



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, April 4, 2019 at 7:30pm.

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

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 27, 2018.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Murphy, Robbins, and Napolitano were present. Also Attending were Borough Attorney Betesh, Borough Administrator Scarpa, and Bond Counsel Rogut.

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

Rosemary Gesievich said that Seniors go to the banks, the clerk's office, to the tax collector, etc. when they come to Borough Hall for the Senior meetings. She said that the Senior Center was dedicated to the Seniors in 1996 and rededicated in 2013. She said that the Senior bus driver is only available Wednesdays and Thursdays, and they need more hours from the bus driver. She said that the Seniors would like to come to council meetings, but they do not drive at night.

Zenovia Castro brought her daughters dressed as Mini Mouse and Disney's Belle to speak about her proposal for the Borough to buy costumes for town events. She also asked when street renovations will be taking place.

Pauline Kosusko said that there were rumors that the Council wants to remove the Seniors from borough hall and put them in the Recreation Center. She asked why they want to move the Seniors since everyone is allowed to use the room. She asked why so many people have a key to the Senior Center.

Michelle Rugar pointed out a typo on the Agenda - "a zero is missing on Resolution 19-067". She also asked if any other petitions for the Primary were handed in on Monday.

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

Mayor Kelemen thanked Zenovia Castro and her daughters for coming to the meeting and adding happiness to the room.

Councilman Napolitano said that Teaneck had a meeting on a Saturday in the afternoon which was very well attended. He said that as Council liaison to the Seniors last year, and he knows that the Seniors do not want to move down to the Recreation Center. He said that the Leonia Avenue project should begin soon. He liked the idea of the costumes for events.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris asked Zenovia Castro to email her the proposal for the costumes. Councilwoman Murphy said that the Council is not talking about moving the Seniors to the Recreation Center. She also asked Administrator Scarpa to look into the key situation for the Recreation Center. Councilman Napolitano asked if the bus driver could give more hours. Mr. Scarpa said that if he was given times, he could talk to the bus driver. Mayor Kelemen said that the Senior Center will not be moved. He asked Ms. Castro to drop off her proposal to the Clerk and to Councilwoman Gates-Ferris.

Mayor Kelemen read the letter from the Department of Transportation saying that Bogota received a grant for Leonia Avenue for \$202,000.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to move the discussion about the sewer issue to after the voting on the Resolutions. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murpny, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution on the Consent Agenda:

19-070 Change Order #1 for Palisade Avenue Roadway Improvements Phase III  
(19-069 was removed from the agenda)

Bond Counsel Rogut explained that Resolution 19-067 and 19-068 pertain to a bond sale in the amount of \$5,675,000. He said that short term and long term rates are very close now, so Bogota will be converting from short term to long term debt. He explained that the town had a very healthy financial standing in 2018 and in 2017 as well.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried.

19-067 Resolution Authorizing the Publication, Printing, and Distribution of a Notice of Sale and the Publication of a summary Notice of Sale and Prescribing the forms Thereof for \$5,675,000 General Improvement Bonds ...

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried.

19-068 Resolution Combining Several authorizations of bonds into a Single Issue and Prescribing the Details and bond Form thereof for \$5,675,000 General Improvement Bonds Dated May 1, 2019

Discussion took place concerning a sewer issue at 102 Fairview Avenue. The owner is faced with a very expensive repair job due to a collapsed sewer lateral. It is the homeowner's responsibility to repair, but she asked for help from the borough. The borough engineer said that if the Borough did the job, a reputable company would have to be used, and the job would cost \$35,000. Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to have the Borough repair the sewer line, and put a 10 year lien on the property until the job is paid in full, if the home owner agrees to it. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to adopt the following Ordinance. Motion carried.

#1522 Bond Ordinance for \$109,000 for Palisade Avenue Phase III Project

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to adopt the following Ordinance. Motion carried.

#1523 Multi-Purpose Bond Ordinance for \$1,000,000

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to adopt the following Ordinance. Motion carried.

#1524 Index Rate Ordinance

Approvals:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2019, February 28, 2019, March 7, 2019.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to table the March 21, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried.

Maureen Muller asked why Minutes have not been posted on the website since February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Michelle Rugar said that it is beneficial to review the minutes for accuracy before posting them. She also asked if there has been any movement to televising the meetings. She also asked why a COAH discussion would have to be in closed session.

Rosemary Gasiewicz said that she would like to have the Council meetings on television. She said that the Senior Advisory Committee would like to have a new advisory liaison.

Ms. Castro said that there is a lot of traffic on Leonia Avenue, and cars speed down Leonia Avenue all the time. She would like to see signs to slow down traffic and a stop sign between the overpass to stop speeding.

