



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, November 13, 2019 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Robbins.

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, 2018.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Macfarlane, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Council members Gates-Ferris and Murphy were absent. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to close Citizen Remarks.

Discussion: - An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2 of the Bogota Code, Entitled "Administration" to remove the limitation on the number of active members of the Auxiliary Police: Borough Attorney Betesh explained that in order to amend the number of active members to the Auxiliary Police, other amendments would be needed in the ordinance. He presented a revised ordinance to the Mayor and Council which showed where all the changes would be. He will present an ordinance for introduction at the next meeting

- Appoint Members to Stakeholder's Committee: Mayor Kelemen suggested holding off on the stakeholders' committee appointments until after the new year since a resolution is only good for the current year
- Appoint Members to Creative Team: Mayor Kelemen presented names of people to be appointed to the Creative Team who were recommended for appointment by Amaru Bustamonte. The Mayor wanted the Council to see the names and make recommendations before the list is finalized. There were no objections to the names on the list. This team will be presented as a resolution in January 2020.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved with a motion from Councilwoman Carpenter, and a second from Councilman Napolitano:

19-131 Renewal of Membership in South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund

19-132 Hire Part-time Tax Clerk from Battaglia Associates

19-133 Municipal Endorsing Resolution for CDBG Application - Dunn Avenue & Central Avenue Phase II Roadway Improvements

19-134 Appoint Borough Tax Collector to Monitor Compliance with all PILOT Agreements

19-135 Resolution Calling for Study Commission to Review the Open Public Records Act

19-136 Authorization to Advertise for Bids for Leonia Avenue Phase V Project.

19-137 Tax Redemption for Block 79, Lot 30.01

19-138 Tax Refund for Widow of Veteran

19-139 Authorizing Submission of Strategic Plan for Municipal Alliance Grant

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolution. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter recusing herself from her paycheck:
PC 19-11 Payment of Claims

The following Ordinance was introduced after Borough Attorney Betesh explained that the Planning and Zoning Board approved the amendments:

#1535 Amending Chapter 21A of Bogota Code, Entitled "Zoning"

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the Minutes of October 17, 2019 as amended with corrections from Councilwoman Carpenter and Borough Attorney Betesh. Motion carried.

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

Frank Miranda explained that his company would like to donate several hundred hams for Thanksgiving. They would be delivered Thursday or Friday for Saturday distribution if the Council approved it. The Council had no objections.

Raul Lebron asked how more lighting could be put on Palisade Avenue. He asked if trees could be trimmed to allow more of the present lighting to come through. He said that cars do not yield to pedestrians.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Councilman Robbins said that he spoke to the Police Chief and Mayor about the need for lighting and cars speeding on Palisade Avenue. He was told that there used to be signs that were removed because they interfered with turning when people parked near the signs. Mayor Kelemen said that when we get the bucket truck, trees will be trimmed. Borough Administrator Scarpa said that the Police Chief would be meeting with the traffic officers about putting in stop signs. He said that he would look into lighting as well. Mayor Kelemen said that PSE&G came out with new lighting with lower wattage for street signs which is lower than the old wattage. The state agreed to this new wattage.

Mayor Kelemen said that he will help with giving out the hams on Saturday, November 23rd. Councilman Napolitano said that he spoke to the police about speeding and was told that the speeding is not as bad as people feel it is. He requested a program to check different streets on different days to see where speeding is occurring. He said that drivers go right up to the crossing guards, and he feels that tickets need to be given. He said that DOT grants are available for lighting.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Mayor Kelemen said that Halloween went really well with closing Larch Avenue off. He said that John Burke's father died. The funeral will be in Monroe, NY. He thanked the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Eileen Hennessy for the long hours spent for the elections. He said that the Gala will be tomorrow night, and he thanked Joe Scarpa for the planning he did for it. He congratulated the football and cheerleading programs for their success. The County will be contacting us soon about decorating the trees as Van Saun Park. The first Menorah lighting in town will take place on Sunday, December 22nd.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that the Fall Festival went well. The food trucks were great. She thanked Rob who provided the bouncy house. There was pumpkin painting, a trackless train, name plaques, and bead necklaces that all went well. She said that the petting zoo left early which was disappointing and the pet adoption truck did not show up. She thanked Jim Moore for all his work and all the members of the Recreation Committee including Farid Briones, Rebecca O'Hagan, Jason Kearns, and Mike Connors for helping out with the event. The next Recreation meeting will be Monday. The Christmas tree lighting will be

December 6th. She said that the DPW is waiting for the bucket truck and for two new full time DPW employees to be hired. A rental bucket truck will be used for now. She said that the Community Garden Clean up will take place this Sunday at 1pm. Volunteers are needed at Firemen's Park. She attended the County Open Space public meeting on November 7 where over \$5 million in grant money was introduced. The next meeting will be on December 23rd, and she will be attending that.

Councilman Napolitano reported that the Veteran's Day Celebration went well and was well-attended. The Citizen of the Year award was presented to Daniele Fede. The foundation for the Ryan Bridge monument will be poured soon. Installation of the monument should be in December on the Bogota side of the bridge. BACSA had a great vaping demonstration which was presented by Kathy Viola. She did a great job. It gave a lot of information to the parents on where children hide things etc. More things are planned for BACSA. He wanted to mention the budget discussion that needs to take place with the police. He reported that Rosemary Gasevich is home from rehab and hopefully feeling better. He said that a number of seniors will be attending the Gala. He asked that PSE&G and Suez be reminded of the road opening ordinance.

Councilman Robbins said that Rescue is reupdating their CPR certification. TENAC said that Bogota had 3 complaints from January to September. He said that Maywood has 10,360 complaints all from one person. He said that traffic has been directed to fly over Route 17. Lighting on the runways has been repaired. He said that the Swim club meeting has been rescheduled.

Councilman Macfarlane said that the Board of Education met in Tuesday for a work session. The girls volleyball team was congratulated for making states for the 9th year in a row. There will be a budget balancing amendment at the next meeting.

Mayor Kelemen said that resident came up to him and said that he would like the town to have a safe haven for people to go to for picking up purchases that are done on-line instead of going to people's houses. He will speak to the police about that.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that Rochelle Park had the safe haven at the Police Station. He said that there will be about 200 people going to the Gala. He has been working on the contract with Little Ferry to renew the shared services agreement for the court. He is negotiation to lower the new contract price by \$3,000. He said that there have been many issues with live-streaming the meetings. He is still working on it.

Borough Attorney Betesh had no report.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to go into Closed session for Litigation and Personnel at 8:24pm. Motion carried.

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.