



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, February 15, 2018 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris

Mayor Kelemen asked everyone to remain standing after the flag salute in order to have a moment of silence for the shooting victims in Florida.

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 23, 2017.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy, and Napolitano were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong, Borough Administrator Scarpa, and Interim CFO Curran.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to open the meeting up to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Michele Rupar asked that copies of Resolutions and Ordinances be put on the website with the agendas.

Connie Carpenter asked why the lease for the Swim Club was not ready. She asked when award letters for grants would be available for her to OPRA. She said that she was told there was talk of a land swap which could occur in a couple of months. She questioned how that could happen so quickly.

Tony Culmone requested that Citizen Remarks be put at the end instead of the beginning of the meeting.

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

Borough Attorney Bossong said that he sent an email to the attorney for the Swim Club and is waiting for a response in order to prepare the new lease. Councilwoman Fede reported that on several occasions she was expecting comments from the Swim Club because the Swim Club had said that it wanted some changes in the lease. Councilwoman Fede sent no less than six emails requesting the changes.

Councilwoman Fede reminded everyone that the reason Citizen Remarks was moved to the beginning of the meeting was because of complaints that Citizens should have a voice before the Council votes on anything. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that she had requested comments at the beginning and end of the meeting, and Mayor Kelemen reminded her that a Council vote of 4 to 2 rejected Citizen comments at the beginning and end.

Councilman Miranda reported that Councilwoman Gates-Ferris has the original tape for the Recreation meeting, and Ms. Carpenter said that she heard the tape. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that she did not listen to the tape and will give it back tomorrow. Borough Attorney Bossong reminded everyone that no original tape can be removed. Mayor Kelemen reminded everyone that the land swap has been discussed for years, and he asked that everyone stop fighting so the town can move forward. There needs to be respect for one another, and everyone needs to understand that research needs to be done on what the town is working with in the Recreation area before any decisions can be made. He said that our Borough Attorney is investigating Green Acres. He also said that he will never allow an illegal meeting to take place while he is Mayor. Administrator Scarpa reported that real estate matters are closed session items, and if action is to be taken, it has to occur in open session. Councilman Napolitano reported that improving the Recreation Facilities is part of the Master Plan, and it is better to use private funds for improvements if possible rather than burden the tax payer. Private funds includes the money received and to be received from Riverfront Development. Interim CFO Curran said that she is working with the auditor, and the 2017 Annual Debt Statement has been filed today.

Resolutions PC18-02 and 18-051 were removed from the Consent agenda to be voted on separately.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve the following Consent Agenda:

- 18-052 Tax Sale Redemption for Block
- 18-053 Approving By-Laws of Bogota Auxiliary Police
- 18-054 Increase Temporary Budget for 2018
- 18-055 Void Checks for Various Reasons
- 18-056 To Issue a New Check to NJ Division of Codes and Standards
- 18-057 To Hire After-School Counselor for Bogota Recreation Program
- 18-058 Hire Substitute Tax Collector for Tax Collector while she is on vacation
- 18-059 To Enter Into a Grant Agreement – Road Resurfacing

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve the following resolution. Motion carried with Councilwoman Murphy voting “No”.  
PC18-02 Payment of Claims

Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the following resolution. Motion carried with Council members Fede, Miranda, and Napolitano voting “Yes”, Council members Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, and Murphy voting “No”, and Mayor Kelemen breaking the tie.  
18-051 To Hire Bruno Associates as Grant Writer for 2018

The following Ordinances were introduced and Approved:

- 1505 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter II Section 16 Entitled “Rescue Squad” Subsection 16.2
- 1506 – An Ordinance Adopting a Policy for Totally Disabled Veteran’s and Surviving Spouses Tax Exemption on Municipal Property

The Public Hearing on the above ordinances will take place on March 1, 2018.

The following Ordinances were Adopted after a Public Hearing:

- 1503 – An Ordinance Replacing the Entire Contents of the Existing Affordable Housing Development Fees Ordinance of the Borough of Bogota
- 1504 – An Ordinance Replacing the Entire Contents of the Existing Affordable Housing Ordinance of the Borough of Bogota to Address the Requirements of the Fair Housing Act and the Uniform Housing Affordability Controls (UHAC) regarding Compliance with the Borough’s Affordable Housing Obligations

Approvals

- Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the Minutes for February 1, 2018. Motion carried with Councilwoman Gates-Ferris abstaining because she was absent for the February 1, 2018 meeting.
- Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve Bogota Rescue Squad’s request for Boot Drive to be held on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Rain date May 5<sup>th</sup>, at the intersection of Palisade Avenue and Main Street from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Motion carried.

Discussion

- Commercial Parking will be discussed after Council reviews the sample ordinance.
- Ordinance to establish a loading zone on West Fort Lee Road was discussed. Councilman Napolitano explained that the parking lot was made for loading and unloading, so a loading zone is not necessary. Also there is an awkward corner there, and a Day Care Center across the street.

