



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, September 6, 2018 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Macfarlane.

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 Administrator Scarpa and substitute Borough Attorney Mark Peck who arrived just after roll call.

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

Rebecca Youla thanked the governing body for the Crosswalks at Queen Anne Road being painted. She said that many people noticed and appreciate it.

Connie Carpenter requested that the AFS be put on the website and said that the 2013 AFS is missing from the website. She said the apportionment of taxes is missing also. She asked what roads are included in the Pascack Valley Road repair and if it is part of a grant. She asked why hiring police officers is not in the budget.

Jose Chavez commented that it is important to have a better Recreation Center for children where they can have things to do rather than getting in trouble.

Tanya Felice patron thanked the governing body for painting the crosswalks. She suggested a sign at the end of Cypress Avenue to let people know that they have to turn left into the grid lines. She said that the softball team was not promoted by the Recreation Center, and a new Recreation Center sounds promising.

Lisa Kohles said that she supports a new Recreation Center. She said that a lot of the failure of programs is lack of participation. Parents need to participate and encourage their children to participate.

Gregory Rosado said that his son had to go to another town for soccer. His daughter had to go to Ridgewood for girl scouts. He feels that the town needs to build a better Recreation program

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

Councilwoman Murphy said that she is in favor of the new Recreation Center and would like to see the new Recreation Center put on the ballot as a referendum item. Councilman Miranda said that he would like to see more involvement by parents. He said that surrounding towns have worked on moving forward. He said that the Fire Department and Police Department get what they need to be safe. We need to do the same for the children. He said that in 1998, a \$13 million dollar bond was voted on for the Board of Education to refurbish the schools. We are still paying that off twenty years later. Nothing would be done if we were to wait for the money to be in hand. He said that the town has an agreement with a multi-million dollar company. Councilman Napolitano said that the Recreation Center will be built with negotiated money. The negotiations were done with the purpose of building something for the community with no taxpayer money. The auditor will be at the next meeting to explain it. The Cell tower was sold for nearly \$800,000 a few years ago. Where is that money? The police budget went up 10% and the first \$125,000 given by the developer went to tax relief. We just received \$250,000, enough for a down payment for the bond for the Rec Center. Taxes will not go up from this Recreation Center. Councilman Miranda pointed out that many children hang out in front of or inside the library with nowhere else to go. He also said that a formerly contaminated property is now being developed. King Street Financial is a billion dollar company. Councilwoman Ferris said that she would like a new Recreation Center when we have the money but is concerned about the library being very small and not receiving a lot of funding. She is concerned about fiscal responsibility. She said that she ran the Girl Scouts in town years ago, but parent support lessened. Councilman Miranda explained that Bonds are used for many things because they are low interest. They are paid off in the future with tax dollars. The bond for the Recreation Center will be paid back with the negotiated money from the developer. Councilman Miranda said that the library is necessary but not as impactful as it once was. Amazon rents books. People have kindles, tablets, etc. Recreational programs are necessary for the children and the community. Councilwoman Murphy said she is concerned that we have nine million dollars in bonds. Councilwoman Fede pointed out that we have professionals that came to a meeting and told us our sound bite. She urged her fellow councilmembers to listen to the professionals who will be coming to the next meeting. She said that last week the developer met with the President of the Susquehanna Railroad in Bogota to talk about building a path over the railroa from their development to the new Recreation Center. Councilman Macfarlane said that there was always a place found to do the programs for his children. He is fiscally cautious about building a new Recreation Center. Mayor Kelemen pointed out that when the bond is introduced for the Recreation Center, four Council votes will be needed because the Mayor cannot break a tie on a financial matter. The New Recreation Center will die if only three council members vote for the bond. Mayor Kelemen explained the history of the Recreation Center to everyone and how in 1978 the town bonded to put an addition on the Recreation Center that was used by the community for many big events. In 1982 an arsonist burned it down. Insurance money was used for the present building which has never been improved. The mayor continued that now is the time to create a community recreation center even if these funds were not available. He again urged the council members to vote for the bond to build the Recreation Center. He asked them not to use their political affiliation to stop the town from moving forward.

