



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota to be held on Thursday, February 2, 2017, in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Murphy.

Mayor Kelemen asked everyone to remain standing for a few moments and offer a moment of silence for Gunner Renfruit, a former volunteer, and Leonard Nicolosi, the father of former Mayor Leonard Nicolosi.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy and Napolitano were present. Other Attendees included Administrator Scarpa, 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 December 30, 2016.

Verizon Wireless presented a request to put additional antennae on utility poles.

Resolution 17-050 was removed from the Consent Agenda to be voted on separately.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

17-051 Award contract for Sanitary Sewer for Ridgefield Avenue to John H. Construction

17-052 Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate for Block 56, Lot 1

17-053 Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate for Block 51, Lot 7

17-054 Refund Overpayment of Taxes for Block 46, Lot 3

17-055 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 100, Lot 31.01

17-056 Refund Overpayment of Taxes for Block 20, Lot 8

17-057 Returning Escrow Money to Wells Fargo for 117 Pine St., 200 Beechwood Ave., 47 Oakwood Ave.

17-058 Returning Escrow Money to Wells Fargo for 174 Central Avenue

The following Resolution was approved:

17-050 Authorizing Job and Job Engineers to Act as Borough Engineers for River Development Project

Public Hearing and Adoption took place on the following Ordinances:

#1491 To Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a CAP Bank

#1492 Capital Ordinance – Reconstruction of West Shore Avenue \$200,000

#1493 Capital Ordinance - Reconstruction of Leonia Avenue Phase 2 \$200,000

Approval:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda to approve the Minutes for 1/19/17. Motion carried with Councilwoman Gates-Ferris abstaining due to being absent from that meeting.

Reports

Mayor Kelemen reported that he attended the Pre-Construction meeting for the Mid-town Bridge along with the Police Chief, the Borough Engineer, Councilman Napolitano, and Administrator Scarpa. Plans to relieve the flooding on West Fort Lee Road will be done by the County. Traffic will be redirected from Main Street to Fort Lee Road for one year. Public Safety questions will be addressed as well.

He attended a luncheon of Law Enforcement officials from New York and New Jersey. Mr. Gruell spoke about the major drug problem in Bergen County. Many drug related deaths have occurred as well as near-death saves from Narcon. If Mr. Gruell puts together a Mayor's conference or committee group, Mayor

Kelemen wants to be on it for Bogota. The Chamber of Commerce meeting scheduled for January 30th has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled for a later date. He will be attending a conference on Saturday with the ____? mayor.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris - Library: She reported that the Library is doing a fund raiser to build a Memorial tree for Nikki Spiegel in the Children's Section of the library. Last Saturday, the Library held a pot luck international luncheon.

DPW: She reported that the DPW workers had meetings with their union representative concerning pension.

Councilman Miranda - Recreation: He reported that _____ enrollment forms were sent out to the schools. Permits for the electronic sign in front of the Recreation Center have been obtained. Additional cleaning is being done to improve the Center.

Police: He reported that the Police officers have given out hundreds of summonses and are working to keep children safe in Bogota. He thanked Administrator Scarpa and former Councilman John Mitchell for the renovations done in the Police Department. Improvements are still being done for the police.

Councilwoman Fede - Rescue: She requested that the approval for the Boot Drive be put on the next agenda. She expressed concern about the Rescue clothing allowance and Municipal aid.

Environmental Commission: Garden Committee is requesting 6 additional beds and benches. The committee will present a plan. She noticed a construction site with significant runoff and a driveway with a lot of garbage. The Green Fest will be held on May 13th. Many vendors will be coming. Clean-up day will be April 22.

Councilman Napolitano – Construction: West Fort Lee Road Drainage is Phase I. New inlets will be installed. The contractor will have to close the bridge for nine months. The Police Chief will coordinate signs. PSE&G would like to meet to discuss gas line modernization. Leonia Avenue and West Shore Avenue projects will begin soon. The TAP grant for work from Larch Avenue to the bridge should be available in about 4 weeks. The Safe Routes to School grant will hopefully be available in February.

Senior Citizens: The Senior Citizens will be having a Valentine's Day party.

Finance: The Borough is very strong financially. He will meet with the Administrator and CFO soon.

Councilwoman Murphy – Fire Department: She met with Hose 2 Firehouse on Sunday. She met with the officers. Gutters and liters are in bad shape, and the walls are crumbling. LOSAP paperwork is being put together. Hose 2 is having a pancake fundraiser on February 19. Generators were discussed as a needed item. The firemen are working on a Safer Grant which was not offered to volunteer fire departments before. The deadline is February 10. Engine 2 is trying out a new software program. Engine 2 would like to meet with Council liaisons to request a new engine.

(Mr. Scarpa pointed out that department heads must request large items, and he has not heard about a fire engine or generators from the Fire Chief.)

Councilman Macfarlane – Library: He attended the library luncheon. It was a success.

Board of Health: He attended the Board of Health meeting and found that the Health Inspectors were working efficiently. The Rabies clinic will be held April 1st.

Administrator Scarpa reported that the grant company was hired for a flat fee of \$10,000. Five grants have been obtained so far. Grant writer is working on a safety fencing grant. A body worn camera grant is available, but the police do not want that. It is too late to apply for a grant for a soccer field. Holy Name ambulance answered 182 calls from July to December. Expenses are between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Volunteer ambulance budget was \$40,000. Bids for road projects were received. Each project is bid separately and must be awarded separately. The Borough shows sound fiscal management.

Attorney Bossong had only closed session items.

Mayor Kelemen reported that the Police Department Renovations went well and said that Officer Piteriski did 80% of the work.

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

Labor Representative for the DPW workers, Mark McCart, reported problems with the Retirement System. Employees make regular payments and then cannot access their accounts. Employee loans were paid off from their paychecks, but not recorded properly. PERS contributions need to be resolved. He has been questioning this issue for six months. It should be a priority item to fix.

Lisa Kohles said that DPW pensions have had issues since she was on Council. It needs to be resolved.

Tim Kueck, a DPW employee, said that there is no record of him in the pension system. He asked for it to be resolved soon.

Connie Carpenter asked why the meeting is called a work session when it should be a regular meeting. She said that Real Estate is not a closed session item. She said that she sent pension money to the State and would like an apology from Administrator Scarpa.

Joe Shuler reported that many books in excellent condition were thrown in a dumpster. This is a waste of money.

John Mitchell reported that Little Ferry baseball would be willing to have a whole program for Bogota children if Bogota is interested. Also, 58 Palisade Avenue has a lot of debris on the side of the house.

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

Administrator Scarpa said that Real Estate is a closed session item and asked the Clerk to change all meetings to regular sessions. He also pointed out that in February of 2014, a resolution was approved which gave Connie Carpenter a salary increase of \$18,000 to do payroll and pension.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda at 9:00pm:
17-058C Authorizing meeting not open to public

Meeting reconvened at 10:10pm. Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:12pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.