Reports

Mayor Kelemen applauded the Council for allowing the security system to be installed at Borough Hall. He requested that the Board of Education secure the schools in the same way and offered assistance to the Board of Education if needed to make Bogota’s schools secure. He thanked the Fire Department for their help in Ridgefield Park. He will be hosting the Breakfast with the Steen 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade soon. He said that Bixby School is also interested in having Breakfast with the Mayor.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris: Transportation - She attended the January 24<sup>th</sup> TANAAC meeting where it was reported that the FAA is developing plans to revise the Runway 19 approach. They are doing construction updates on the field to alleviate flooding.

Library – She met the new director. The library updated the policy and procedure manual. It is increasing the passport fee from \$25 to \$35 in March which should bring in an additional \$5,000.

Veterans – She spoke to Mary Wagner and Alex Hernandez. They do not expect to do Any meetings till Spring.

Councilman Miranda: Police Department – He congratulated the Police Department for all the thorough work they did in a recent investigation. He said that the Police received a letter from the state on the excellent detective work performed by Bogota Police. The Police had Rifle training on Tuesday and today.

They do a lot of continuing education. He thanked the Council for supporting Crimestoppers.

Recreation Committee – He reported that Little Ferry has an excellent baseball program for children. Professional programs are offered to teach offense and defense in baseball. He said that about 20% of the children are from Bogota. He said that the basketball program is going well. He said that Rodney from Ridgefield Park said that they are having a dinner on February 24<sup>th</sup> for \$30. Rodney said they would like additional hours on the Bogota fields.

Councilwoman Fede: Veterans' Affairs – She reported that Alex Hernandez has been talking to Sgt. Ryan's family about a rededication ceremony for the bridge. The anticipated date is April 21<sup>st</sup>. She said that the Park Clean-up Day is also April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Fire Department – She met with the Chief and the Deputy Chief and received a very warm welcome. She learned that there are facility issues at the Broad Street Firehouse. There was an 85% increase in calls from last year, and 25% were mutual aid calls. She asked if the town has a list of people on oxygen who may need a generator during a power outage. Also, the Fire Department should know of anyone using oxygen in light of Teaneck fire which was devastating. The town needs a system to contact the elderly who do not have cell phones. (Fire Chief Culmone said that the Fire Department is supposed to get notice about oxygen users.) Administrator Scarpa said that the police have a list. He will talk to the OEM Coordinator and the Police Chief.

Rescue – She reported that the Chief's vehicle is in need of replacement. The Rescue Squad will march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Bergenfield.

Environmental – Bogota Beautiful will have their annual potluck dinner on February 17<sup>th</sup>. She reported that there are three historic structures in town, two bridges and a house on Lynn Court.

Councilman Napolitano: Finance – He reported that they have been speaking to the auditor and things are moving forward. The auditor is helping to straighten out the financial issues.

Senior Citizens – The Seniors celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Ann Taylor. He reported that a Senior Citizen received a ticket for not shoveling snow, and he would like to do something to help those in need of help shoveling snow. He asked if Property Maintenance money could be used to shovel the seniors' snow. He also sees a need to have a Hispanic Senior Citizen group. Fr. John of St. Joseph's Church offered to help.

Buildings and Grounds – The Architect will give a price for reconfiguring the Parks. Efforts should continue to beautify Firemen's Park with park benches. He reported that Kevin Kelly was appointed as Planning & Zoning Board Attorney and Boswell Engineering was appointed as Planning & Zoning Board Engineer.

Infrastructure – He reported that he would like help from the Borough Administrator and the Mayor are to get the West Shore Line moving as a passenger line. He would like to get Congressman Gottheimer and Senator Weinberg involved as well.

Councilwoman Murphy: Fire Department – She said that the Deputy Fire Chief has been putting together a Weekly Update. They will present budget issues next week.

Councilman Macfarlane: Board of Education – He reported that the Board of Education has met twice and has accepted

Jackie Devoe as a member. He said that the work in front of the school will begin soon, and is projected to be completed by Labor Day. Teacher parking, etc. will be disrupted. The total cost will be \$1,420,350. He reported that Interlogic made a presentation and showed a great security system for the school that will tie in with the Borough Hall security system. Grants are available.

Borough Administrator Scarpa distributed the accomplishments for 2017 to the Mayor and Council. He reported that Suez Water Company has three properties it would like to "get rid of". He and the Mayor are looking into a commuter rail on the West Shore Line. He is trying to set up a meeting with the railroad. He reached out to New Jersey Transit about the commuter line as well.

Borough Attorney Bossong reported that with the adoption of the two ordinances on this agenda (#1503 and #1504), everything should be in place for the Compliance hearing on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Interim CFO Curran reported that she and the Administrator went to Bogota Savings Bank to obtain account statements in order to reconcile bank accounts etc. Everything is moving along financially.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to go into closed session to discuss the Police Contract and personnel. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda at 9:10pm.  
18-059C

At 10:20pm, Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to reconvene the meeting. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to appoint Judith Curran as CFO if a reasonable salary can be negotiated. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:  
18-060 Appointment of Judith Curran as CFO contingent upon salary negotiations

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:35pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.