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that the roads to be paved through the Pascack Valley roadwork are East Broad Street from Palisade Avenue to Leonia Avenue, Maplewood Avenue, and Larch Avenue from Park Place to the Teaneck border. He explained that the police want to replace retired officers who are in the budget until next year.

Dave Bilow, the Bogota Borough Architect, accompanied by Matthew Billow and David Spagnolia, presented preliminary plans for the new Recreation Center. Discussion about the use of the facility ensued. Use included after school activities, teen activities, a computer room for community use, and a workout room for the police. The police chief pointed out that there is a need for a facility

that can house the school children in case of a problem (reminding everyone about a cold winter day when the heat stopped working at Steen School). Mr. Bilow said that the gym can hold 1,000 people if the need exists.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

- 18-124 Awarding of Contract for Pascack Valley Cooperative Pricing System 2018 Road Paving Program to D&L Paving
- 18-125 Authorize Advertisement for Crossing Guards
- 18-126 Authorizing Advertisement for Police Dispatchers
- 18-127 Hire Sanzari for Emergency Roadwork on Elm Avenue
- 18-128 Hiring Recreation After-Care Counselor

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to approve the Minutes of 8/16/18. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Gates-Ferris voting "No".

Discussion: Old Business: Discussion ensued concerning buying a Fire Truck for Firehouse #2. One bid had been received from Absolute for \$548,492. If the truck is ordered by September 15<sup>th</sup>, the cost is reduced to \$522,137. The condition of the firehouse was discussed. The firehouse is in very bad shape. Should a new firetruck be purchased before the firehouse is repaired? That firetruck does not go out on calls. The bond that passed was for the truck and for generators. The purpose of the bond can be amended.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to accept the bid for the Fire truck. Council members Gates-Ferris, Murphy, and Macfarlane voted "Yes". Council members Fede, Miranda, and Napolitano voted "No". Mayor Kelemen broke the tie and voted "No".

New Business – Police Chief Maye said that Captain Sepp retired, and Sgt. Misskerg went out on disability and will not be returning. They are both still being paid vacation time etc. until the end of the year. He reported that the Prosecutor's office is hiring Walter Kumka, so he will be leaving before the end of the year. A new officer could replace him in this year's budget. He said that the Sargeants' exam will be given this month. He is hoping to hire three officers in 2019. They will be hired at much lower salaries than the two retirees. He also explained that two dispatchers will be leaving by December. He would like to amend the ordinance to allow one more Detective in the Bureau. He requested permission to advertise for a police officer who is PTC certified to replace Walter Kumka this year.

Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to allow Chief Maye to advertise for a PTC certified police officer. Motion carried.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen complimented all the Borough staff on their work during this hot summer. He said that the streets are immaculate and the parks are beautiful. Emergency Volunteer Night will be held on October 9 in St. Joseph's parking lot. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> will be the Local Wounded Veterans' Fundraiser with Mr. Burns. The Elm Avenue project is going well. From November 13 through the 15<sup>th</sup>, the bus stop repair will take place. Councilwoman Fede met with the developer and the railroad on a very hot day. There will be acknowledgement Police officers Cole, LaFarrera, and Gerahty on September 26<sup>th</sup> during Special Law Enforcement Night at 7:30pm. The Mayor

congratulated Walter Kumka on his accomplishments. He welcomed the new school year and was glad the lines were painted at the crosswalks. He wished the band good luck.

Councilwoman Ferris had no report.

Councilman Miranda- Recreation: He said that the after school program almost did not exist this year because the counselors went to college leaving a gap in staff. The Administrator and Recreation Director advertised for counselors, and five people applied and were approved. The Octoberfest Ragamuffin Parade will take place in October near Halloween. HE is sending a letter out for vendors for free soda, ice cream, etc.

Police Department -He thanked the police for their help in the first few days of school. He sends Kudos to the police and teachers. He said that the police facebook is phenominal. He congratulated Walter Kumka and Chief Maye for helping the police department move forward.

