



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, March 15, 2018 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 23, 2017.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Fede, Gates-Ferris, Murphy, and Napolitano were present. Councilmen Macfarlane and Miranda were absent. Also attending were substitute Borough Attorney Morin, Borough Administrator Scarpa, and Boswell Engineering Representative Borge Tambalakian.

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

Michele Rupar requested that attachments be added to the agendas on the website. She said that Planning and Zoning Board Minutes and Agendas are not available on the website, and Mayor and Council meeting minutes are not up to date.

Connie Carpenter asked if the 2016 Audit is complete and when the 2017 audit will be done. She requested letters and/or checks for grants. She questioned the DPW building bids, the temporary capital budget, and the status of introducing the budget.

Police Officers Ryan Ward and John Gallipoli questioned the police negotiations and requested that a Council person be added to the negotiating committee.

Motion to close Citizen Remarks was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris. Motion carried.

Administrator Scarpa reported that he and Interim CFO Curran met with the auditor for an exit audit meeting on Tuesday, and the auditor will finish the 2016 audit and distribute it soon. He said that 2017 Bank Reconciliations must be completed before the 2017 Annual Financial Statement can be prepared. He explained to the police officers that they had to examine the overall impact on the budget before finalizing negotiations. They must consider the spending CAP for the budget as well. He said that in his twenty years of negotiating police contracts, Bogota is the only town where the police negotiate at public meetings.

Mayor Kelemen reminded the Council that he chose Administrator Scarpa for the police negotiating committee and he told the Council at a public meeting that he was choosing Mr. Scarpa. He said that he was told that negotiations were going well and then received a grievance from the police which surprised him. He asked for the police to be patient while the Mayor and Council try to satisfy the police request while keeping the tax payers in mind. In the school situation, equipment has been provided, and legalities and finance must be dealt with. He reported that the labor attorney responded to the grievance.

Mr. Scarpa assured Ms. Carpenter that the DPW building change orders were necessary and did not exceed 15% of the total cost of the project. He also reported that some of the money for the building had to be bonded for and FEMA money that came through after Hurricane Sandy was not used for the building.

Continued Discussion of River Road and Culvert – Representative from Boswell (County Engineer) Borge Tambalakian said that the Project Design is completed. The roadway will be raised two feet. A syphon will be needed because the sewer line will run under the culvert.

Councilman Napolitano reminded the County Engineer that the length of time the road will be closed is a problem. The Borough Engineer had originally suggested a pre-cast which would be faster as well as a way to eliminate the syphon or have the county maintain the syphon. The road closure is estimated at 6 to 9 months.

Mayor Kelemen reminded everyone that the road closure last year destroyed the merchants in the area. He said that lives are at risk when that road is closed and that when the bridge opens, Cedar Lane will close. He requested that there be partial road opening during the time of the project. He also requested the deadline date for the grant. Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to request conditions for signing the TWA. One condition was a request that the County of Bergen put a clause in the bid documents to minimize the closure of the complete roadway to a reasonable amount of time. The second condition is to provide for liquidated damages to the town if the road closure exceeds the time set forth for the completion of the entire project. Motion carried.

Resolution 18-067 was pulled from the agenda to be voted on after closed session.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

- 18-061 2017 Recycling Tonnage Grant
- 18-062 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 24, Lot 16
- 18-063 Tax Sale redemption for Block 75, Lot 1
- 18-064 Change Order #18 for DPW Building - Extra Costs for Exterior Sign
- 18-065 Change Order #19 for DPW Building – Added Electrical Outlets as Directed
- 18-066 Change Order #20 for DPW Building – Added Exterior Lighting
- 18-068 Establish a 2018 Temporary Capital Budget
- 18-069 Emergency Temporary Appropriations
- 18-070 Supporting the April Distracted Driving Crackdown U Drive, U Text, U Pay, Campaign

The following Resolution was approved after discussion.

