestrian safety this year has been good. There were no active fires. The Pascack Valley Coop Pre-Construction meeting will be held next week for Kovar, Elmwood, E. Fort Lee Road, Larch and Grey. The new DPW building is progressing including the corner where the old grocery store used to be. The Mid-town bridge should re-open in December. The culvert work cannot begin before that bridge is completed. The house on the corner of East Fort Lee Road and Larch Avenue has been torn down and can be taken away. 203 Queen Anne Road is being cleaned up by the DPW and a private contractor from the bank.

Finance: He announced that the town received the Federal DUI grant. He found out that Municipal Aid money can be used for sidewalks. The town has received close to one million dollars in grant money over the last two years.

Councilwoman Murphy – Fire Department: She said that the next Fire Official meeting will be on September 6, 2017. The fire department has two new vehicles.

Councilman Macfarlane had no report.

Councilman Napolitano reported that the Board of Education replaced the board attorney. He requested a report on what happened. Councilwoman Murphy reported that the former board attorney was not brought into the closed session meeting of the Board of Education. Councilman Napolitano pointed out that for transparency, it would be good to have a report. Councilwoman Murphy said that after the closed session, motion was made, and 5 resolutions were added. The newspaper mentioned the former board attorney's increased contract, the way he was paid, the investigation by the Department of Education. Nothing was brought to the public.

Administrator Scarpa reported that the list of trees to be cut down or trimmed will be going out to bid soon. New signs are in the parks. Petrik's park will get a new sign too. He said that a 25 year old fire SUV will be used by the fire department for training. Numerous State grants and Community Development grants have been received over the years. A piece of Elm Avenue was done. Replacement swings and slides are being purchased for Petrik Park. The contract with Holy Name for EMS services was signed. There are no loud horns blown for the Holy Name ambulance. Petty cash resolutions were done at the last meeting and must be approved by the state. The DWI grant was received. Borough Hall was painted, and new light bulbs were installed. The floors will be sanded and rugs will be replaced in the near future.

Attorney Bossong reported that the last tax appeal of the year is completed. The appeal was withdrawn.

Borough Clerk Cook read a letter sent to OEM Coordinator Wayne Sorge from the County OEM praising his work as a new OEM coordinator.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to go into closed session. Motion carried and the governing body went into closed session at 8:45pm.

Meeting reconvened at 9:40pm, and motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to hire Judith Curran as Payroll and Finance specialist. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:

17-137 Authorize Hiring a Part-Time Payroll and Financial Specialist

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk, Jeanne Cook