Councilwoman Fede: Environmental Commission: She reported that the tree takedowns are ongoing. She said that she has collected 100 pounds of plastic bags. In October, she will be meeting with the Shade Tree Federation tree inventory training in order to maximize the use of our computerized tree inventory program.

Fire Department: She announced that this Sunday at Applebees from 8:00am to 10:00am there will be a pancake fundraiser. She attended the Fire Chief meeting and heard that there were concerns about PSE&G removing lights at the firehouse. She said that the parking placards have been distributed to the volunteers. The fire hoses and ladders have been tested, and the bylaws committee will be meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Rescue Squad: She requested help in determining who are lifetime Rescue members. She asked if clothing allowances through the years can be checked.

Councilwoman Fede announced that Karen (Stone) Teran died suddenly of a brain aneurism. Her husband, Pat Teran designed the Bogota Bucs logo years ago.

Councilman Napolitano – Finance: He reported that Battaglia associates and the CFO are doing well. The 2018 Budget is adopted, and the town gained \$250,000 in Revenue from the developer. The grant writer is working on grants. The TAP grant has been submitted in its entirety. This grant will cover Main Street from Larch Avenue to the bridge for lighting, safety enhancements, etc. There is \$641,000 in local aid. We are still waiting for the basketball and tennis grant. The SRTS grant will be submitted soon.

Infrastructure: The ribbon cutting ceremony for the DPW building will take place on September 13. The recent Elm Avenue issues are being dealt with, but the slope is sliding. CSX needs to be involved. The TWA needs to be signed for

the culvert project. The trash racket will be redesigned. Tom Conolly said that he sent a letter for a pre-construction meeting. On May 11.

BACSA: He said that BACSA is in full support of building a new Recreation Center.

Councilwoman Murphy – Fire Department: She said that she was not able to attend the last meeting of the fire chiefs. She apologized for the fire engine bid not being accepted.

Councilman Macfarlane – Board of Education: He attended the Board of Education meeting. He said that Kelly Recoyellis is the new principal . The faculty can park now at the high school. He said that the rest of the parking lot will be completed once PSE&G moves some power poles. He reported that the Ethics charges launched against some of the Board of Education members have been dropped. On September 17, there will be a Town hall meeting to discuss putting officers in the school.

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that The Pascack Valley roadwork would have cost \$221,000 if Bogota did it alone, but it only costs \$177,000 in the shared program. He said that the DPW superintendent noticed that dirt under the roadway at Elm Avenue had washed away. The Borough Engineer brought in Sanzari to pump grout under the cement. They will be doing more work next week. Holy Name Hospital answered 51 calls in August at an average time of 5 minutes 22 seconds. The Insurance company inspected the DPW building and found it satisfactory. New lights were installed in Borough buildings by PSE&G. Hardwood began the tree takedowns. A dropbox will be installed the building for tax payments. The DPW grand opening will be on September 13<sup>th</sup>. He thanked the DPW superintendent for filling in the parking lot at the Swim Club and for getting the crosswalks painted. He said that Councilwoman Gates-Ferris will set up a meeting for the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bogota. He explained that Sidewalk Safety provides extraordinary service because they know what tree roots can safely be cut without toppling trees.

Mayor Kelemen refused to sign the TWA because the road would have to be closed for 10 months which would be a problem for all emergency vehicles and a hindrance to the businesses on River Road.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to give the authority to Joseph Scarpa to sign the TWA. Motion carried.

Mayor Kelemen said that he is not against the culvert being fixed. He feels that it is an unnecessary disruption for the town because the County Engineer told him that fixing the culvert will not correct the flooding problems. He said that this project was introduced in the 1990s, and was never done. He, as the mayor, is accountable for the Fire Department, Police Department, the Rescue Squad and the merchants. If the road could be kept open one way and the flooding could be stopped, he would accept it. He said that the OEM coordinator is against it as well. Mayor Kelemen feels this is a waste of \$1,000,000.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to go into closed session at 10:02pm. Motion carried.

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:26pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.