June Fitzgerald asked how the Planning board approved such atrocities on Larch Avenue and West Fort Lee Road.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Gates/Ferris, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Mr. Scarpa said that the IT person and the webmaster have been working on software etc. to make the meetings televised. Councilwoman Murphy will have Chief Maye look into the speeding problem on Leonia Avenue. Councilman Napolitano said that putting cameras on the DPW building could help. He said the cameras can even show license plates. Mayor Kelemen said that the drawings for the West Fort Lee Road /Larch Avenue projects were approved years ago. Borough Attorney Betesh said that the COAH matter is active litigation and therefore must be in closed session. Councilman Macfarlane said that he will step down as liaison to the Seniors. He said that his heart is with them.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen read a letter from the county about the grant money for Leonia Avenue. He thanked the Council for voting to help the woman with the sewer issue. He said that Mr. Dirupo asked if Carnival parking can be in the high school parking lot. DPW Superintendent Kohles will put up flood lights. Discussion took place. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve parking lot for the carnival. Motion carried. He also mentioned the masonic temple and possible use of it by the Board of Education or the Library.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that the second 125 Anniversary newsletter will be going to the printer tomorrow. The Bogota Day Committee discussed Bogota Day time from 4:30pm to 8:30pm. There was discussion of food trucks, arts and crafts vendors, lots of activities, music, and free hot dogs. She said the owner of Montana contributed \$2,500 for the fireworks. All sponsors will be recognized on banners. The next Library Trustee meeting is Monday.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that the Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 3<sup>th</sup>. The rain date will be April 20<sup>th</sup>. She said that there are a lot of sidewalk issues and the sidewalks on route to schools and church are in need of repair. She said that the County does not take care of fencing, only the roads. She would like to speak to Steve Welsh about getting a grant for the fencing. She said that Freeholder Zur said that she was not aware of fixing road by the 421 units. She spoke to Chip Greiner about the CSX bridge and received a name of someone to call. Discussion took place. There is structural damage due to a truck crashing into it. Also the brook undermined Elm Avenue which needs to be built up.

Councilman Napolitano said there was a 0% tax increase in 2017. He said that Police had 1,797 calls. There were 283 motor vehicle stops, 212 summonses, 341 summonses on borough ordinances, and 52 ambulance calls. He said that Pat Morrone will be retiring in June, and the police need two more crossing guards and dispatchers. An SLEO3 needs to be hired soon too. The Police Chief also requested a third police officer be hired as per last year's discussion. BACSA had a meeting and said that they have an issue with the state concerning old documentation. Kathy Van Buren is trying to locate it for them. They are looking for ideas for locations for Project Graduation. They will be having another meeting in September about vaping. The Veterans are organizing their Memorial Day Celebration.

Councilwoman Murphy said that the grant cannot apply to tree pruning, so Paul Cowie is not needed. She met with Fire Chief Breuss but has no definite report until the next meeting.

Councilman Robbins said that there were no Teterboro noise complaints this quarter. Rescue has a new truck. Buildings and Grounds registration fees were \$53,800. He sent everyone a PDF that records an actual meeting. He spoke to Genesis, and she said that the company that makes the software also does the coding our ordinances. It is one avenue to explore.

Councilman Macfarlane said that the Board of Health has been exploring the vaping issue. The Board of Education is exploring the masonic temple. As for finance, there will be a conference call for the Moody's report, and the public hearing on the budget will take place at the next meeting.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that Shred Day is July 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Flowers will be planted. Playground equipment at Olsen Park is for 5 to 12 year olds. We will get ADA approved equipment for 2 to 5 year olds. The total is \$32,000. Bogota has an application in for a CDBG FOR Grant Street for \$102,000. He went to Holy Name Hospital and received the contract for drug testing for the CDL licensees. He said \$11,000 came in from auctioning old vehicles, etc. He and DPW Supt. Kohles are going to a tree meeting. A company will check the air quality of our buildings. There were 55 ambulance calls for the month of March.

Borough Attorney Betesh said that approvals are in place for the Leonia Avenue Road Improvement. He carried in the bid specs and plans to the building. A resolution will be on the next agenda to advertise for bids. COAH matters will be discussed in Closed Session.

Borough Clerk Cook reminded everyone about the rabies clinic on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. She said that the Board of Health meeting will take place on April 15<sup>th</sup>, and vaping will be discussed. She reminded the governing body to follow the Open Public Meetings Act.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to go into closed Session. Motion carried and Resolution 19-070C Closed Session was added to the agenda.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to open the meeting at 10:20pm.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter to add the following Resolution to the agenda. Motion carried.

19-071 Amend the Piazza and Associates agreement with the Borough to include an Agreement with CGP&H.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.