PC18-04 Payment of Claims

The following Ordinances were introduced and approved:

- #1507 Multi-Purpose Bond Ordinance
- #1508 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 14-4 Entitled “Removal of Garbage”
- #1509 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 21A-10.10 Entitled “Off-Street Parking” after amending “4 tires” to “2 axles”

The Public Hearing for Bond Ordinance #1507 and for Ordinances #1508 and #1509 will take place on April 5, 2018.

Approvals

–Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve St. Joseph’s Church request for approval for a Tricky Tray on April 27, 2018. Motion carried.

-Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to accept the Minutes for March 1, 2018. Motion carried with Councilwoman Murphy abstaining due to being absent from the March 1, 2018 meeting.

Discussion

–An Ordinance Amending Schedule VII of Chapter 7-3.6 Entitled “Time Limit Parking” – to Establish an Overnight Parking Spot on West Grove Street and Amending Schedule VII of Chapter 7-6.2

Creating a Stop Intersection – There was not enough information about the above ordinance to allow for discussion.

Reports

Mayor Kelemen announced that next year will be the 125th Anniversary for Bogota. He would like to continue with the traditions from the 100th year anniversary. He will contact Henry Komorowski, the town historian. He thanked the Police, Fire, Rescue, and the DPW for their hard work during and after the storm. He reported that the High School parking lot is under construction for about 6 months. He is in contact with the Superintendent of Schools.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris – VFW: She met with Commander Alex Hernandez at the VFW, and he relayed the history of the VFW to her. VFW has 88 members. He said that the VFW is considering renting out the upper hall. He offered the VFW as a polling place. He talked about a stop sign at West End Avenue and West Shore Avenue. He asked Barry McCann to have the high school band play at the bridge dedication, and he has a large picture of Sgt. Ryan to bring to the ceremony.

Transportation: She said that the next TANAAC meeting will be held on March 28, 2018.

Councilwoman Fede – VFW: She spoke to the Ryan family. They would like the dedication ceremony to be held on April 21, 2018 whether the bridge is completed or not.

Rescue Squad: She reported that the squad members spent 32 hours on tree limbs and brush

after the snow storms.

Environmental Commission: Treks will provide a bench for free if the town can collect 500 pounds of plastic shopping bags.

Councilman Napolitano – Finance: He met with Bergen County Community Development to check on Grants that were approved. He reported that the 2016 Audit is complete and will be distributed soon.

Infrastructure: Cars are being removed from the Hess/Sifford site. Buildings on the site will be demolished in a few weeks. Redesign plans will be presented to the Planning & Zoning Board. Authorization of funds is needed for a few projects. The slipper factory and surrounding area are in need of redevelopment.

Buildings and Grounds: Borough Architect Billow will have a Recreation Redevelopment layout for the next meeting.

BACSA: Three members met to discuss plans to stop drug abuse in town.

Seniors: He reported that he is trying to help the Seniors to get more members.

Councilwoman Murphy – Fire Department: She explained that the fire meeting for Wednesday was moved to Tuesday.

Library – She reported that the Library Trustees voted on updates with slight modifications.

A new part time librarian was hired, Jennifer Apries. The library is looking for an archivist for old documents.

Administrator Scarpa reported that the 200 Club donated \$2,500 to the Police Youth Academy. He announced that the fire scapes at Borough Hall will be repaired. Uniforms will be purchased for the DPW employees. He will have a firm date for the DPW building Ribbon Cutting soon. 125 is quey quey. There will be a \$6000 match for the open space grant. There is a major construction project at the high school. Curb cuts must follow ADA specifications. He said that he has been involved with police negotiations for over 20 years and has never seen the police speak about negotiations in open session in any town but Bogota.

Interim CFO Curran said that the audit is complete, and she is working with Borough Engineer Costa to get grant money from past projects.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to go into closed session. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda:
18-070C Closed Session

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the following resolution with the addition of one month health benefits.
Motion carried with Councilwoman Gates-Ferris abstaining.
18-067 Retirement of Captain Sepp

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.